

Science for Peace

December 21, 2021

President's Column



Dear Members,

We now have a Strategic Vision, adopted by the board, that will broadly guide our activities. We know the sort of world we want to create and we've identified two broad avenues of change to achieve that world in 30 years. Each year now, we'll need to "fill in the gaps": designate the specific tactics that each working group will deploy to achieve specific short-term goals.

We currently have two functioning working groups: nuclear weapons and militarism and climate change. At the forthcoming executive meeting, we will inaugurate a third working group on NATO, led by Adnan Zuberi and Tamara Lorincz. If you would like to join one of these groups, please contact me and I will have your name added to the appropriate listserv. All working groups meet over Zoom on a regular basis at a time that should be convenient to our members wherever they live in Canada.

Students Against Nuclear Weapons continues to organize their inaugural webcast on Jan 22nd, which is provisionally entitled "We've Had Enough!" The onset of essay deadlines and exams has slowed down the process over the past month, but we should be in a position to publicize this event beginning on Jan. 2nd. We are pleased to cooperate on this project with Canadian VOW for Peace.

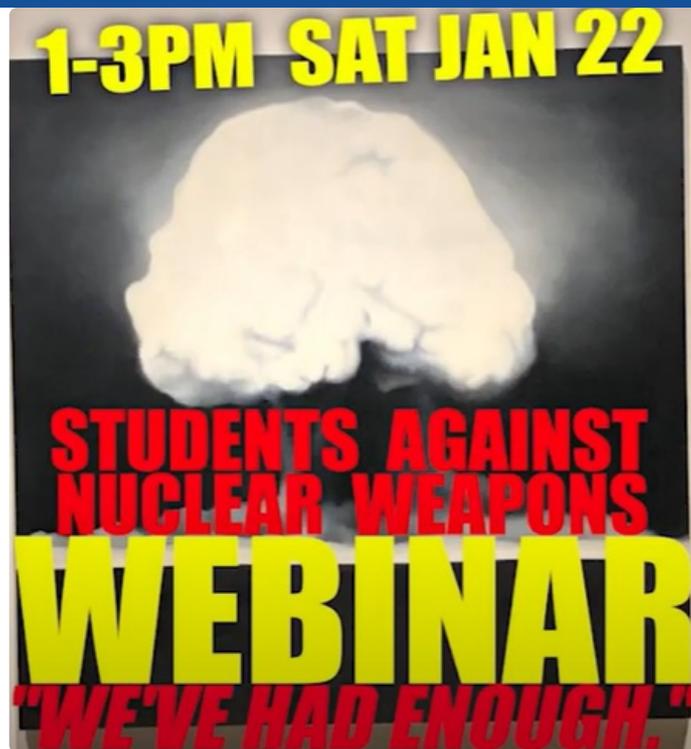
The webcast on Jan. 22nd is open to all, not just students, though the event is student-run. So do register for the webinar under forthcoming events, and be sure to watch the brief promo video there. We've definitely had enough!

Do please remember to renew your membership - only \$60 - and add whatever else you can. You'll receive an immediate tax receipt if you use the "Donate" button on our website at scienceforpeace.ca . We need your support as we build a more effective Science for Peace.

Best regards for a joyful time or at least a good rest from Melisa Kuc and myself.

Richard Sandbrook
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
University of Toronto

Upcoming Events



Watch video [here](#).

Student Forum on Reducing the Dangers of Nuclear Weapons

The forum will be a student-led initiative, guided by an advisory panel of experts and activists working on nuclear issues. In late October, a steering committee meeting of interested student participants will convene virtually to help plan the forum and its agenda. Final forum details will be released in the fall of 2021, with the forum tentatively scheduled for the third week of January 2022. The forum will be held in English and French, with available simultaneous translation. In conjunction with the 2022 student forum, Science for Peace is also running the Science for Peace 2021 Blumenfeld Peace Essay Contest.

[Read more](#)

Recent Events

STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE DECISIVE DECADE AND BEYOND

SCIENCE FOR PEACE

VISION: A PEACE/ECOLOGICAL MANIFESTO

The goal of a peaceful world ultimately depends on building global cooperation and achieving human security for all, within the regenerative limits of our finite planet.

But humanity currently faces two existential threats to its existence: nuclear annihilation and ecological collapse, the latter arising mainly from global warming and species extinction.

[READ MORE](#)

Nuclear Weapons Working Group meeting- December 9, 2021 Militarism and Climate Change Working Group meeting- December 14, 2021

Each group met to define, in a preliminary way, the goals that will be pursued over the coming year.

Meetings will resume in January 2022.

Recent Articles



Michel Duguay: Reflections on Bob Woodward's "Fear: Trump in the White House"

Bob Woodward is a renowned investigative journalist, author and historian. Among his 20 previous books, 12 have been best-sellers. This 2018 book confirms the negative image of Donald Trump which has been conveyed by his niece Mary L. Trump in her 2020 book and by countless authors and media commentators.

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Focus on Members: Veronica Dahl



I joined Science for Peace hoping to help end all forms of violence through rational (scientific where possible) analyses and actions. I greatly appreciate being here!

I grew up in an increasingly militarized Argentina where violence-backed male rule, with few and heroic exceptions, was mostly the norm both in public and private spheres, regardless of political sign. It reached terrifying brutality levels courtesy of Bush's Operation Condor.

My background predisposed me to study the domination patterns that rule us all, and the varied forms of violence that perpetuate them. I became a logician and linguist partly to be able to undo the fallacies that help impose and replicate violence and abuses of gender, class, nation, religion... I believe that achieving peace involves making the mechanisms of domination clear: because domination is based on hierarchies that are arbitrary, it "justifies" itself through inferiorizing, even dehumanizing the "Other" (first dwellers, resource-rich countries, women, racialized people, non-binary people, ...). Once established, the supposed inferiority is codified even into language, contributing 24/7 to make the status quo appear "natural" and "inescapable".

it replicates itself through relentless indoctrination plus multiple forms of violence, until even those suffering under it come to internalize and accept it to some degree.

A particularly effective means for establishing and maintaining forced hierarchies, which in turn facilitates further forms of violence and hence control, is fragilization through dispossession under systemic, inequitable rules of exchange- a well-known method for colonizers past and present.

For instance, male hegemony perpetuates itself cross-culturally through the gendered assignment of unpaid and underpaid work, which pauperizes females both temporally and financially. This fragilization facilitates in turn further methods of control which also manifest cross culturally: exclusion (particularly from decision-making spheres), abuse in families, "domestic" violence, sexual exploitation, and rape- often reinforced as well by culture-specific methods, such as inheritance laws or pornography.

I strongly believe SfP would benefit from investigating how to evolve from domination patterns to solidarity, because:

accepting any kind of domination (especially if ubiquitous), trains us to accept other kinds more easily, and hence to tolerate the violence required to maintain them;

domination is at the root of current ecological and military crises: consider e.g. that if countries shared power equally, they would find it easier to universally cap, say, GHG emissions; or that if genders shared power equally, it is unlikely that the "need" for war toys would weigh more in budgets than the needs for nurturing and for personal safety valued by most.

focusing on how to evolve from domination to solidarity might help wean us from sometimes paralyzing divides such as political parties, allowing us to effectively unite around issues crucial to our emergencies.

In short: I believe that aiming at achieving equity urgently is our best chance of achieving personal and environmental security, without which global peace does not stand a chance.

I look forward to working with all of you in my new role as member-at-large on the executive.

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