



# Middlebury Institute of International Studies James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

## CNS News & Views



## Wild Cards at the NPT

With the third—and final—preparatory committee (PrepCom) meeting for the 2020 NPT Review Conference just days away, **Bill Potter** and **Sarah Bidgood** tread into perilous territory: proliferation prognostication.

Based on their deep familiarity with the politics and history of the NPT review process—including, most recently, the insights gleaned from the **2019 Annecy workshop**—Potter and Bidgood flag six potential "wild cards" that could emerge during the April 29–May 10 meeting "with unforeseen but potentially significant consequences."

[Read NPT "Wild Cards"](#)



## High School Students from Russia, Japan, and US

On March 29 and 30, high school students from Russia, Japan, and the United States joined local students of Monterey County for the **Critical Issues Forum (CIF)** spring student conference.

After a semester of in-depth study on the topic, "Nuclear Risk Reduction: Crisis Prevention in a Time of International Turbulence," students presented the findings of their research at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

[Get inspired with CIF](#)



## A Unilateral, Reciprocal Post-INF Cool Down

Former Soviet/Russian arms control negotiator (and current CNS Senior Fellow) **Nikolai Sokov** takes a glum view of a world without the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty: "Given the pace of relevant programs," he writes, "the new round of military stand-off in Europe will begin as early as next year."

Turbulent politics and fervid emotions are driving the dynamics on both sides, he writes. Until cooler heads can prevail, an interim approach can be useful, one with a precedent in the Cold War end game: the 1991 Presidential Nuclear Initiatives.

[Read more](#)



## Judge Juche 2

In the second installment of articles on the legal (mis)adventures of North Korean entities and individuals overseas, Research Associate **Shea Cotton** looks at a failed construction project in Uganda, several attempts at insurance fraud, and the four lawsuits that resulted when everything went wrong.

And, oh, how wrong it went.

[More \(mis\)adventures detailed here](#)



## The 17th Biannual Intensive Short Course on Nonproliferation and Disarmament

Twenty-seven diplomats and officials from government agencies and international organizations, representing twenty-five states from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and South America convened at the **Vienna Center for**

**Disarmament and Non-proliferation** for the seventeenth biannual Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament Short Course, a one-week overview of the nonproliferation regime, its history, constituent elements, and current status.

Women made up 45 percent of the participants and 50 percent of the lecturers and guest speakers, covering a wide range of topics including the ban treaty, safeguards, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, export-control regimes, and many more. Participants also learned how to use satellite imagery and other new technologies for nuclear-related monitoring and verification.

[Read more](#)



## New Lectures in the CNS Nonproliferation Video Library

The expert-led presentations, workshops, and discussions aren't just for MIIS students and faculty. The CNS Nonproliferation Video Library is an ever-expanding trove of insight and analysis.

This month, we added the following guest lectures and panels to the online library:

- Dr. **Bruno Tertrais** of the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique

**discusses his paper**, *The Finger on the Button*, surveying the nuclear launch procedures of every nuclear-armed state;

- Dr. **Gregory Koblentz** of George Mason University presents the results of his **research on the impact of synthetic biology and genome editing** (like CRISPR) on national and global security.

Be sure to periodically visit the CNS Nonproliferation Library. New videos are added regularly.

[Watch more](#)

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