

The global arms control regime is in peril. With the end of the INF Treaty, allegations of Russian cheating on various agreements, and US plans to withdraw from the Open Skies Treaty, arms control as we know it is in jeopardy. New technologies, such as cyber and artificial intelligence, also challenge historical approaches to arms control as rooted in “strategic stability”. Bonnie Jenkins recently [called](#) for “imaginative thinking” for the future of arms control, so we hope to jump start that conversation.

Combating these challenges will require innovation, audacity, and big ideas. To kick things off, the Centre for Science and Security Studies is hosting its inaugural Arms Control Idol – and you’re invited!

Inspired by Policy Idol, an annual competition hosted by the Policy Institute at King’s College London, the competition will see next-generation leaders pitch their cutting-edge policy ideas for the future of arms control to a panel of acclaimed expert judges. This competition forms part of the Centre for Science and Security Studies’ [‘Emerging Technology and Arms Control’ project](#), for which the principal investigator is Dr. Heather Williams.

Five early career experts have now made it through to the live grand final, where they will compete head-to-head to impress the judges and walk away with the £2000 grand prize:

Thomas Cheney

Thomas Cheney is Lecturer in Space Governance as part of The Open University’s AstrobiologyOU. He recently completed his PhD in Space Law and Policy at Northumbria University, focusing on the property and sovereignty issues revolving around space resources. Thomas is Executive Director of the Centre for a Spacefaring Civilization and was Co-lead of the Space Generation Advisory Council’s Space Law and Policy Project Group from 2016-2020. He was a member of The Hague Space Resources Governance Working Group.

Jakob Hake

Originally from Germany, Jakob completed the MA Science and Security at King’s College London in September 2019. He also holds a BA (Hons) in History from King’s. His interests focus on cybersecurity, and he has also researched CBRN weapons proliferation and terrorist movements for a current affairs website, Politish, which he co-founded in January 2020. His aspiration is to pursue a career researching these subjects and contribute to finding solutions that have a positive effect on international security.

Haneen Khalid

Haneen recently completed graduate studies in International Development and Policy from the University of Chicago. She is an Obama Foundation Scholar and former staffer at the National Assembly of Pakistan where she supported over 80 Parliamentarians to help inform better policy and legislation. Previously, Haneen led the only region-wide grassroots movement for nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, working with thousands of young people to promote peace and a world safe from nuclear weapons. She helped develop a first-of-its-kind campaign strategy and volunteer recruitment, leadership and training program to bring the movement to local communities. Haneen is a 2020 N-Square Innovation Fellow.

Jon Tishman

Jon Tishman is a U.S. Army infantry captain currently assigned as a team leader with the 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade. Commissioned in 2008, Jon has deployed four times to Iraq and Afghanistan. During a brief break in service, Jon spent three years working as a military equipment sales manager in Australia. Currently completing his Master of Science in international relations, Jon looks forward to continuing his education next year when he enters studies for a subsequent degree.

Johanna Trittenbach

Johanna Trittenbach is a young professional working in disarmament and international humanitarian law. She is employed with [Facing Finance e.V.](#), an NGO that coordinates the [Campaign to Stop Killer Robots](#) in Germany, as well as the [Kalshoven-Gieskes Forum on International Humanitarian Law](#) at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Her interests revolve around the protection of people that are affected by armed conflict. Specifically, Johanna advocates for preventive bans on the militarisation of emerging technologies, as well as compliance with existing disarmament and arms control regimes.

Our panel of expert judges is composed of renowned international senior leaders, experts and policymakers in arms control:

Li Bin

Li Bin is professor of international relations at Tsinghua University. He was a Social Science Research Council–MacArthur Foundation Peace and Security Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Princeton University. Li previously directed the arms control division at the Institute of Applied Physics and Computational Mathematics, where he also served as executive director of the Program for Science and National Security Studies. He was a senior fellow at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Li Bin has published a few books and numerous papers and op-eds on arms control issues. Li is a physicist and expert on nuclear disarmament. His research focuses on China's nuclear and arms control policy and on U.S.-Chinese nuclear relations.

Evgeny Buzhinskiy

Lieutenant General (Retired) Evgeny Buzhinsky, PhD was Head of the International Treaties Department of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation from 2002-2009. In the Armed Services since 1968, he retired from military service in November 2009.

Lt. General Buzhinsky served in different positions in the General Staff of the Soviet and Russian Armed Forces, was an assistant military attaché in Cyprus and Turkey, and held various positions in the International Treaties Department of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation. In 2002, he was appointed Head of the International Treaties Department. In 2003, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.

From 1999 to 2009, Lt. General Buzhinsky was deputy head of Russian delegations at negotiations on Conventional Forces in Europe and Strategic Arms Reduction Talks. Since 2010, he is Senior Vice-President, then Chairman of the Executive Board of the Russian Center for Policy Studies (PIR Center). Since 2017, he has served as Vice-President of the Russian International Affairs Counsel (RIAC).

Renata Dwan

Renata Dwan joined UNIDIR after many years working on peace and security issues at the United Nations, most recently as Chief of Policy and Best Practices in the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support. She led the team to implement Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's reform initiative on peace operations, the High-level Panel on Peace Operations, and was a member of Secretary-General Guterres' team reviewing the UN's peace and security architecture. Renata has worked on peace operations and complex emergencies at UN Headquarters and in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Mali and Syria. She led major UN-wide policy and reform initiatives on peace and security issues including security sector reform, peacekeeping partnerships and crisis management capacities.

Before joining the United Nations, Renata was head of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Programme on Armed Conflict and Conflict Management (1999-2005) and Deputy Director of the EastWest Institute's European Security Programme in Budapest (1997-1999). She was Special Adviser to the European Union Council Secretariat for the first European Union crisis management operation and a member of EU High Representative Javier Solana's 2004 Task Force on a Human Security Doctrine for Europe.

Renata holds a M.Phil and D.Phil from the University of Oxford where she was the Hedley Bull Junior Research Fellow in International Relations. She was a Fulbright Scholar at Princeton University and a visiting researcher at the former Western European Union Institute for Security Studies in Paris. She has published widely on international security matters. She speaks English, French and Swedish.

Marjolijn van Deelen

Amb. Marjolijn van Deelen will assume the position of EU Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament on 1 September 2020.

Until recently, she headed the Non-proliferation, Disarmament and Nuclear Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Her responsibilities include all WMD-related Dutch foreign policy. In February 2019, she was appointed Dutch Ambassador for the Non-Proliferation Treaty. She is designated vice-President of the next NPT review conference chairing the Main Committee on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Amb. Van Deelen previously served as head of the Europe Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for bilateral relations with over 20 countries. She was Deputy Permanent Representative to the Mission of the Netherlands to the UN Organizations in Vienna from 2009 to 2013 where her focus was on IAEA non-proliferation and peaceful uses as well as the CTBT.

She was posted at the Netherlands Embassy in Bucharest as Head of Economic and Trade Affairs. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, she held functions in the Middle East department, the UN department and in Environmental issues. She also served in Costa Rica with accreditation to Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. She entered the Dutch Foreign Service in 1994. Amb. Van Deelen holds a Masters in Geophysics from the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, as well as a BA in Economics from the American University in Washington DC. She speaks Dutch, English, French, German and Spanish. She is married and has two children.

Bonnie Jenkins

Bonnie Jenkins is the Founder and Executive Director of the Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security and Conflict Transformation (WCAPS), a 501c3 nonprofit organization established in 2017. Jenkins is currently the Chair of the Steering Committee of the International Women's Conference on Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction to Non-State Actors, and the Chair of the Committee on Radioactive Sources: Applications and Alternative Technologies of the National Academies of Sciences.

She is a Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and an Adjunct Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and a Professorial Lecturer at the George Washington Elliott School of International Affairs. She is also a Visiting Scholar at the School of Veterinary Sciences and the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. Jenkins also taught a seminar course at the University of Texas at Austin in 2018.

In 2017, Jenkins was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Perry World House. Prior to that, from 2009 – 2017, she was an Ambassador at the U.S. Department of State (DOS) where she served as Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs (CTR) in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation. In that role, Jenkins coordinated the Department of State's programs and activities to prevent weapons of mass destruction (WMD) terrorism with programs funded by other US Departments and Agencies, and with similar programs funded by other countries. She served as the U.S. representative to the 30-nation G7 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and chaired the Global Partnership in 2012. Jenkins was the Department of State's lead to the four Nuclear Security Summits that took place from 2010 – 2016. Jenkins also worked closely with several international organizations including the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), INTERPOL, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the American Biological Safety Association, and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit.

Jenkins was also part of the US government interagency team that established and launched the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), the global effort to build country capacities to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease. In addition to leading diplomatic efforts on the GHSA, she was the United States government lead in engaging the nongovernmental sector in furtherance of the GHSA. During this time, Jenkins established the GHSA Next Generation Network, the GHSA Consortium, led outreach efforts with the relevant philanthropic foundations, and assisted in the planning for the establishment of the GHSA Private Sector Roundtable. In addition to promoting the work of the nongovernmental sector in the GHSA at official meetings, she continued her focus on biosecurity and laboratory security issues as part of her overall work as Coordinator CTR programs. Jenkins was the US Department of State International Security and Nonproliferation Bureau's (ISN) Nominee for the 2016 Secretary's Award for Excellence in International Security Affairs.

Before returning to government in 2009, Jenkins served as Program Officer for US Foreign and Security Policy at the Ford Foundation. She also served as Counsel on the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission). Jenkins was the lead staff member conducting research, interviews, and preparing commission reports on counterterrorism policies in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and on U.S. military plans targeting al Qaeda before 9/11. She served as General Counsel to the U.S. Commission to Assess the Organization of the Federal Government to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and worked at Rand Corporation focusing on Middle East weapons of mass destruction issues. She started her career in Federal Government as a Presidential Management Intern (now the Presidential Management Fellowship) at the Department of Defense and then moved to U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in the Office of the General Counsel where she was the legal advisor to U.S. Ambassadors and delegations negotiating WMD and conventional arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation treaties, and conventions. She also served as legal advisor to several WMD and conventional international implementation bodies, including the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty Joint Consultative Group, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

Jenkins is a retired Naval Reserves Officer and received several awards for her service. She was a fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (Belfer) at the John F. Kennedy

School at Harvard University in both the International Security and Managing the Atom Programs. During that time, Jenkins also worked at the Bernard Koteen Office of Public Interest Advising at Harvard Law School where she advised law students on employment in the US government and public entities. Jenkins holds a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Virginia; an LL.M. in international and comparative law from the Georgetown University Law Center; an M.P.A. from the State University of New York at Albany; a J.D. from Albany Law School and a B.A. from Amherst College. While at the University of Virginia, she was a Fellow at the Miller Center. During her legal education, Jenkins served as a legal clerk at the Supreme Court in Ottawa, Canada and attended the Summer program for public international law at the Hague Academy of International Law, The Netherlands. She also attended a summer law program in Madrid, Spain. She is a member of the New York State Bar and Chairs the American Bar Association's Women in National Security Law Initiative.