



Imagination in the Pledge of “Never Again”: Message from the New Director of the Hiroshima Peace Institute

Atsushi Ishida

By setting and resetting the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock, *the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* has kept reminding the public, since 1947, of the imminence of a human-made global catastrophe by scientific technology of our own creation such as nuclear weapons. The Clock, an iconic symbol designed for the cover of the *Bulletin*, is set annually by the *Bulletin*'s board, which is now composed of experts in nuclear technology, climate science and so forth. The board moves the hand of the clock forward at times of an unrestrained arms race among nuclear weapon states, or a reckless escalation of armed conflicts, involving nuclear weapon states. Thus, the Doomsday Clock has warned the public how close humanity is to its self-destruction.

The Remaining Time until Humanity's Self-Destruction (min)

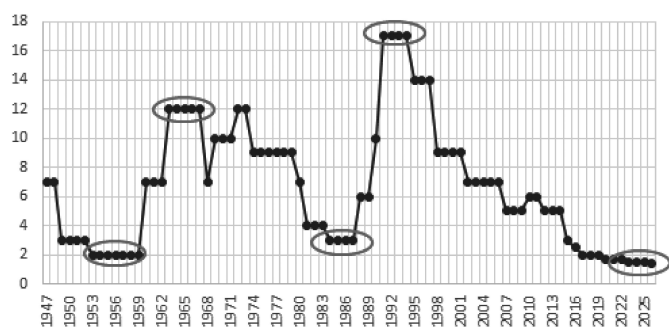


Figure: The Doomsday Clock: 1947-2026

Source: Figure prepared by the author using data obtained at the website of *the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.

Born in 1962, I entered university in 1981 (4 minutes to midnight). My years in university were at the height of the New Cold War (3 minutes to midnight in 1984) when superpower tensions were at their highest except in the 1950s (2 minutes to midnight in 1953). In retrospect, although the end of the Cold War was just around the corner, not only I but also most of my contemporaries had no imagination about what the future might bring, except for an extension of the present.

Very interested in the question of why and how international tension become aggravated, I decided to major in international relations. The focus of my research was the 1950s the early years

of the Cold War, when a fundamental reinforcement of defense capabilities took place.

Fortunately, the end of the Cold War moved the hand of the Clock backward to the 17 minutes, the farthest it has ever been from midnight since 1947. But thereafter till now, the time remaining has been almost steadily shrinking. The only exception was a short-lived hopeful moment when Barack Obama was sworn in as the U.S. President on the campaign promise to work for a world without nuclear weapons. Indeed, the United States and Russia concluded a bilateral agreement (New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, a.k.a. New START), capping the deployed strategic nuclear warheads. The hand of the clock was moved backward. In addition, the Security Council of the United Nations convened a head-of-state-level summit meeting, with Obama as its chair, on nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament in 2009. This “historic” summit adopted resolution 1887 (UN Document S/RES/1887), but went no further than reaffirming the previous commitments of nuclear weapon states in the final document of the 1995 Review Conference of the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). Those commitments included early entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and commencement of the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) negotiations.

In 2026, the clock ticked down to 85 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been to the apocalypse. It was due to the unrestrained military action of nuclear weapon states, and their explicit rejection of a goal of diminishing the roles of nuclear weapons in their national security policies. Furthermore, after the *Bulletin*'s statement, the current state of affairs became even worse because the New START lapsed, leaving no binding limits on the world's two largest nuclear weapon states, and the U.S. and Israel launched military operations against Iran. Could humanity avert irreparable mistakes?

At this moment when goal of a world without nuclear weapons appears to be fading, we must revisit the conditions under which nuclear weapon states succeeded in moving the hand of the clock backward by reducing tensions (*detente*) through arms control negotiation, as historically seen during the 1960s (12 minutes to midnight in 1963 and 1972). The task is more urgent than ever if we want to continue our journey of “never again” experiencing the human tragedy embodied in “the Statue of Mother and Children in the Storm” that stands in the Peace Memorial Park of Hiroshima.

(Director and Professor at HPI)

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The 11th NPT Review Conference: A Hiroshima Researcher's Report

Shun Oshita

The 11th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference or “RevCon” was held at the UN Headquarters in New York from April 27 to May 22, 2026. Like the 9th and 10th conferences, a final document was ultimately not adopted. Differences between the US and Iran were the significant proximate cause of the conference’s failure to adopt a final document, but there were also other factors at work. This failure is prompting widespread concern over the future of the world nuclear order. Having participated in person at the conference during its first two weeks—thanks to the support of HPI’s project research funding and a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science—I would like to reflect on this year’s conference from the perspective of an international law scholar.

Progress of the Conference

The RevCon’s first week began in a turbulent atmosphere, marked by the US dissociating itself from the consensus decision on the opening day to elect Iran as the conference’s vice-president. During the plenary sessions, participating states delivered statements to express views in their national capacity and sometimes on behalf of a group. Statements were made by delegates at both the ministerial and ambassadorial level. The French Foreign Minister stated that France’s new policy of “forward nuclear deterrence” strictly adheres to the logic of defense. The US asserted its commitment to a “world with fewer nuclear weapons.” Despite these nuanced stances, no delegates offered opinions that were fundamentally against the goal of nuclear disarmament.

During the NGO Session on the morning of May 1, civil society actors made their voices heard. Starting with the appeal of “No More Hiroshimas, No More War” by Mr. Jiro Hamasumi of Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations), a total of 28 statements were read, including those by Hiroshima City Mayor Kazumi Matsui, Hiroshima Prefecture Governor Mika Yokota, Nagasaki City Mayor Shiro Suzuki, and Nagasaki Prefecture Vice Governor Yuko Baba (the first speeches by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Prefectural Governments at a RevCon).

After the general debate concluded, discussions moved to the three Main Committees—each responsible for one of the three pillars: “nuclear disarmament,” “nuclear non-proliferation,” and “peaceful uses of nuclear energy”—and their respective subsidiary bodies, until the end of the third week. Member states returned to plenary discussions in the fourth week for the final negotiations.

Negotiation toward Acceptable Final Document

Conference President Viet, the Permanent Representative of Vietnam to the UN, released a “Zero Draft” exceptionally early, on the Wednesday evening of the second week (May 6). The aim was to collectively find a way to arrive at a final document that would be universally acceptable precisely because all countries are “equally unhappy”—through the equal distribution of pain. This Zero Draft notably considered the NPT regional dialogues that had been held with European Union (EU)’s financial support before the conference. His efforts to achieve this success led him to maintain an extremely busy schedule for months; for instance, he even participated in an event hosted by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) from inside a taxi.

The Zero Draft incorporated each country’s views as much as possible. One official delegate called it “a good foundation for discussion that covers all the issues.” On the other hand, by accommodating so many voices, it also included language that crossed the red lines of various countries, which turned the negotiations into a process akin to defusing mines in a minefield.

The Zero Draft was revised four times in search of consensus.

However, as it became clear that consensus could not be reached, President Viet refrained from putting the draft to a decision on 22 May. One of the significant reasons was a clash between the US and Iran over a paragraph containing the phrase, “Iran can never seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons.” However, even if the RevCon could have defused this mine, a mountain of other mines would have waited. References to progress in nuclear disarmament, the prohibition of the first use of nuclear weapons, nuclear sharing, and the North Korean nuclear issue were either deleted or watered down into very general statements during the revision process. Thus, if the RevCon had been able to adopt a final document, it would still have only been a façade of success because of weak language in many paragraphs. While a final document could have been important as a short-term diplomatic achievement, we must not overlook the importance of the quality of the agreement from a medium- to long-term perspective.

Youth Agenda

The disarmament community is at a crossroads. Creating the environment, capacity, and will to reconcile national and international interests has become a major challenge. It is crucial to prepare for the medium- to long-term future in which a political breakthrough for disarmament could become possible. One such preparation was the more than 100 side events held on the margins of the intergovernmental negotiations. I had the great honor of moderating a youth session hosted by Mayors for Peace, which helped high school students from Hiroshima and elsewhere gain the information and relationships that are necessary to grow their capacity for autonomous decision-making. The importance of investing in young people’s learning and activities regarding nuclear disarmament, an investment that will also form the foundation of future democracy, was reflected in the Japan-led Working Paper on disarmament education, which garnered an unprecedented 116 co-sponsors. We should focus even more on nurturing young people not just as disarmament activists, but also and at the same time as stewards of democracy.

Mission of Researchers

Furthermore, I organized and spoke at an event co-hosted by Mayors for Peace and UNIDIR, titled *Taking Stock of the NPT: Achievements, Persistent Challenges, and Emerging Opportunities*. This event aimed to clarify the achievements across the three pillars of the NPT, precisely because we are currently in a period of stagnation in disarmament. My presentation focused on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Various constructive proposals were made from the perspective of researchers, touching upon the importance of the nuclear-weapon states’ implementation of the treaty “in good faith” and the possibility of convening the Fourth UN Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD-IV). My separate article about this side event has been published on the Hiroshima Peace Institute website.

From an international law perspective, a consensus document where all countries are “equally unhappy” may not be a realistic long-term goal for NPT RevCons. NPT obligations are interdependent and integral, meaning that compliance by one state depends on the compliance of other states. Therefore, as sharing pain through concessions and compromises is a matter of life and death for states, “unhappy” states are more likely to choose to block consensus.

As a researcher from an A-bombed city, I devote myself to a “world without nuclear weapons” by examining what factors lead disarmament negotiations to success from the viewpoint of the interlocking structure of NPT obligations. Despite the outcome of the recent RevCon, at the next one that is scheduled for 2031, I hope to see consensus-building that advances the objectives of the NPT, backed by the political decision-making processes of democratic societies.

(Lecturer at HPI)

Research on U.S.-China Relations and Acknowledgment to the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation

Xu Yijia

Introduction

The research I pursued during my studies in the master's program examines technological competition between the United States and China. While issues of international politics and security may at first glance appear to be grand debates at the national level, for me, the starting point was rather a simple question: Why has Huawei, a single corporation, come to be treated as a symbol of U.S.-China confrontation? Why have technology and telecommunications infrastructure become so deeply intertwined with issues of national security and values?

As someone from China studying peace studies in Japan, the U.S.-China confrontation is by no means a distant topic for me. Behind the words used in news reports and policy documents lie the restructuring of the international order, the struggle for technological hegemony, and the erosion of trust between nations. Rather than viewing these issues one-dimensionally, I decided to undertake this research with the aim of carefully examining the background of policy decisions, their institutional foundations, and their international implications.

Research Questions and Perspective

During the first Trump administration, the U.S. government implemented strict export controls and transaction restrictions against Huawei, a major Chinese telecommunications equipment manufacturer, citing national security concerns, and it positioned these measures as part of its National Security Strategy. Initially, I viewed this development as a simple intensification of the U.S.-China rivalry, but as I analyzed policy documents, Congressional materials, and relevant laws, I realized that behind it lay a complex interplay of competition for technological hegemony, coordination with allies, domestic political factors, and diplomatic strategies centered on values. Furthermore, from my perspective as a student in Japan, a key point of discussion was how this policy affects allies and is rippling through international supply chains and the structure of technical standards.

I examined the U.S. legal system and policy-making process, as well as the impact this has had on the international political structure. As a result, it became clear to me that the concept of security—which had traditionally been military-centric—is expanding into cutting-edge technology sectors such as telecommunications infrastructure and semiconductors. At the same time, it became clear that as the boundary between the economy and security blurs, corporations are also becoming key players in geopolitical competition. I have come to realize that the foundation for understanding international politics lies in an approach that calmly analyzes not only the surface-level conflicts but also their institutional logic and policy objectives, based on primary sources.

Support from the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation

These research activities were supported by the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation, a public interest incorporated foundation. The financial assistance provided through the scholarship served as a crucial basis for me to devote myself to my studies. Master's programs require extensive reading of literature, collection of materials, and participation in academic conferences; thanks to the Foundation's support, I was able to create an environment where I could focus on my research. Moreover, the opportunities to interact with the Foundation provided valuable occasions to reexamine the significance of my research.

Particularly memorable were the face-to-face discussions. During these sessions, I had the opportunity to explain my research topic—U.S.-China technology disputes—and received lively feedback and questions. The discussion expanded to cover the role of U.S. NPOs and civil society activities, and we exchanged views

on how non-governmental organizations ensure public accountability and transparency, and support social dialogue amid intensifying competition between nations. For my research, which analyzes state-led policy conflicts, the perspective of civil society was not necessarily a central focus at the outset. However, after learning that U.S. NPOs wield a certain degree of influence in policy formation and serve as pillars of accountability and debate in democratic societies, I felt the need to approach the theme of technological competition from a more multifaceted perspective.

What is important in peace studies is not merely discussing the absence of war, but examining the institutions and social foundations that mediate conflict. Analyzing the process by which technological competition is framed as a matter of national security involves understanding the mechanisms by which conflicts escalate, while simultaneously exploring ways to mitigate them. Through dialogue with the Foundation, I gained a perspective that allowed me to reconstruct my research not within the confines of international political economy analysis, but in relation to civil society, norm formation, and public discourse. This insight motivated me to address, in the conclusion of my thesis, not only the potential for division brought about by technological competition but also the scope for international dialogue and institutional coordination.

Furthermore, the warm words of encouragement I received from everyone at the Foundation were a great source of support as I advanced my research. Research is sometimes a solitary endeavor, and I often struggled with interpreting sources and constructing logical arguments. However, the fact that there were people who sincerely listened to my explanations of my research topic prompted me to view academic inquiry as an endeavor open to society. I feel that the scholarship that I received was not merely financial support, but also an expression of trust and expectation in my research activities. To live up to those expectations, I have always strived to clarify my research questions and build arguments based on empirical evidence.

Now that I have completed my master's thesis, looking back, I realize that as my research deepened, my own horizons broadened significantly. While addressing the major theme of U.S.-China technological competition, I was able to reflect on the underlying institutions in society, and the potential for a peaceful international order—and this was made possible solely by the many learning opportunities I had, including my interactions with the Foundation. Moving forward, I intend to cherish the insights and perspectives gained from this research and continue conducting studies that contribute to easing tensions and promoting mutual understanding within the international community.

Conclusion

The international community is currently at a major turning point. Technology, economics, and security are intricately intertwined, and relations between nations have become more multifaceted than ever before. In such an era, I intend to remain mindful of the importance of approaching issues with a calm and empirical mindset as a researcher.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation for its strong support of my research activities. The support provided through the scholarship went beyond mere financial assistance; it served as a great source of encouragement for my growth as a researcher. I intend to continue striving to deepen understanding of peace through academic research and, through its outcomes, to give back to society through its outcomes.

Thank you very much.

(Graduate of the Master's Program in Peace Studies)



Workshop of the HPI Project Research “Governance and Peace in Asia III”

Tadashi Okimura

A workshop for the HPI project research, “Continuing Research on Peace and Governance in Asia,” was held from March 9 to 10, 2026. The objective of this HPI project research is to analyze trends in Asian governance and nuclear weapons development, as well as the current state of institutionalization of regional governance in Asia, and to publish the research findings approximately every three years. Following the initial phase of this HPI project research, *Ajia no Heiwa to Kaku* [Peace, Nuclear Weapons and Governance Issues in Asia] was published in January 2019 by Kyodo News. Subsequently, *Ajia no Heiwa to Gabanansu* [Governance and Peace in Asia] was published in March 2022 by Yushindo Kobun-sha, and *Ajia no Heiwa to Gabanansu II* [Governance and Peace in Asia II] was published in March 2025 by Yushindo Kobun-sha. The latest iteration of this HPI project research aims to lead to the publication of the subsequent volume, *Ajia no Heiwa to Gabanansu III* [Governance and Peace in Asia III].

A total of 23 participants—including 10 researchers from the HPI, as well as 13 scholars from outside the institute, such as Professor Takuya Sasaki of Rikkyo University, Professor Kan Kimura of Kobe University, and Professor Shin Kawashima of the University of Tokyo—gathered in a hybrid format to present their respective research reports. The workshop was divided into five sessions for presentations and Q&A: 1) Analysis of the current international situation in East Asia; 2) Analysis of governance and nuclear development in Asian nuclear-armed states; 3) Analysis of the current state of global governance regarding nuclear issues and human security; 4) Analysis of the current state of regional governance in Asia; and 5) Japan’s response to the turbulent international situation. Although the time allotted for each presentation was brief, the Q&A sessions featured lively discussions among participants. Many participants remarked that the event was highly productive, as the dialogue across different research fields yielded comments from diverse perspectives.

We plan to hold another workshop in the second half of fiscal year 2026, with the aim of publishing *Ajia no Heiwa to Gabanansu III* by the end of fiscal year 2027.

(Professor at HPI)



New Publication



Hitoshi Nagai ed., *Sōkessan Tainichi Senpansaiban* [A Comprehensive History of the Japanese War Crimes Trials]

Tokyo: Kodansha, 2026. An e-book version was also released simultaneously.

Hitoshi Nagai

This book traces the history of the Japanese war crimes trials, in which Allied nations prosecuted Japanese “war criminals” after World War II, their historical importance and remaining unresolved issues. The Japanese government’s acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration, which included provisions for the punishment of war criminals, and the signing of the Instrument of Surrender, which required enforcing all the provisions of the declaration, paved the way for the war crimes trials.

This book is divided into 5 parts (15 chapters in total). Part I is on the Tokyo and Nuremberg trials which tried the wartime leaders. Part II focuses on so-called BC class war crimes trials by seven countries, namely the US, the Republic of China, the UK, Australia, France, the Netherlands, and the Philippines which prosecuted suspects responsible for atrocities (e.g., cases of the mistreatment of prisoners of war and mass murders of civilians). Part III is on the Japanese war crimes trials by the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China, both of which detained and indicted Japanese even after signing the peace treaty with Japan in 1951. Part IV analyzes issues on the command responsibility and the claims of following superiors’ orders, as well as the historical background of the prosecution of Taiwanese and Korean defendants (inhabitants of former Japanese colonies). Part V provides an overview and discussion of the development of war crimes law after the post-WWII trials up to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. Additionally, the book contains four segments (columns) discussing Japanese perceptions of the Tokyo trial, the role of interpreters in the war crimes trials, the issue of sexual violence in the trials, and the legal status of nuclear weapons under the war crimes law.

This book is a result of the HPI project research, “The Comparative Study of the Japanese War Crimes Trials,” which was conducted from April 2019 to March 2021. In the project’s second year, the world suffered from the spread of the new coronavirus infection (COVID-19), making it difficult to hold face-to-face meetings, but the research activities of the project were continued online which helped develop the analytical perspectives and the subsequent structure of the book.

The authors of the book are leading scholars and practitioners on war crimes trials (in total 17 authors including historians, international law scholars, a judge of the ICC, legal interpreter, etc.) who analyze the archives and documents related to the trials in various countries. There are still wars and conflicts going on in the world and unfortunately the rule of law is under threat. Through this book, readers can understand the efforts and challenges of our predecessors who tried to improve or establish laws and systems to deter war crimes.

(Professor at HPI)

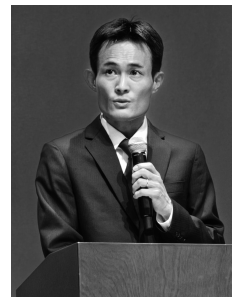
Receiving the 10th Peace Research Encouragement Award of the Peace Studies Association of Japan

Shota Morieue

I am honored to announce that my book *Mikan no Heiwa Kinen Toshi: Hiroshima Heiwa Kinen Toshi Kensetsu Hou no Kiseki to Tembo* [The Incomplete Peace Memorial City: The History and Prospects of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law] (Tokyo: Ronso-sha, 2024) has received the 10th Peace Research Encouragement Award of the Peace Studies Association of Japan. This book is a revised version of my doctoral dissertation that was submitted to the Graduate School of Peace Studies at Hiroshima City University in 2024. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Hitoshi Nagai, as well as to all the faculty members and those involved who have guided and supported me throughout this research.

How many people, upon hearing the name “Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law,” would know what it refers to? Promulgated and enacted on August 6, 1949—four years after the atomic bombing—this landmark law established Hiroshima as the world’s only city designated as a “city of peace” by national legislation. Yet today, its existence is hardly recognized, either by the citizens of Hiroshima or in the day-to-day practice of local government.

In this book, I trace the process by which the law was drafted and enacted, examine the interpretation and application of its provisions, and conduct a comparative study of “cities of peace” around the world. Of particular interest is Article 6, which sets out the obligation of the Mayor of Hiroshima to engage in “continuous activity” toward the realization of the Peace Memorial City. The idea that the “Peace



The author speaking at the award ceremony (Aoyama Gakuin University, May 16, 2026)

Memorial City” is not a fixed destination but something that must be continually renewed through dialogue between the mayor and citizens resonates deeply in our present times.

Going forward, I intend to pursue my research along two axes. The first is a local inquiry: to trace the history of “continuous activity” undertaken by successive mayors and to systematically document the history of Hiroshima’s postwar recovery. The second is a global inquiry: to empirically examine the role that the growing worldwide network of “cities of peace” can play in shaping norms around nuclear disarmament. This research builds on and deepens the argument advanced in the book—which was also recognized in the award selection committee’s comments—regarding “the potential of local governments and non-state actors to shape norms around the taboo on nuclear weapons and their inhumanity.” Through these two lines of inquiry, I hope to contribute to the development of the city and the preservation of its memory as we look toward the centenary of the atomic bombing. Like the title of this book, my research, too, remains very much unfinished.

(Lecturer at HPI)

HPI Research Forum

“Europe’s Nuclear Umbrella: Contesting Nuclear Sharing Since 2010”

Jacques E. C. Hymans

An HPI Research Forum featuring Professor Michal Onderco from Erasmus University of Rotterdam, the Netherlands was held at HCU’s satellite campus in downtown Hiroshima on May 12. Onderco’s talk focused on his newly published book, *Europe’s Nuclear Umbrella: Contesting Nuclear Sharing Since 2010* (Cambridge University Press, 2026).

Onderco’s book raises a fascinating research puzzle: why are five NATO countries—Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey—still hosting U.S. nuclear weapons on their soil, even though their mass publics want the weapons out? To answer the puzzle, Onderco engaged in a massive research undertaking in all five countries, including original surveys of mass public opinion, text analysis of the electoral manifestoes of political parties, and qualitative interviews with civil society groups, technocratic elites, and NATO officials.

In his book, Onderco first systematically demonstrates that the “nuclear sharing” policy is indeed broadly unpopular in the five countries, and then he closely examines the ability and motivation of their technocratic elites to maintain it anyway. His explanation can be summarized as follows. First, regarding the technocrats’ ability to defy public opinion on this issue, Onderco finds that they rely heavily on the institutional and cultural shielding of nuclear weapons policies from open public debate. However, sometimes they have to make some small concessions to anti-nuclear opinion in order to quiet the public down. Second, regarding the technocrats’ motivation to defy public opinion on this issue, Onderco finds that they see nuclear sharing as the key

to high status for their countries within the NATO alliance. Thus, the motivation is more about intra-alliance politics than military security per se. However, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has reawakened their interest in nuclear weapons as military weapons.

After Onderco finished delivering his prepared remarks about the book, the attendees asked many pertinent questions. One asked whether European elites think that nuclear weapons are really usable in a hypothetical future military conflict. Onderco answered that although most of them had previously dismissed the possibility as frankly insane, since the invasion of Ukraine they are starting to reopen the matter. Another attendee asked whether the domestic opposition to nuclear sharing in European countries reflects a broader anti-American sentiment. Onderco answered that there is such a correlation at the level of political parties and NGOs, but not among the general public. When asked whether Hiroshima looms large in European thinking about nuclear issues, Onderco answered that Hiroshima is indeed a central focus of the “humanitarian impacts” perspective that has revived the political salience of nuclear disarmament since the mid-2010s. A fourth issue that attendees raised was whether Onderco was ingenuously accepting the elites’ claim that protecting the national interest is their actual motivation for upholding the nuclear sharing policy. Onderco answered that he had recently had the opportunity to make a presentation about the book to a roomful of Dutch bureaucrats, who disputed his suggestion that the public deserves a fuller explanation of the national interest rationale for continued nuclear sharing.

(Professor at HPI)

Hello from HPI

Atsushi Ishida Director / Professor



Dr. Atsushi Ishida was born in Tokyo. After graduating from the Faculty of Law of the University of Tokyo, he obtained a Master of Law degree at the Graduate School of Law and Politics of the University of Tokyo and a Ph.D. degree at the Department of Political Science of the University of Chicago (U.S.A.). He worked in the Faculty of Law of Tokyo Metropolitan University, first as an associate professor and then as a full professor, in the Institute of Social Science of the University of Tokyo as an associate professor, and later in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences as a full professor before assuming his current role in April 2026. His areas of expertise are international relations, peace research, and security studies. He coauthored the book, *International Politics* (Yuhikaku, 2013, in Japanese) and coedited *International Peace: Pursuit of Responses to Perceived Threats* (Yuhikaku, 2024, in Japanese).

What generates armed conflict and what conditions would facilitate its negotiated settlement? In particular, what conditions could keep armed conflict from escalating to the use of nuclear weapons in the worst case? In the world of autonomous armed states facing their counterparts, arms build-ups, even if intended to deter war, could provoke war, possibly with inhumane and catastrophic consequences. This is common knowledge in the field of national and international security. Therefore, what political arrangements—both domestic and international—do we need to avert such a significant misjudgment that seriously impairs human dignity in a never-acceptable way? I will stay focused on this question in Hiroshima.

Jacques E. C. Hymans Professor



Dr. Jacques E. C. Hymans was born and raised in California and received his undergraduate, master's and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. He taught political science and international relations at Smith College from 2003-2008 and at the University of Southern California (USC) from 2008-2026. He is still affiliated with USC as an adjunct associate professor. Hymans's two solo-authored books are *The Psychology of Nuclear Proliferation: Identity, Emotions, and Foreign Policy* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) and *Achieving Nuclear Ambitions: Scientists, Politicians, and Proliferation* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). He has received a total of five major book prizes for his work, including the renowned Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order in 2014. He currently serves on the editorial boards of the journals *International Theory*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Journal of Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*, *Korean Journal of International Studies*, and *The Nonproliferation Review*.

It is a great pleasure to start a new chapter of my career here at HPI. Like a coin, my research agenda has two sides that superficially appear to be opposites, but in fact are deeply connected. On one side of the coin, I show how global patterns and trends in culture, identity, and social psychology can help explain national policies, and especially nuclear policies. On the other side of the coin, I use political science theories and methods to help explain global patterns and trends in culture, identity, and social psychology, for instance the imagery on national currencies. I look forward to having robust exchanges about these and other topics with everyone in the HPI community.

Tatsuo Yamane Associate Professor



Dr. Tatsuo Yamane was born in Niigata City in 1970. He received a Bachelor's degree from Osaka University of Foreign Studies, then obtained a Master's degree and a Doctoral degree in International Public Policy at the University of Osaka. Prior to joining the HPI in April 2026, he served as an Adviser in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN in New York, Field Director of the peacebuilding project in Sri Lanka of the Association of Medical Doctor of Asia (AMDA), Assistant Professor at Hiroshima University, Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Helsinki, specially-appointed Associate Professor in the University of Osaka, and Associate Professor of the Program of International Peace and Coexistence at Hiroshima University. Dr Yamane's publications include: Hiroshima's ongoing peacebuilding and beyond: how does this local initiative seek to extend to world peace? *War & Society*, 43(1), 26-43, and the co-edited book, *An Introduction to Peacebuilding* (Horitsu Bunka Sha, 2026, in Japanese).

I am pleased to join the HPI, a core research center for peace studies, from this Spring. My area of study belongs to International Relations (IR), with a particular focus on peacebuilding and international peace operations. I am trying to analyze the roles of international organisations in peace and security in Africa, as well as Hiroshima's peacebuilding in the international context, through the lens of IR theories. While I have already been involved in research and education here in Hiroshima for nearly two decades, appreciate the opportunity to dedicate myself to promoting peace studies at HPI.

Hiroshima City University Digital Archives Launched

Makiko Takemoto

Hiroshima City University (HCU) launched its “Hiroshima City University Digital Archives” on March 3rd, 2026. To celebrate the opening, the Commemorative Exhibition of the Launch of the Hiroshima City University Digital Archives was held from March 3rd to 9th at the HCU Art Museum.

The HCU Digital Archives are open access and consist of two archives: the Art Museum Archive and the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) Archive. The project aims to make available to the public academic materials that have been accumulated through academic research activities, and that serve as cultural assets for building peace. This archive was built with the support of a FY2023 proposal-based grant from the Foundation for Library Advancement.

The HPI Archive has five categories: “Researching in Hiroshima,” “Experiencing Hiroshima,” “Museums and Facilities on War and Peace in Japan,” “Bibliographic Information on Photo Collections of the Atomic Bomb” and “Hiroshima Peace Research Journal.” Users can access information on facilities that preserve records of the atomic bombing, facilities where the atomic bombing and the war can be researched, and details of memorial services that are held annually in Hiroshima around August 6th. They can also obtain bibliographic information on photo collections relating to the atomic bombing and read academic papers published in HPI’s *Hiroshima Peace Research Journal*. In addition to keyword searches, it is also possible to browse items by content type, such as web content, books and journals, or research papers. Many archive entries have been translated into English, and

the entry titles have also been translated into Chinese and Korean. We plan to further develop the archive by expanding its content and categories in the future.

(Associate Professor at HPI)



The front page of the HCU Digital Archives



The HCU Digital Archives

The First Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies 2026

Akihiro Kawakami

The Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) held the first online briefing session of AY2026 on admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies (GSPS) via Zoom on May 8, 2026. We were pleased to have 11 participants this time.

As in the previous online briefing sessions, an outline of the GSPS and the entrance examination system were introduced at the beginning. Then, the possible career paths of graduates, scholarship opportunities, and the status of the acceptance of international students were explained. A current graduate student in the master’s program at GSPS shared her experiences on study and research at GSPS as well as student life in Hiroshima. In the second half, the participants talked individually with faculty members, graduate students and administrative staff using Zoom’s breakout room function.

(Professor/ Admission Committee at HPI)

The Forthcoming Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies in 2026

The second online briefing session on admission to the GSPS for AY2026 will be held on October 9, 2026. Everyone is welcome, not only those who would like to study at the GSPS from 2027 but also those who would like to get information about the entrance exam for future enrollment. We will be better able to answer your questions if you could send them in advance. English explanations are also available.

Date and time: October 9, 2026 (Fri), 6:30–8:00 p.m. (Japan Standard Time)
Meeting format: Online (Zoom meeting)
Fee for the participation: Free
Deadline for application: October 2, 2026 (Fri), 5:00 p.m.
Contact: nyushi@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp
(Admissions Office, Hiroshima City University)

More detailed information will be posted on the HPI website as the session date approaches.

2026

- ◆**Jan. 1** Toshiya Umehara is featured in the Chugoku Shimbun article, titled “2026: The Global Nuclear Landscape — The Atomic-Bombed Cities Must Speak with Greater Confidence,” in the newspaper’s opinion page.
- ◆**Jan. 14** Hitoshi Nagai publishes his edited book, *Sokessan Tainichi Senpansaiiban* [A Comprehensive History of the Japanese War Crimes Trials] in Japanese (Kodansha, 2026). An e-book version was also released simultaneously.
- ◆**Feb. 1** Umehara contributes an article titled “The Lightness and Risks Reflected in the Takaichi Administration’s Suggestion of Revising Nuclear Policy” to Issue No. 37 of the *Peace Depot Disarmament and Peace Report*, published by the non-profit organization Peace Depot.
- ◆**Feb. 21** Shiro Sato presents a lecture titled “Kadoma City and Kijuro Shidehara: the Significance and Challenges of Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan,” organized by Kadoma University, held at Kadoma Shimin Plaza, Osaka Prefecture.
- ◆**Feb. 26** Shun Oshita and Shota Moriue serve as advisors in a group discussion on further elaborating the roadmap developed last year to achieve a peaceful world without nuclear weapons by 2050 at the “Hiroshima Training Programme on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation,” organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), held at JMS Aster Plaza.
- ◆**Mar. 8** Nagai presents a lecture titled “The Importance of the Tatsuo Kano Papers as a Cultural Heritage and Its Future Utilization” at the Fube Community Center (Yasugi City, Shimane Prefecture).
- ◆**Mar. 14** Makiko Takemoto contributes a book review on the Japanese translation of *Then They Came for Me: Martin Niemöller, the Pastor Who Defied the Nazis* by Matthiew D. Hockenos (translated by Nobuko Aketa) in *Tosho Shimbun* (The Book Review Press), No. 3727.
- ◆**Mar. 31** Takemoto contributes an article titled “Chikyu zenmetsu jidai ni okeru bunrui to joretsuka: Hankaku undo no kanten kara” (Classification and Hierarchy in the Age of Global Annihilation: From the Perspective of the Antinuclear Movement) in Makiko Santoki and Ryuhei Kawai (eds.), *Kyoiku to ikagaku no shakaishi* (A Social History of Education and the Medical Sciences), Kyoto: Showado, 2026.
- ◆**Apr. 15** Mihoko Kato contributes a research report titled, “The Reshaping of the International Order by ‘Rogue States’ in Eurasia: Focusing on Russia-Iran Relations,” to *The Final Report of the Russia Study Group* edited by the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) [in Japanese].
- ◆**Apr. 17** Sato’s comment appears in the newspaper of *The Washington Post* (April 17, 2026) on the amendment of Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan.
- ◆**Apr. 22** Tadashi Okimura is featured in *The Chugoku Shimbun* article, titled “The NPT on the Brink: The Trump administration is retreating from international cooperation.”
- ◆**Apr. 23** Okimura is featured in *The Asahi Shimbun* Digital article, titled “Transitioning away from Fossil Fuels Conference: Why you cannot ignore results, even if the outcome is ‘Just on paper’.”
- ◆**Apr. 23** Jacques E. C. Hymans serves as the chair and discussant of a panel entitled “New Developments in Nuclear

Security: Compliance, Credibility, and Extended Deterrence” at the 83rd annual Midwest Political Science Association conference held in a hybrid format (in person in Chicago, USA, and online).

- ◆**Apr. 28** Oshita serves as a facilitator at the Mayors for Peace Youth Forum, a side event of the 11th NPT Review Conference, held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York.
- ◆**Apr. 29** Oshita presents a report titled “Peaceful Uses in the NPT’s Grand Bargain: A Built-in Stabilizer or Convenient Excuse?” at a side event of the 11th NPT Review Conference co-hosted by Mayors for Peace and UNIDIR to review the NPT’s grand bargain and discuss its future significance, held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York.
- ◆**May 5** Kato publishes a paper titled, “Expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization: a platform for regional cooperation or a tool for power projection?,” in the peer-reviewed journal *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies*, 14:2.
- ◆**May 16** Nagai serves as a discussant at the “War and Airstrikes” Session of the 2026 Spring Conference of the Peace Studies Association of Japan (Online).
- ◆**May 23** Moriue presents a lecture titled, “Hiroshima’s Post-war Revival and Initiatives for Peace,” to Turkish diplomats visiting Hiroshima as part of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation’s “Promote Understanding and Dialogue between the Middle East and Japan” project, at the HCU Satellite Campus.
- ◆**May 25** Umehara delivers a lecture titled “Nuclear Politics in Post-WWII Japan: How Japan Became — and Remained — Non-Nuclear” to 21 students from the University of California visiting Hiroshima (at the Satellite Campus of Hiroshima City University).
- ◆**May 31** Kato organizes Session 7 “Reshaping Russian and Chinese Middle East Policies Following Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine,” and presents a paper titled, “Cooperation and Competition among Eurasian Land Powers under War and Sanctions: The Case of the Russo-Iranian Strategic Partnership,” at the 13th East Asian Conference on Slavic Eurasian Studies held at the Fukuoka International Congress Center.
- ◆**Jun. 15** Hymans publishes a book review of K. Egeland, *The Struggle for Abolition: Power and Legitimacy in Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Diplomacy* (Routledge, 2024) in the H-Diplo Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum.
- ◆**Jun. 20** Sato participates as a discussant in the session of “Humanitarian Disarmament in the Post-Ukraine Era”, at the Japan Association of Disarmament Studies held at the Myogadani Campus, Chuo University.
- ◆**Jun. 28** Hymans publishes “The Pictures and the Frame: Banknote Iconography and Bottom-Up Nationalism in Pre- and Post-Revolutionary Tunisia,” co-authored with Chloe Bernadaux, in the peer-reviewed journal *Nations and Nationalism*.

※For other entries of the DIARY,
please visit our website.



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