

*Woodruff Nuclear & Radiological Engineering and Medical Physics
Programs Seminar*

**“Back to the Future with Nuclear MNAs?: Confronting
the Credible Commitment Problem”**

Adam N. Stulberg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & Co-Director, Center for International Strategy,
Technology, and Policy (GT- Sam Nunn School of International Affairs)

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Molecular Science & Engineering (MS&E, Room 3201A)
(901 Atlantic Drive – building directly across from Neely)

11:00am to 12:00 Noon

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Abstract

This presentation explicates the paradox of mounting global interest in promoting commercial nuclear cooperation and the long history of limited success. On the one hand, multilateral nuclear approaches (MNAs) for managing the civilian nuclear fuel cycle have garnered extensive international recognition as a viable (if not requisite) means for bridging gaps between the burgeoning nuclear renaissance and concerns about proliferation. On the other hand, there have been only a few takers (even among states with supposedly benign interests) of the many proposals for establishing nuclear fuel banks, multinational enrichment/reprocessing facilities, global mechanisms for risk insurance, etc. In order to comprehend this disconnect and the prospects for promoting international fuel cycle cooperation, it is argued that we need to better understand the challenges of extending credible commitments and forging "trust" among states marked by asymmetries in power (both strategic and market) and domestic institutions. Moreover, by framing fuel cycle cooperation as a "credible commitment problem" (and not just the object of recalcitrance by "rogue" states) we can begin to identify critical cases for targeting, refining, assessing, and tailoring the IAEA's proposal for extending MNAs.

Biosketch

Mr. Adam N. Stulberg teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on international security, international relations theory, Eurasian politics and security affairs, nuclear (non) proliferation, and energy and international security. He also team-teaches inter-disciplinary courses on science, technology, and international security policy. His current research focuses on the implications of various "principal-agent" problems for explaining energy security in Eurasia, strategic confidence-building in South Asia, strategic reassurance in international nuclear fuel cycle relations, credible

bargaining for cooperative security, military transformation, effectiveness of the global WMD nonproliferation regime, nanotechnology and the offense-defense balance in international security; and decentralization and control in the nuclear sector.

Dr. Stulberg earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), as well as holds an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University, an M.A. in Political Science from UCLA, and a B.A. in History from the University of Michigan. He served as a Political Consultant at RAND from 1987-1997, and as a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), Monterey Institute of International Studies (1997-1998). Since 1997, he has worked closely with Senator Sam Nunn drafting policy recommendations and background studies on future directions for the U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, building regional and energy security regimes in Central Asia and the South Caucasus, and engaging Russia's regional power centers. In addition, Dr. Stulberg was a post-doctoral fellow at CNS (2000-2001); policy scholar at the EastWest Institute; and has been a consultant to the Carnegie Corporation of New York (2000-present) and the Office of Net Assessment, Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense (2000-present). Dr. Stulberg's books include: *Well-Oiled Diplomacy: Strategic Manipulation and Russia's Energy Statecraft in Eurasia* (SUNY Press); (with Michael D. Salomone) *Managing Defense Transformation: Agency, Culture, and Service Change* (Ashgate Academic Press); and (with James Clay Moltz and Vladimir A. Orlov, eds), *Preventing Nuclear Meltdown: Managing Decentralization of Russia's Nuclear Complex* (Ashgate Academic Press). He also has published in *Security Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Orbis*, *The Nonproliferation Review*, *Geopolitics*, *Survival*, and *Contemporary Security Policy*.