

Global histories of anti-nuclear and peace activism in the late Cold War

London School of Economics, Friday 22 and Saturday 23 May 2020

One of the most dynamic areas within the historiography of the Cold War and social movement studies in recent years has been the study of peace and anti-nuclear activism in the last decades of the Cold War. Existing scholarship in this area has for the most part focused on the largest countries within NATO, notably the US, the UK, and West Germany. This conference aims to broaden the scope beyond the North Atlantic by inviting papers on protest that opposes various aspects of nuclear technologies in any country, and to widen the periodisation beyond the Eurocentric account that solely focuses on the Euromissile crisis. One of the objectives of the conference is to bring together historians, political scientists, sociologists and academics from cultural and media studies who are conducting empirical research on peace protests globally during the late Cold War in order to tell a global story of anti-nuclear and peace activism.

Possible topics could include local and transnational opposition to nuclear weapons and nuclear energy programmes in countries such as South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Israel and Pakistan, as well as forms of opposition to nuclear weapons in nuclear-armed states such as India and China, or in Japan. Opposition to civilian uses of nuclear technology and/or the links between anti-nuclear and environmental movements are also encouraged. We also welcome papers addressing anti-nuclear and peace activism in NATO countries, in the Eastern bloc, and within the Non-Aligned Movement and among neutral states.

Possible questions to consider might include:

- What was distinctive or interesting about the discourse around nuclear weapons in this country? How did it influence the debate around nuclear weapons or nuclear energy?
- What kind of symbols, narratives and visions did protestors put forward?
- How far did opposition to non-military uses of nuclear technology differ from opposition to nuclear weapons?
- What forms of action did anti-nuclear and/or peace activism take in this country / these countries?
- How did the government(s) respond to anti-nuclear and/or peace activism in this country/region?
- What has been the impact of these social movements?

We especially encourage papers that make use of the archives of peace and anti-nuclear groups and/or newly available sources from government archives.

An abstract of no more than 300 words along with a two-page CV should be submitted to Dr Luc-André Brunet and Dr Eirini Karamouzi by no later than **21 February 2020**: luc-andre.brunet@open.ac.uk and e.karamouzi@sheffield.ac.uk.

This conference is co-organised by the [LSE IDEAS Peace and Security Project](#), The Open University, the University of Sheffield, Università Roma Tre, the Woodrow Wilson Center, and the Nuclear Proliferation International History Project.

We have funds available to assist with international travel to London to attend the conference.

Scientific Committee:

Dr Luc-André Brunet (The Open University)

Professor Michael Cox (London School of Economics)

Dr Eirini Karamouzi (University of Sheffield)

Professor Leopoldo Nuti (Università Roma Tre)

Dr Christian Ostermann (Woodrow Wilson Center)