

## DR. SARA Z. KUTCHESFAHANI

### WORK EXPERIENCE

- September 2017 – Present:  
Senior Policy Analyst, **Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation (Washington, DC)**  
Senior Program Coordinator, Fissile Materials Working Group (FMWG)  
Co-Editor, Studies in Security and International Affairs Series, University of Georgia Press (since June 2016)

The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation seeks to reduce nuclear weapons arsenals, halt the spread of nuclear weapons, and minimize the risk of war by educating the public and policy makers. My role at the Center and the FMWG focuses on efforts to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. Specifically on: educating Congress, as well as the media and public on issues of arms control and non-proliferation, nuclear security, nuclear terrorism; interfacing with and working to inform officials in the Executive Branch, Members of Congress and their personal and committee staff, and other NGOs primarily on matters of nuclear security; conceptualizing, organizing and implementing public nuclear security-related briefings and panel presentations on Capitol Hill; performing detailed research on relevant arms control and non-proliferation topics; drafting fact sheets, issue briefs, articles, blogs, grant proposals, letters, and testimonies.

- May 2013 – August 2017:  
Executive Director, **Center for International Trade & Security, University of Georgia (UGA)**  
Director, Master in International Policy (MIP), International Security and Non-proliferation, UGA  
Co-Editor, Studies in Security and International Affairs Series, University of Georgia Press (on-going affiliation)

The Center for International Trade and Security at the University of Georgia (CITS/UGA) works to advance international peace and security by promoting disarmament and reducing the risk of WMD proliferation through better trade and security practices in countries around the world. CITS carries out its mission by engaging and informing policymakers, industry representatives, educators, students, and the general public, both in the U.S. and abroad, about the dangers of trade in and theft of weapons and weapons components.

I started at CITS as a Senior Research Associate, and I was promoted to Executive Director in August 2016. As the CITS Executive Director, my job responsibilities included running the center; writing funding proposals; managing the U.S. Department of State's Partnership for Nuclear Security portfolio within CITS; conducting training on nuclear security-related topics all over the world, including nuclear security culture; directing and teaching the MIP Program; and supervising the Center's undergraduate interns and our graduate research assistants. During my tenure at CITS, I secured over \$1.5 million of funding for nuclear security-related projects.

As the MIP Program Director, I was responsible for directing, recruiting and admitting students, and teaching the program. I taught classes on Nuclear History and Security Policy, International Perspectives on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Security, and Careers in International Policy to graduate students from UGA's School of Public & International Affairs.

- January 2011 – April 2013: Post-doctoral Research Associate, **Los Alamos National Laboratory**

I was the only Political Science post-doc out of a pool of 440 post-docs in the entire laboratory. My expertise and exposure to technical issues have put me in a unique position of having had experience in both science and policy domains. Working in the Nuclear Engineering and Non-proliferation Division, I focused on non-proliferation policy-related research projects. These included research in the IAEA's Additional Protocol, a study on the role of U.S. security guarantees in motivating states to renounce their nuclear weapons aspirations, and contributing to the teaching and organization of LANL's summer Nuclear Safeguards Technology & Policy workshops. In January 2012, I taught a 15-week upper-level undergraduate/graduate distance education Political Science course, "Nuclear Safeguards & Security Policy," at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, a premier science engineering research university.

- Summer 2008: Summer Research Associate, **RAND Corporation** (Washington, D.C.)

RAND runs a competitive annual 12-week summer research associate program for PhD students. The program receives about 600 applications each year for approximately 30 positions. I worked on a nuclear non-proliferation project that examined strategies for controlling nuclear proliferation. This research was published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., in 2010.

- December 2007 – July 2010: Teaching Fellow, **University College London**

While a teaching fellow at UCL, I taught a course on "International Security" as part of the university's School of Public Policy Political Studies Affiliate Programme. The course was introduced to second-/third-year undergraduate students in January 2008, and became so popular that the department made the course permanent. I designed the course, and teaching consisted of weekly hourly lectures and two hourly seminars.

- October 2005 – December 2006: Nonproliferation Science Fellow, **Los Alamos National Laboratory**

As the inaugural Nonproliferation Science Fellow, I worked on various non-proliferation projects, including a comparative analysis of nuclear weapons doctrines and strategy for all nuclear weapons states; the India-U.S. agreement on civil nuclear co-operation; research on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540; an analysis of the differences between the EU and U.S. in dealing with non-proliferation and the threat of biological weapons; and assisting in the writing and editing of *Nuclear Safeguards, Security and Nonproliferation*, a graduate student textbook on nuclear security sciences, published in 2008.

- April – July 2005: Visiting Fellow, **EU Institute for Security Studies** (Paris)

As a Visiting Fellow, I worked on a research paper analysing the differing American and European approaches in dealing with the Iranian nuclear challenge. This was published by the European Policy Centre in Brussels in March 2006.

- October 2004 – March 2005: Research Assistant, **International Institute for Strategic Studies** (London)

As Dr. Gary Samore’s research assistant, I conducted and collated research for the IISS Dossier on Iran’s Strategic Weapons Programme (published 2005 and republished 2011). I participated in conferences on nuclear non-proliferation and on Iran’s suspected nuclear weapons programme.

## **EDUCATION**

- **BA (Hons) French, King’s College, London: September 1996 – June 2000**

Subjects covered include translation, history, philosophy, and language and literature, which required thorough research and analysis of data. The degree included a year abroad (1998–1999) where I followed a year’s translation course at the British Institute in Paris, and achieved a Business French Diploma awarded by the *Chambre de Commerce et d’Industrie de Paris*.

- **MA (European Studies), King’s College London: September 2002 – September 2003**

The degree dealt with a range of perspectives on Modern Europe, notably Politics, Political Thought, International Relations, Modern History, as well as “European Union Studies” and philosophy. My dissertation analysed the question of identity in relation to the EU. I was the students’ delegate at the student-staff committee.

- **PhD (Political Science), University College London: January 2007 – December 2010**

My thesis explored how epistemic communities – groups of experts knowledgeable in niche issue areas – affected nuclear non-proliferation policy formulation in two cases: the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) and the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program. I concluded that understanding the role of an epistemic community in non-proliferation policies could help us create more-effective non-proliferation policies in the future. This research was the premise of my book, *Politics and the Bomb: The Role of Experts in the Creation of Cooperative Nuclear Non-Proliferation Agreements*, published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis in 2014.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Farsi, French

## **RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- Establishment of a Directorship and Course Development and Instruction in Support of the Master in International Policy (MIP) Program at the University of Georgia – School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia; \$210,000 awarded for 2016–2018.
- Travel support for MIP students to Washington, D.C. for Spring Break 2017; \$5,000 awarded by the UGA President Venture Fund.
- Preparation for a presentation at the 2015 World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Atlanta, Georgia (15–19 November, 2015) – Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia; \$5,000 awarded for fiscal year 2016.

- Funding from the U.S. Department of State’s Partnership for Nuclear Security to support nuclear security and nuclear security culture related projects; approximately \$1.5 million awarded for work carried out between 2014 and 2017.
- PhD Fellowship – Programme on European and Foreign and Security Policy Studies, Compagnia di San Paolo / Riksbankens Jubileumsfond / VolkswagenStiftung; €40,000 awarded for 2008–2010.
- Public Policy and Nuclear Threats (PPNT) Summer Fellowship awarded by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, University of California, San Diego to attend the PPNT Summer Workshop July 24 – August 7 2009, San Diego; \$11,000 awarded for the duration of the workshop.
- Research Grant – The Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust; £600 awarded for 2007–2008.

## PUBLICATIONS

### 2019

- *Global Nuclear Order*, Routledge Global Security Studies (Taylor & Francis).
- “What You(th) Can Do about Nuclear Weapons,” *Outrider Foundation* (<https://outrider.org/nuclear-weapons/articles/what-youth-can-do-about-nuclear-weapons/>), January 2019 (co-written with Erin Connolly).
- “Regional Initiatives Towards a Nuclear Weapon Free World: The Case of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones.” In James E. Doyle (ed.), *Nuclear Safeguards, Security and Nonproliferation. Achieving Security with Technology and Policy*, Elsevier: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2nd edition, forthcoming.

### 2018

- “Why countries still must prioritize action to curb nuclear terrorism,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 3 August 2018 (co-written with Kelsey Davenport).
- “The Nuclear Security Summits: An Overview of State Actions to Curb Nuclear Terrorism 2016–2018,” *Arms Control Association and FMWG Report*, June 2018 (co-written with Kelsey Davenport and Erin Connolly).
- “The NPT at 50: A Staple of Global Nuclear Order,” *Arms Control Today* June 2018: 6–11.
- “Nuclear Diplomacy Between Brazil and Argentina: An Imperfect but Important History Lesson,” *War On The Rocks*, 25 May 2018.
- “Now – more than ever – is the time for creative diplomacy,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 8 February 2018.
- “The blessing and curse of blood irradiators,” *The Hill*, 1 February 2018.

### 2017

- “Preventing nuclear terrorism should remain a top U.S. priority,” *The Hill*, 20 October 2017.

### 2016

- “Security Culture and its Self-Assessment as Supplementary Tools for Nuclear Security Training,” (with Igor Khripunov and Khairul Khairul) *International Journal of Nuclear Security* 2, no. 1: Article 11.
- “Celebrating ABACC’s 25th Year Anniversary: A Reflective Piece on its Creation.” In Odilon Antonio Marcuzo do Canto, *O Modelo ABACC: Um marco no desenvolvimento das relações entre Brasil e Argentina* (English Translation: “The ABACC Model: A Milestone in the Development of Relations between Brazil and Argentina”), Federal University of Santa Maria.

## 2015

- “The Role of an Epistemic Community in Argentina and Brazil’s Creation of a Joint Safeguards Agreement.” In Jeffrey W. Knopf (ed.), *International Cooperation on WMD Nonproliferation*, University of Georgia Press.

## 2014

- *Politics & the Bomb: The Role of Experts in the Creation of Cooperative Nuclear Non-Proliferation Agreements*, New York, NY: Routledge (Taylor & Francis).
- “Prospects for a Middle East Regional Safeguards Organization,” *Public Interest Report* LXVII, no. 1. Federation of American Scientists.

## 2013

- “History shows limits of proliferation,” *Financial Times*, 19 November 2013.
- “Further Intrusion or Different Political Priorities? What are the Main Reasons behind Countries’ Non-Signature of the IAEA Additional Protocol?” *Journal of Nuclear Materials Management* XLI, no. 2 (Winter 2013): 30–35.

## 2012

- “Cross Border Connections.” *Nuclear Engineering International*, March 2012: 38.
- “Next Generation Safeguards Initiative University Outreach: Los Alamos National Laboratory Teaching a Political Science Course on Nuclear Safeguards & Security Policy at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.” (WithCarolynn P. Scherer, Brian D. Boyer, M. Elise Elfman). *Proceedings Institute of Nuclear Materials Management 53rd Annual Meeting*, Orlando, US-FL, July 2012.
- “‘What About the Bomb?’ Exploring the Power of Nuclear Imagery.” (With M. Elise Elfman). *Proceedings Institute of Nuclear Materials Management 53rd Annual Meeting*, Orlando, US-FL, July 2012.

## 2011

- “How to Strengthen International Safeguards: Moving Forward with the Additional Protocol.” *Proceedings Institute of Nuclear Materials Management 52nd Annual Meeting*, Palm Desert, US-CA, July 2011.
- “Next Generation Safeguards Initiative University Outreach: The Unique Los Alamos and The Pennsylvania State University Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Safeguards Graduate Course.” *Proceedings Institute of Nuclear Materials Management 52nd Annual Meeting*, Palm Desert, US-CA, July 2011. (Brian D. Boyer, Heather H. Erpenbeck, Carolynn P. Scherer, Chantell L. Murphy, Sara Z. Kutchesfahani, Brian Fane, W. Adam Watkins, M. Elise Elfman, Jacob D. Green, Jack S. Brenizer, and Deborah L. Zimmerman).
- “Iran’s Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Capabilities: A Net Assessment.” *IISS Strategic Dossier*, February 2011. Edited by Mark Fitzpatrick. (I was the Research Assistant on this dossier).

## 2010

- “Who Shapes the Politics of the Bomb? The Role of Epistemic Communities in Creating Nuclear Non-Proliferation Policies.” LSE Global Governance Working Paper, WP 03/2010.
- “The Relevance of Historical Experience to Current Nuclear Proliferation Challenges.” In *A Collection of Papers from the 2009 PONI Conference Series*, Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2010.

## 2008

- “Case Study: The Khan Network.” In James E Doyle (ed.), *Nuclear Safeguards, Security and Nonproliferation. Achieving Security with Technology and Policy*, Elsevier: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2008.
- “South Africa.” (Co-written with Marcie Lombardi) in James E Doyle (ed.), *Nuclear Safeguards, Security and Nonproliferation. Achieving Security with Technology and Policy*, Elsevier: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2008

## 2007

- “US/EU Differences in Nuclear Non-Proliferation.” Royal United Services Institute *Newsbrief*, April 2007.
- “Flaws Mar Non-Proliferation Policy.” Oxford Analytica *Daily Brief*, 9 March 2007.

## 2006

- “Iran’s Nuclear Impasse.” *Esquerra Nacional* 74, October-November 2006.
- “Iran’s Nuclear Challenge and European Diplomacy.” The European Policy Centre Issue Paper No. 46, March 2006.
- “Time for a US/Iran Patch Up.” (Co-written with James E. Doyle). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 2006.

## 2005

- “Iran’s Strategic Weapons Programmes – A Net Assessment.” *IISS Strategic Dossier*, September 2005. Edited by Gary S. Samore. (I was the Research Assistant on this dossier).

## 2004

- “Iran’s nuclear programme. Suspended animation.” (Co-written with Gary S. Samore). *Strategic Comments*, London: International Institute for Strategic Studies, November 2004.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- University of Maryland (2018 – Present):

PLCY720: International Security Policy (graduate, Fall 2018)

PLCY688T: Topics in Public Policy; Team-Based Policy Lab (graduate, Spring 2019)

- University of Georgia (2014 – 2017):

INTL 8276: International Perspectives on Nuclear Non-Proliferation (graduate)

INTL 8273: Nuclear History & Security Policy (graduate)

INTL 8295: Careers in International Policy (graduate)

INTL 8288: Technical Background for WMD Non-Proliferation Practitioners (graduate)

INTL 4770: Special Topics in International Relations: International Perspectives on Nuclear Non-Proliferation & Security (undergraduate)

- New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (2012)

PS 489D/589D: Nuclear Safeguards & Security Policy (upper level undergraduate/graduate)

- University College London (2007 – 2010)

POLS6005: International Security (undergraduate)