

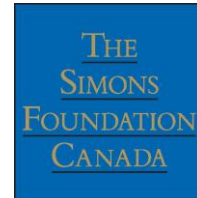


THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Public Policy and Global Affairs



SCHOOL FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



Advancing Disarmament in a New Age of Insecurity

Vienna International Centre (VIC), Conference Room 2 (CR-2)

Vienna, Austria

20-22 September 2026

AGENDA

Sunday, 20 September 2026

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Welcome Reception

Hotel Schani UNO City, Skyfall Room

Wagramer Str. 16, Vienna

Monday, 21 September 2026

PICK-UP UN GROUNDS PASS BADGES: *Participants will need to provide your passport/ID and arrive at least 30 minutes before the sessions begin, as there may be a line at security. Our group will meet at Gate 1 of the Vienna International Centre (VIC) at 8:00am to pick up our UN badges.*

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Registration and Meet and Greet

- Participants sign in and meet/reconnect over coffee and light refreshments.

9:00 – 9:15 AM: Welcome from The Simons Foundation Canada

Welcome: Jennifer Simons

9:15 – 9:30 AM: Workshop Welcome and Overview

Welcome: Megan MacKenzie, M. V. Ramana

Focus: Setting the context and objectives for the Vienna Workshop.

- Briefly summarize the outcomes of the inaugural Vancouver workshop.
- Introduce the objectives, themes, and desired outcomes for the Vienna workshop.
- Overview of the workshop structure and discussion format.

9:30 – 9:45 AM: Welcome from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

Welcome: Rebecca Jovin, UNODA

Focus: International perspectives on the role of disarmament education.

- Reflections on the current global disarmament landscape.
- The role of education in advancing peace and reducing nuclear risks.
- Opportunities for international collaboration.

9:45 – 11:15 AM: *Session 1 – Disarmament Education in an Era of Rearmament*

Opening remarks: Katariina Simonen, Agnieszka Nimark

Key Focus: Responding to the normalization of militarization and renewed investment in military solutions.

Key Questions

1. How has the global security discourse shifted in recent years?
2. What explains growing public and political support for military spending?
3. How can disarmament education engage with mainstream arguments about deterrence and military preparedness? More generally, how can disarmament pedagogy better incorporate concerns about “hard security”?
4. How can educators reach new audiences beyond international relations and political science?

11:15 – 11:30 AM: Coffee Break

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM: *Session 2 – Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, and Nuclear Futures*

Opening remarks: George-Wilhelm Gallhofer, Anna-Katharina Ferl, Ray Acheson

Key Focus: Understanding how emerging technologies are reshaping nuclear weapons practices, warfare, and education.

Key Questions

1. How might disarmament educators incorporate concerns about AI reshaping nuclear decision-making and aggravate escalation risks?
2. What new humanitarian challenges emerge from increasingly automated warfare and how might public concerns about these help advance disarmament?
3. How can educational tools and approaches bridge the technical and policy dimensions associated with new technologies to promote greater public understanding of these risks?
4. How should educators engage with emerging technologies, and how can they shape how these technologies are discussed publicly?

1:00 – 2:15 PM: Lunch

2:15 – 3:45 PM: Session 3 – Universities, Academic Freedom, and the Future of Disarmament Education

Opening remarks: Zia Mian, Jana Wattenberg

Key Focus: Strengthening the role of universities in advancing critical engagement with peace, security, and disarmament.

Key Questions

1. What challenges do disarmament focused educators face in “militarizing” universities?
2. How can educators create more space for critical engagement with questions of war, peace, and security in their classrooms?
3. How can we shape the role academic institutions play in public debates about militarization?
4. How can disarmament education be integrated across disciplines and curricula?

Format: Collaborative strategy session.

- Participants identify barriers and opportunities within higher education.
- Small groups develop recommendations for expanding teaching, research, and institutional engagement.

3:45 – 4:00 PM: Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:00 PM: Day 1 Reflection and Roundtable

Focus: Reflecting on key insights and identifying priorities for Day 2.

- Participants share key takeaways from each session.
- Facilitators identify cross-cutting themes and areas of consensus.
- Open discussion on emerging challenges and opportunities for disarmament education.
- Introduction to Day 2's focus on public engagement, collaboration, and action planning.

Dinner at Palmenhaus Café-Brasserie

6:00 PM

Burggarten 1, Vienna

-Participants go directly from the meeting to dinner

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

FROM IDEAS TO ACTION

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Morning Networking

- Informal discussions over coffee and refreshments.

9:00 – 10:30 AM: Session 4 – Building Public Engagement for Disarmament

Opening remarks: Rhys Crilley, Ivana Hughes

Key Focus: Developing new narratives and communication strategies that connect disarmament to everyday concerns and engage new audiences.

Key Questions

1. What narratives resonate most effectively with contemporary audiences, and how might these be shaped by geographical and cultural contexts?
2. How can storytelling, arts, film, gaming, and social media strengthen engagement?
3. How can educators move beyond fear-based messaging?
4. What lessons can be learned from successful public education campaigns?

10:30 – 10:45 AM: Coffee Break

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM: Session 5 – Building and Sustaining an International Community of Practice

Opening remarks: Veerle Moyson, Sibylle Bauer

Key Focus: Strengthening international collaboration in disarmament education.

Key Questions

1. What forms of collaboration are most needed?
2. How can resources and curricula be shared internationally? How can successful approaches and initiatives be scaled and sustained?
3. What funding opportunities and institutional supports exist?
4. What should be the priorities for a global network on disarmament education?

Format: Visioning workshop.

- Participants identify common priorities.
- Groups draft elements of a shared vision and collaborative agenda.
- Plenary discussion to identify areas of consensus.

12:15 – 1:15 PM: Lunch

- Informal networking and discussion.

1:15 – 2:45 PM: Closing Session – From Ideas to Action

Key Focus: Reflecting on the workshop and identifying practical next steps for advancing disarmament education.

Part I: Lightning Presentations (30–40 minutes)

A series of three-minute reflections from selected participants highlighting:

- Innovative teaching approaches.
- Successful public engagement initiatives.
- Emerging research or curriculum ideas.
- Lessons learned from practice.

Part II: Moving Forward Together (50–60 minutes)

Facilitated discussion focused on translating workshop discussions into future collaboration.

Guiding Questions

1. What ideas or approaches from this workshop are you most likely to take back to your own institution or organization?
2. What opportunities exist for collaboration across institutions, regions, or disciplines?
3. What resources or initiatives would most strengthen disarmament education in your location or country? Specifically, would an edited volume be useful for teaching? If so, what should be the kinds of topics that essays should cover? Are there any resources that might be included in such a volume?
4. What should be the priorities for this community of practice over the next two years?

Participants identify concrete opportunities for:

- Collaborative teaching and curriculum development.
- Resource sharing.
- Research partnerships.
- Future workshops and events.
- An edited volume or teaching resource.
- Cross-network collaborations.

2:45 – 3:00 PM: *Closing Remarks*

Focus: Looking ahead.

- Summary of key themes and recommendations.
- Reflections from the workshop convenors.
- Closing remarks from The Simons Foundation Canada and Rebecca Jovin (UNODA).
- Thank participants and outline next steps for staying connected.