

UK DETERRENCE AND ASSURANCE ACADEMIC ALLIANCE **2021 CONFERENCE**

DETERRENCE AND ESCALATION IN AN ERA OF **SYSTEMIC COMPETITION**

29-30 November 2021, King's College London

The UK Deterrence and Assurance Academic Alliance (DAAA) is pleased to announce that it will hold its 2021 conference on the 29th and 30th November 2021, in partnership with the Defence Nuclear Organisation and King's College London. The focus of the conference will be the challenges and implications of the changing deterrence and escalation landscape in an era of systemic competition.

The 2021 UK Integrated Review reiterated the importance of the UK's nuclear deterrent against the full range of state nuclear threats. This is in a context where some states are significantly increasing and diversifying their nuclear arsenals, investing in novel technologies and developing new 'warfighting' nuclear systems, which they are integrating into their military strategies and doctrines as well as into their political rhetoric to seek to coerce others. The Review also identified that the increase in global competition, challenges to the international order and proliferation of potentially disruptive technologies all pose a threat to strategic stability.

Proposals for papers are welcome on topics including, but not limited:

- What are the inherent deterrence challenges of conflicts that span multiple domains, theatres and thresholds?
- How can conventional capabilities support or raise the nuclear threshold and deter limited nuclear use?
- What are the opportunities and risks of emerging or disruptive technologies for deterrence and strategic stability?
- How might future arms control agreements deal with the cross-domain nature of international conflict and support strategic stability?
- How does increased sub-strategic competition impact strategic deterrence? Might it reduce the risk of strategic deterrence failure?
- How might a better understanding of strategic culture, including factors such as identity and values, improve deterrence and assurance activities?

We also encourage submission of case studies from which deterrence, assurance and escalation lessons can be identified. Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words by **14th October 2021** (deadline extended) to daaa@dstl.gov.uk. The DAAA seeks diversity of opinions in submissions and speakers. The conference will be run in an inclusive manner with a culture that encourages constructive challenge. We encourage submissions from experts at any stage of their career.

For information about the work of the DAAA, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dstl-leads-uk-deterrence-and-assurance-academic-alliance-daaa>

Important note: the DAAA intends to run an in-person event if possible but this is currently a provisional arrangement. It is hoped to confirm the nature of the 2021 UK DAAA Conference in early October, subject to the COVID-19 situation. If necessary, the conference will take place virtually, as in 2020.