Conceptions of Responsibility Among the Nuclear Weapon Possessors

ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship at the University of Birmingham and the British American Security Information Council

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

The University of Birmingham as part of the Midlands Graduate School is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner, The British American Security Information Council (BASIC), to commence in October 2018.

The project will investigate what counts as responsible state conduct in relation to the possession of nuclear weapons. The rationale for this focus is the growing disjuncture in the contemporary global nuclear order between the nuclear possessor states on the one hand, and the vast majority of non-nuclear states on the other. The differences between these two groups of states has widened still further with the agreement of 122 states on 7 July 2017 to open for signature a Treaty banning the possession of nuclear weapons. None of the possessor states, or their allies, have signed or legitimized the ban process. Possessor states differ, however. Each state has its own history, context, and relationship to its nuclear arsenal. The project will focus on the conceptions of responsibility held by three very different nuclear weapon possessors: the United States, the United Kingdom, and North Korea. The primary academic supervisor of the project is Professor Nicholas Wheeler, Director of the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/centres/iccs/index.aspx, who will co-supervise the project with Paul Ingram, Executive Director of BASIC http://www.basicint.org. The project will involve fieldwork in the United Kingdom and the United States and will entail scheduled trips to BASIC’s office in London to work with Paul Ingram and his team on the project.

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form available online here and email it along with a full CV, covering letter, and two references to Professor Nicholas Wheeler, n.j.wheeler@bham.ac.uk.

Application deadline: Friday 16th February 2018
Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available only to successful applicants who fulfil eligibility criteria. To check your eligibility, visit: www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/.

Informal enquiries about the research prior to application can be directed to Professor Nicholas Wheeler, n.j.wheeler@bham.ac.uk.