

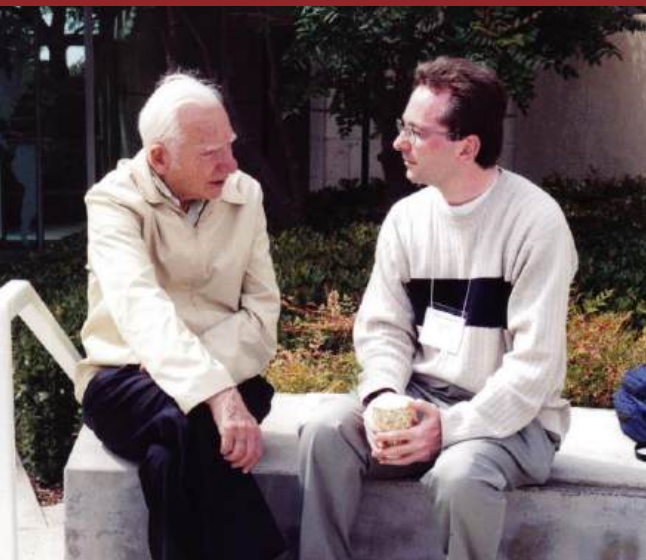
International Student/Young Pugwash

History, Activities, and Future Directions

Talia E. Weiss

July 31, 2025

Physicists Coalition webinar: “The Russell-Einstein Manifesto at 70”



History of Student/Young Pugwash (SYP)

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Student Pugwash International Conference at Hopkins 1994

Student activists from 26 nations will meet at The Johns Hopkins University June 12-18 to debate the public policy implications of scientific and technological progress.



March 24, 2006

Director of National Science Foundation to speak at Purdue

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Arden L. Bement Jr., director of the National Science Foundation, will be the keynote speaker at a Purdue event that addresses questions about the ethics surrounding scientific and technological research.



[Arden Bement](#)

The event is part of the Purdue University [Student Pugwash Midwest Regional Conference](#) "Integrity of Science in

Example MIT Student Pugwash Events:

January 21, 1988

McGill-MIT Universities Student Pugwash Congress

MONDAY MAY 1ST, 1995

Genes and Behavior

Discussion with Chris Richardson (BU Student Pugwash)

Saturday, March 6, 2004

Depleted Uranium Weapons: Toxic Contaminant or Necessary Technology?



Joseph Rotblat at Student Pugwash USA event—New York, 1996



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1979-present: National and local **SYP groups arise around the world**.

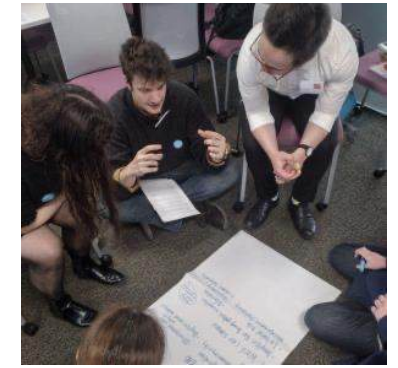
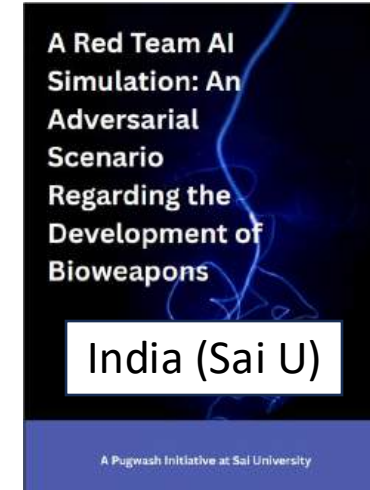
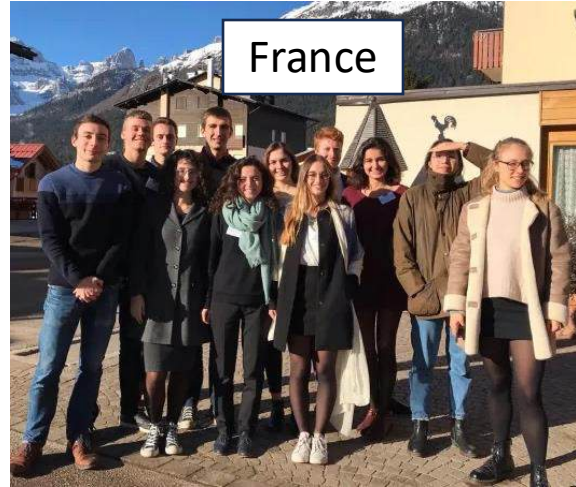
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US (Dartmouth College)



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History of Student/Young Pugwash (SYP)

ISYP

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT/YOUNG
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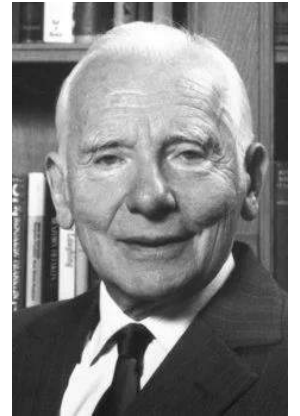
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2017, Kazakhstan

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2022: ISYP hosts interdisciplinary conference in **Berlin** on nuclear threats.

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2020: ISYP expands **virtual programming**.



Student/Young Pugwash Today

International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP) network:

- Students and young professionals (age 18-35) who collaborate on topics in **science, ethics, and security**.
- **Cross-national dialogue** on nuclear weapons, climate change, emerging technologies.
- Interdisciplinary—**natural & social scientists; policy practitioners**.
- ISYP leadership team: 14 volunteer members.

Student/Young Pugwash groups:

- Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Russia, UK, US.
- Developing groups in France, Pakistan, and Uganda.



*Countries represented on
ISYP's Leadership Team*

Current Activities of ISYP

“Third Nuclear Age” project:

- When considering nuclear dangers, what has changed in recent years—technologically, socially, politically? How should we respond?
- Past: **Conference** in Berlin; 30 **consultations with experts** from governments and NGOs.
- Future: Virtual “**policy hackathons**.”



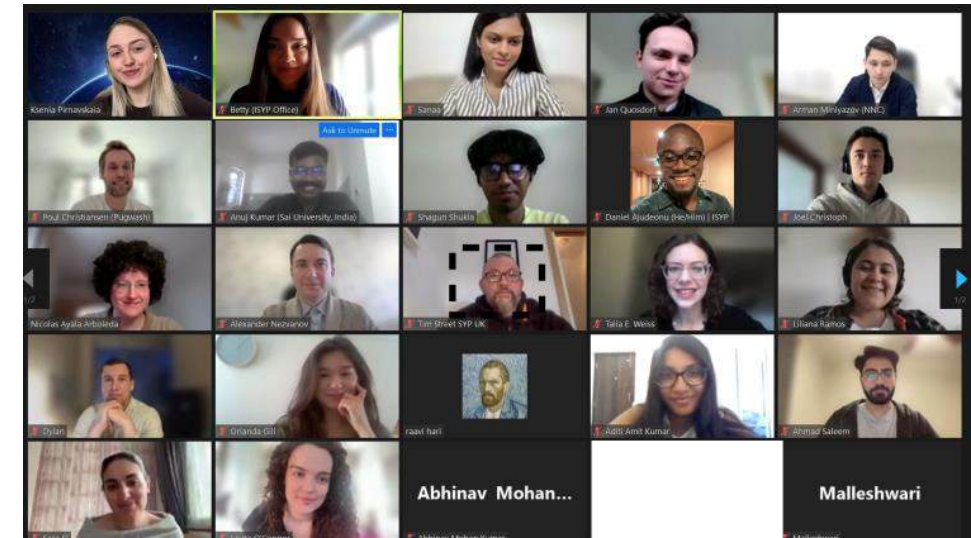
Third Nuclear Age Conference

South Asia program: **Zoom roundtables on nuclear issues.**
Participants in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal.

Engagement with **Pugwash meetings and projects.**

Early-stage projects:

- Guide on **responsible quantum research** and innovation.
- Series of webinars/discussions on **Golden Dome**.



“Young Pugwash Universe” Meeting

Current Activities of National and Local Groups

SYP UK: annual conference and webinars



SYP Germany: reading club and newsletter



syppgermany.com/nrc/



**Negotiation simulations,
including by Israeli and
Indian SYP groups**

Why international dialogue among young people?

Dialogue within an early-career group:

- **Develop cross-national relationships**, nurturing common understanding.
- **Later on**, as individuals advance in careers/gain influence, these relationships can **enable policymaking that promotes peace**.

Intergenerational engagement:

- **Learn how to conduct track II diplomacy** at expert/high-level meetings.
- Preparing a new generation for this work.

1995 Nobel Awards: Rotblat with ISYP's Sandra Butcher & Betsy Fader



Challenges for the next generation

1. For young physicists—sometimes: lack of awareness of nuclear dangers, and loss of the sense that *our field* is responsible.

- Related to perception (not limited to young people) that end of Cold War removed nuclear dangers.
- Young scientists tend to be very receptive—but it takes time to spread the word.

2. Steep “on-ramp” for early-career scientists to engage in nuclear policy circles.

- Structure and style of research, writing, and talks feel unfamiliar.
- Other scientists sometimes view policy work as detracting from scientific research.
- Physicists Coalition, Princeton SGS, etc. help provide this on-ramp in the US.
- ISYP aims to improve the pipeline, internationally.

Goals for the next generation

1. Turn education, research, and dialogue into concrete action.

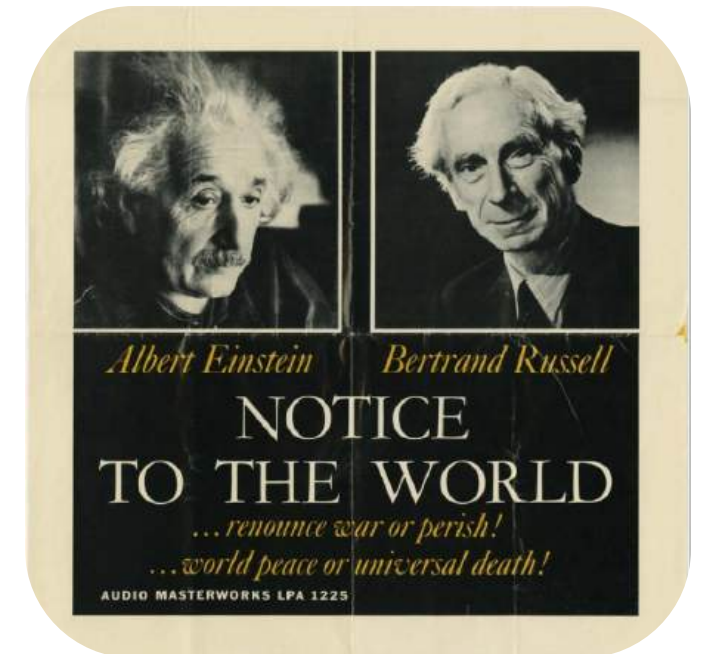
Including to hold own countries accountable for nuclear postures and policies.

2. Sustain a productive conversation across generations.

3. Maintain and expand dialogue between young scientists in the US and those in Russia and China.

Russell-Einstein Manifesto:

“We are speaking ... not as members of this or that nation, continent or creed, but as human beings, members of the species Man, whose continued existence is in doubt.”



How can scientists get involved?

Student/Young Pugwash **meetings, events, and projects:**

- To attend: Newsletter sign-up at isyp.org; follow LinkedIn or Twitter.
- To help organize or provide scientific expertise: Email office@isyp.org.
(E.g., quantum researcher guide; Golden Dome series)

We can support you in **creating university-based chapters.**

Come to us with **your ideas!**

At our Third Nuclear Age Conference:

- STEM participants taught social scientists about how certain tech works (SMRs, quantum computing, etc.) and limits/uncertainties on applications.
- Social scientists pushed STEM participants to break down the science in simple terms.





THANK YOU

ISYP

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT/YOUNG
PUGWASH

isyp.org

@ISYPugwash (Twitter)

Third Nuclear Age Conference



Third Nuclear Age Conference



Arms Control Networking with VCDNP & IAI



South Asia Nuclear Roundtable

Palwasha Khan

Young scientists who can contribute

1

Scientists whose technical research or **work has nuclear policy implications.**

2

Scientists whose work is not policy-related, but who have a **social science or policy background.**

3

Scientists whose background and work are not policy-related, but who **wish to help reduce nuclear threats.**

Each group requires different education, support and opportunities.