

## Ploughshares Fund's Field Building Advisory Committee 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Taylor Barnes** is the field reporter for the military-industrial complex at Inkstick Media, a nonprofit outlet that covers national and human security while, as a matter of policy, accepting no funds from defense contractors or government entities. In her reporting, she's investigated union-busting at top defense contractors, kicked off a legal and public records battle with the state of Utah and the world's largest nuclear weapons contractor, and exposed worker deaths at a hypersonic missile plant.

She is a consultant for Brown University's Costs of War Project for a nationwide research study on public opinion on defense spending. You can follow her work through her newsletter at Inkstick, Military-Industrial America. She lives in Atlanta.

**Dr. Shampa Biswas** is Judge & Mrs. Timothy A. Paul Chair of Political Science and Professor of Politics at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA. She teaches courses on international relations, global security, postcolonial theory, and international feminisms. She has won two awards for Distinguished Teaching in the Social Sciences and an Inclusive Excellence award for Exceptional Service. She received her PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1999.

Her current research explores the intersections of race and colonialism with nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. She is the author of *Nuclear Desire: Power and the Postcolonial Nuclear Order* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014) and co-editor of *Torture: Power, Democracy, and the Human Body* (Seattle: University of Washington Press) and *Margins, Peripheries and Excluded Bodies: International Relations and States of Exception* (London: Routledge Press, 2010). She has also published numerous articles on nuclear racism, nationalism, globalization, and peace and security, along with several essays on higher education. She is the recent recipient of two grants from the Ploughshares Fund to decolonize the nuclear studies curriculum. She is currently working on a project on nuclear memorialization and the global story of Fat Man (the bomb dropped on Nagasaki) that connects uranium mining in Belgian Congo; plutonium production in Hanford, WA; the Trinity atomic test in New Mexico; and the bombing of Nagasaki.





**Kelsey Davenport** is the Director for Nonproliferation Policy at the Arms Control Association, where she focuses on the nuclear and missile programs in Iran and North Korea and on international efforts to prevent proliferation and nuclear terrorism. She reports on developments in these areas for Arms Control Today and runs the Arms Control Association’s project assessing the effectiveness of multilateral voluntary initiatives that contribute to nonproliferation efforts. She is the creator and lead author of the P4+1 and Iran Nuclear Deal Alert newsletter, which assesses developments related to the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, and the co-author of a series of seven reports assessing the impact of the Nuclear Security Summits on efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism. Kelsey’s analysis has been featured in numerous media outlets, including The Washington Post, NPR, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, CNN, and Foreign Policy.

Kelsey is a member of the advisory board for the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and serves on the advisory committee for the National Committee on North Korea. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship.

Kelsey joined the Arms Control Association in August 2011 as a Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellow. She holds a masters degree in peace studies from the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and a bachelor of arts summa cum laude in international studies and political science from Butler University.

**Peter Ferenbach** is a veteran communications and campaign strategist who’s worked to advance issues of peace, human rights, democracy, and racial & social justice for almost 40 years.

In the late 1980’s Peter managed field building programs throughout the Western US, supervising offices in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Boulder, CO, and Austin TX. From 1990 – 2003, he served as the founding Executive Director of what became Peace Action West, leading the organization through thirteen consecutive years of growth in budget, staff, and both media and political impact, to become the largest membership-based peace organization in the US.



He subsequently served as the ED of a legacy California environmental organization leading it through a rebranding process as well as major financial, staff and membership growth.

In 2007, he co-founded ReThink Media alongside Lynn Fahselt and served as Director of Strategy until 2024, playing a core role in public campaigns to support the JCPOA and ratify the new START Treaty among other efforts.

Peter draws on experience designing comprehensive communications strategies and targeted advertising campaigns, implementing successful lobbying campaigns, and leading analytical projects assessing media and public opinion trends.

Peter graduated from Georgetown University, but equally shaped his identity and understanding of American politics working as an oil field roughneck, a commercial fisherman, and a field organizer in 9 states. He's raised two kids, travelled to dozens of countries, and pursues an insatiable desire for live music and large waves.



**Faith Gay** is a progressive foreign policy advocate who works with policymakers, organizations, and activists to build more peaceful, just, and diplomatic policies. With experience working on issues ranging from cutting Pentagon spending to nuclear abolition, her work is centered on emphasizing the human costs of war, and what we owe to those harmed. She's been most recently published in [Inkstick](#), writing on the human and environmental costs of nuclear weapons. She's also contributed as a speaker to faith community [conversations](#) on the threat of militarism to climate change mitigation, as well as a [TikTok series](#) on the U.S. military funding process. Ultimately, Faith envisions a world where the most vulnerable communities are at the center of U.S. foreign policy decision making, and their needs are prioritized over profit and power. She holds a B.A. in international studies from American

University in Washington D.C.

**William D. Hartung** is a Senior Research Fellow at Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. There, he focuses on the arms industry and US military budget. He was previously the director of the Arms and Security Program at the Center for International Policy and the co-director of the Center's Sustainable Defense Task Force. He is the author of *Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex* (Nation Books, 2011) and the co-editor, with Miriam Pemberton, of *Lessons from Iraq: Avoiding the Next War* (Paradigm Press, 2008). *And Weapons for All* (HarperCollins, 1995) is a critique of US arms sales policies from the Nixon through Clinton administrations.



Bill previously directed programs at the New America Foundation and the World Policy Institute. He also worked as a speechwriter and policy analyst for New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams. Hartung's articles on security issues have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, The Nation, and the World Policy Journal.

He has been a featured expert on national security issues on CBS 60 Minutes, NBC Nightly News, the PBS Newshour, CNN, Fox News, and scores of local, regional, and international TV and radio outlets.



**Allen Hester** serves as the Legislative Representative for the Nuclear Disarmament and Pentagon Spending portfolio at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). With a deep commitment to a world free from the threat of war and nuclear weapons, Allen drives legislative strategies focused on reducing Pentagon spending and advancing nuclear disarmament. He has been pivotal in expanding FCNL's engagement with communities directly affected by nuclear weapons testing and manufacturing, particularly building bipartisan support for the expansion of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

As a member of the Field Building Committee for the Ploughshares Fund, he is invested in developing better career pipelines intended to foster the next generation of leaders in arms control and foreign

policy. This initiative reflects his dedication to not only addressing current challenges but also ensuring a sustained and informed approach to arms control in the future.

His previous experience at Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) involved advocating for nuclear weapons spending reductions and engaging health professionals about the medical consequences of nuclear war. He has an A.A. in Communication from Casper College and a B.A. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School of Peace and Conflict Studies at George Mason University.

**Louis Reitmann** is a Research Associate at the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP), focusing on nuclear disarmament, export controls, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in the nuclear field. His work has been published in *Arms Control Today*, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, *WorldECR*, by the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and the European Leadership Network, among others. Louis is a board member of the Emerging Voices Network and one of 25 Leaders4Tomorrow selected by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).



Previously, Louis served as an export control officer at Imperial College London and worked with the EU Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in Brussels. Before this, he worked as a white-collar crime analyst in the City of London. Louis holds an MSc International Relations from the London School of Economics.



**Myriam Sabbaghi** is the National Organizing Director at the National Iranian Council (NIAC). She joined NIAC Action's staff in January 2021 after serving as NIAC Election Fellow since June 2020. She is an experienced organizer committed to gender, racial, economic, and social justice. One of Myriam's greatest passions is building relationships and moving people to direct, impactful action about issues they care about. Since taking the helm as Organizing Director, Myriam has helped grow NIAC's external relations, grassroots leadership, and multi-ethnic coalitions to score important policy victories, such as defeating alien land laws such as the Rounds Amendment from the NDAA and SB147 in Texas. Before joining NIAC, Myriam was a Higher Education Organizer for the American Federation of Teachers. She organized winning campaigns, such as the 2016 graduate student election, in which the

students overwhelmingly voted yes for union representation, and she helped the union forge connections with other local unions in the Chicago area. In addition, Myriam helped plan the 2019 graduate student union strike at the University of Chicago, the single largest strike ever in the campus' history.

Myriam earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington where she triple-majored in Political Science; Law, Societies, and Justice; and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She also received her M.A. in Divinity from the University of Chicago Divinity School, focusing on classical Persian literature. At the University of Chicago, Myriam taught undergraduate language, literature, and writing courses for six years and served as Poetry Staff Editor at the Chicago Review. She's fluent in six languages, including Persian and Italian.

Myriam loves spending time with family and friends, reading and writing poetry, traveling, and cooking.