



**THE HISTORICAL DIMENSIONS OF
SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS
PROGRAM**

*Pretoria, South Africa
9 – 11 December 2012*

Sunday 9 December 2012

8-19:00 Arrival of participants
13:00 Lunch
19:00 Dinner

Monday 10 December 2012

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

8:30-8:35 **Welcome**
Dina Burger
(Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor:
Research, Monash South Africa)

8:35-9:00 **Opening**
Anna-Mart van Wyk
Christian Ostermann
Leopoldo Nuti

9:00-9:15 **Rene Geyer**
*The state of affairs vis-a-vis
South African archival research.*

9:15-9:25 *Comfort break*

**SESSION 1: THE DECISION TO GO
NUCLEAR: REGIONAL AND
GLOBAL POLITICAL CONTEXT**

Chair: **Christian Ostermann**

9:25–11:25 **Chris Saunders**
*The Regional Context, an
Overview, c. 1960-1980*

Sue Onslow
*Ways of Warfare: South Africa
and regional liberation struggles
1960s-1980s.*

David Holloway
*Nuclear Weapons and the Pariah
State: South Africa in the Cold
War.*

Anna-Mart van Wyk
*Drivers of South Africa's
nuclearisation.*

11:25-11:45 *Coffee Break*

SESSION 2: THE WEAPONS PROGRAM

Chair: **Leonard Weiss**

11:45-13:00 **Johan Slabber**
*The development of explosives: A
glimpse behind the scenes.*

13:00-14:00 *Lunch*

**SESSION 3: THE KALAHARI AND VELA
INCIDENTS**

Chair: **David Holloway**

14:00-16:00 **Jim Hershberg**
*Eighteen Days - The South
African Nuclear Crisis of August
1977.*

Frank Pabian
*The Kalahari (Vastrap) Nuclear
Test Site: South Africa's "Ace in
the Hole".*

Leonard Weiss
*The Vela Event (Or the Israeli
Nuclear Test) of 1979.*

Avner Cohen
*The 1979 VELA Mystery: A
Plausible Israeli Narrative.*

16:00-19:00 *Coffee Break and Free Time*

19:00 *Dinner in Boma area*

Tuesday 11 December 2012

7:00-8:30 *Breakfast*

**SESSION 4: INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS,
PART I**

Chair: **Sue Onslow**

8:30-10:15 **Mara Drogan**
*A White Man's Club: Atoms for
Peace in South Africa.*

Lucky Asuelime
*Uranium Politics of Gatekeeping:
Revisiting the British
Government's policy vis-a-vis
South Africa, 1945-1951.*

Sasha Polakow-Suransky
*The atomic bond: Israel and
South Africa, 1960-1993.*

Ori Rabinowitz
*South Africa's bargain on nuclear
testing.*

10:15-10:30 *Coffee Break*

**SESSION 5: INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS,
PART II**

Chair: **Leopoldo Nuti**

10:30-12:15 **Sam Rajiv**
*Challenging Contexts: South
Africa and India's Nuclear Tests.*

Elisabeth Röhrlich
*The IAEA and the International
Debate on South Africa's Nuclear
Capabilities, 1977-1985.*

Carlo Patti
*The forbidden cooperation: South
Africa-Brazil nuclear relations at
the turn of the 1980s.*

12:15-13:00 *Lunch*

**SESSION 6: INTO AN ERA OF
ACCOUNTABILITY: PART 1**

Chair: **Jean du Preez**

13:00-14:30 **Jo-Ansie van Wyk**
*South Africa and the NPT, 1968-
1991.*

Geoffrey Heald
*The Interrelationship Between
South Africa's Nuclear
Relinquishment and Accession to
the NPT and its Constitutional
Negotiations.*

Victor Zazeraj
*From the Bomb to the Plough-
Share.*

14:30-14:45 *Coffee Break*

**SESSION 7: INTO AN ERA OF
ACCOUNTABILITY: PART 2**

Chair: **Jim Hershberg**

14:45-15:45 **Frank Pabian**
*The South African De-
nuclearization Exemplar: Insights
for Nonproliferation.*

Jean du Preez
*From Pariah to Nuclear Poster
Boy.*

15:45-16:15 *Closing remarks.*

19:00 *Dinner.*

Mohammed Homayounvash
*The Evolution of Iran-South Africa
Nuclear Relations from the 1970's
to the 2000's.*