



CONFERENCE

The not-so-peaceful atom

Nuclear history and politics
40 years after Chernobyl

27 april 09.00 - 28 april 17.30, 2026

Södertörn University

MA636 Åland

Please register before
April 24th!



Keynote Speaker

Professor Melanie Arndt, University of Freiburg

**Radiant Futures: How the Chernobyl Children
Redefined the Disaster**

April 27th 09.30



Keynote Speaker

Professor Sonja Schmid, Virginia Tech

**Chernobyl the Harbinger: Revisiting Expertise
and Materiality in a Post-Normal Nuclear World**

April 28th 09.30



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THE FOUNDATION FOR BALTIC
AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES



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**Conference: “The not-so-peaceful atom: nuclear history and politics 40 years after
Chornobyl”**

April 27-28, 2026, Södertörn University, MA636

Program

DAY 1

09.00 – 09.20 Welcome coffee

09.20 – 09.30 Greeting and introduction by the conference organizers Tatiana Kasperski, and
Andrei Stsiapanau

**09.30 -10.30 Keynote by Pr. Melanie Arndt, University of Freiburg, “Radiant Futures:
How the Chernobyl Children Redefined the Disaster”**

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-12.30 Session 1: Nuclear Disasters and Colonial Fallout in Historical Perspective

Paul Josephson, Colby College, USA, “A Personal and Scientific Recollection of the
Chornobyl Tragedies”

Clara Florensa, Spanish National Research Council, Barcelona, “Military Strategy /
Civilian Risk: Military and Civil Imbrication in the Response to the Palomares Nuclear
Accident”

Susanne Bauer, University of Oslo, Norway, “Beyond Chornobyl: The Many Layers of
Fallout in Arctic Borderlands”

Anton Öhman, Lund University, “Knowing Nuclear Weapons Tests: Witness Activism
and Oppositional Knowledge in the Cold War Colonial Pacific”

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 Session 2: Nuclear Legacies, Nuclear Heritage

Eglė Rindzevičiūtė, Kingston University, London, “Nuclear Cultural Heritage: Coping with the Legacies of Soviet Nuclear Colonialism”

Oana Tiganea, Polytechnic University of Milan, “In the Aftermath of Uranium Mining: Toxic Legacies and Built Heritage Preservation (Ștei, Romania)”

Sergiu Novac, Södertörn University, Stockholm, “The (Mis)Adventures of Atomino: The Grammar of Nuclear Phantasy in Socialist Children’s Comics”

Menzelevskiy, Stanislav, Indiana University Bloomington, “Peaceful Atom, Haunted Legacy: Echoes of War in Chernobyl Documentaries”

15.00-15.30 Coffee

15.30-17.00 Session 3: Transforming the Peaceful Atom into a Tool of War

Iryna Maksymenko, Center for Nonproliferation, Odesa I.I.Mechnikov National University, “Phenomenon of Russia’s takeover of the Ukrainian NPPs: reasons and implications for nuclear global order”

Mariana Budjeryn, MIT, Cambridge, “Reactors in peril: Threats to civilian nuclear energy in Ukraine from Chernobyl to Zaporizhzhia”

Nore Ims and Kacper Szulecki, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, “Commercial Nuclear Power Plants as Military Targets in Interstate War: An Unrecognised Threat?”

Siegfried Evens, Linköping University, “Atomic Violence: Regulating Warfare Risks in Nuclear Power Plants”

DAY 2

9.30 -10.30 Keynote by Pr. Sonja Schmid, Virginia Tech, Arlington, “Chernobyl the Harbinger: Revisiting Expertise and Materiality in a Post-Normal Nuclear World”

10.30 -11.00 Coffee

11.00-12.30 Session 4: From Soft Power to Hard Power: Is Nuclear Security Even Possible?

Jacob Hamblin, Oregon State University, Corvallis, “Civilian Nuclear Technology and the Limits of Soft Power”

Thomas Jonter, Alva Myrdal Center for Nuclear Disarmament, Uppsala university,
“Deterrence and Risk Reduction in the Baltic Sea Region”

Polina Sinovets, Center for Nonproliferation, Odesa I.I.Mechnikov National University,
“Ukraine, at the brink: How Moscow's nuclear coercion risked a NATO-Russia war in
October 2022”

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.30 Session 5: Nuclear infrastructures: circulations of resources, knowledge and technologies between reactors and bombs

Andy Stirling and Philip Johnstone, Sussex University, Brighton, “Scrutinising the civil-military nuclear complex in the UK and beyond”

Harry Bernas, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), “Who owns Science?”

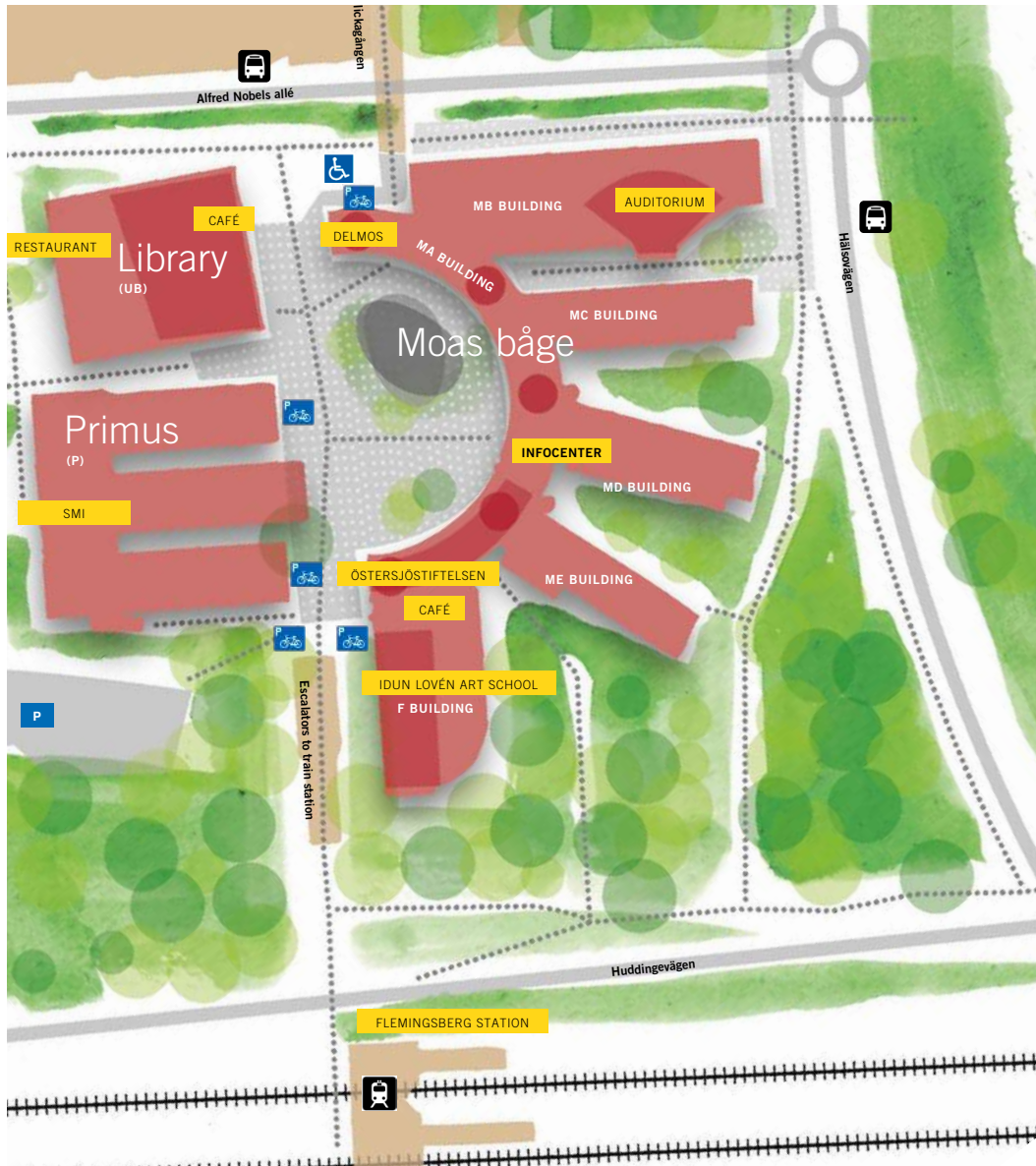
Markku Lehtonen, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, “The civil-military nexus in the British, Canadian, and French debates on the SMR promise”

Per Högselius, KTH, Stockholm, “The Military Atom’s Three Troubled Marriages “

15.30-16.00 Concluding remarks by Pr. Anna Storm, Linköping University, “Temporal frictions of nuclear ecologies”

16.00-16.30 Final discussion

Södertörn University buildings



Conference will be take place at Södertörn University (Visiting address: Södertörns högskola, Alfred Nobels allé 7, Flemingsberg, 141 89 Huddinge, Sweden, commuter train station “Flemingsberg”).

The Conference venue is the seminar **room MA636**, in the building MA. Enter the building at the level of the Infocenter and then go to the 6th floor.