

MARIANA BUDJERYN

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

MIT Security Studies Program, Center for Nuclear Security Policy, Cambridge, MA

Senior Researcher (2025-present)

- Contributing academic and policy research and publications on European security, Ukraine and Russia, nuclear nonproliferation, arms control, crisis dynamics, deterrence, and nuclear security
- Leading research project “The Human Dimension of Nuclear Safety and Security: Lessons from Ukraine.”

Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center, Managing the Atom (MTA) Project, Cambridge, MA

Senior Research Associate (2022-2025)

- Leading “Data for Deterrence” research project as part of the “Mitigating pathways to nuclear war” working group, MacArthur Rethinking Nuclear Deterrence research network
- Leading MTA’s diversity and inclusion program *Atomic Voices*, a series of seminars to empower marginalized voices and perspectives in the nuclear field

Research Associate (2020-2022)

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, MTA/International Security Program (2017-2018; 2019-2020)

Stanton Nuclear Security Post-Doctoral Fellow (2016-2017)

Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Postdoctoral Fellow (2018-2019)

Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Germany

Visiting Professor (Summer 2019)

Research project exploring Germany’s role in the future of US-Russian arms control endeavors

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Visiting Professor, Experimental College, School of Engineering, Arts and Sciences (Spring 2018)

Course designed and taught: “The Bomb and Its Meanings”

EDUCATION

Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

PhD in Political Science (2010-2016)

Dissertation title: “The Power of the NPT: International Norms and Nuclear Disarmament of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine, 1990-1994.”

Doctoral Committee: Paul Roe, Alexander Astrov, Xymena Kurowska (CEU), David Holloway (Stanford)

Teaching Assistant, Critical Security Studies, MA course, Spring 2012

Nuclear Proliferation International History Project Bootcamp, Allumiere, Italy

Student, Certificate of completion (June 2015)

Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars and Roma Tre University

12-day intensive nuclear history immersion course

Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

MA in International Relations and European Studies (2009-2010)

Thesis title: “Role of Context in Securitization Theory: Holodomor Discourses and Societal Security in Ukraine”

Recipient, 2010 Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine

BA in Political Science (1993-1997)

Co-founder, Student Government

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Inheriting the Bomb: The Collapse of the USSR and the Nuclear Disarmament of Ukraine. Nuclear History and Contemporary Affairs Series. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press (Baltimore), 2023. Winner of the 2024 William E. Colby Military Writers’ Award. Ukrainian translation forthcoming June 2025.

“Disintegration of the USSR and the Fate of the Soviet Nuclear Arsenal.” Book forum, Mariana Budjeryn, *Inheriting the Bomb. Journal of Cold War Studies*, vol. 27(1), 2025: 129-148.

H-Diplo | RJSSF Roundtable 16-29 on Budjeryn, *Inheriting the Bomb*, March 28, 2025.

Inheriting the Bomb. Book Roundtable, *Journal of Cold War Studies*, forthcoming, September 2025.

Nuclear Crises Revisited, editor (with Matthew Bunn), book chapter “Close Call in the Sargasso Sea: B-59 during the Cuban Missile Crisis,” MIT Press (Cambridge, MA), forthcoming.

“Non-Proliferation and State Succession: The Demise of the USSR and the Nuclear Aftermath in Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine,” *Journal of Cold War Studies* Vol. 24 (2), Spring 2021: 46-94.

“Damage Control: The Breach of the Budapest Memorandum and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime,” with Andreas Umland, in Oxana Schmies, ed., *NATO’s Enlargement and Russia: A Strategic Challenge in the Past and Future*, ibidem-Verlag (Stuttgart, Germany), 2021: 177-189.

“Interpreting the Bomb: Ownership and Deterrence in Ukraine’s Nuclear Discourse,” with Polina Sinovets, Wilson Center Nuclear Proliferation International History Project, Working Paper #12, December, 2017.

“The Power of the NPT: International Norms and Ukraine’s Nuclear Disarmament,” *The Nonproliferation Review* Vol. 22 (2), June 2015.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Commitments to Ukraine in Budapest Memorandum are legally binding,” in *Narratives of the Russo-Ukrainian War: A Look Within and Without*, Oleksandr Pankiev (ed.), Ukrainian Voices, vol. 65, ibidem-Verlag, 2025.

“‘NATO or nukes:’ Why Ukraine’s nuclear revival refuses to die,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, November 1, 2024.

“Why is Russia more likely to go nuclear in Ukraine if it’s winning,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, October 2, 2024.

“Distressing a system in distress: Global nuclear order and Russia’s war against Ukraine,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, November 9, 2022.

“Chernobyl: 35 years after the disaster began,” in *World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2021* (Paris), September 2021: 208-217.

“Arms control by and for Europe,” with Alexander Bollfrass, *CSS/ETH Policy Perspective*, Vol. 8/10, September 2020.

“Budapest Memorandum at 25: Between Past and Future,” conference report co-authored with Matthew Bunn, *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Project on Managing the Atom*, March 2020.

“Ukraine and the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons,” *Sources and Methods*, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, October 15, 2018.

“Against All Odds: Kostiantyn Morozov and the Unlikely Establishment of Ukraine’s Military,” *Sources and Methods*, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, March 6, 2017.

“North Korean missile engines: Not from Ukraine,” with Andrew Zhalko-Tytarenko, *Atlantic Council*, September 12, 2017.

“25 Years of Nuclear Security Cooperation by the US, Russia and the Newly Independent States: A Timeline,” with Simon Saradzhyan and William Tobey, Russia Matters Project, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center, June 16, 2017.

“Was Ukraine’s Nuclear Disarmament a Blunder?” *World Affairs Journal*, Summer 2016.

“Looking Back: Ukraine’s Nuclear Predicament and the Nonproliferation Regime,” *Arms Control Today* 44 (10), December 2014: 35-40.

“The Breach: Ukraine’s Territorial Integrity and the Budapest Memorandum,” Issue Brief #3, Nuclear Proliferation International History Project, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C., September 2014.

COMMENTARY AND OPINION

“Biden allowing Ukraine to strike into Russia is much ado for little consequence,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, November 18, 2024.

“A message from Ukraine: Do not provoke Putin – with weakness,” *Wilson Center Global Europe Program*, April 29, 2024

“When Ukraine set course for Europe: Revolution of Dignity a decade later,” *Brookings Institution*, February 20, 2024.

“Ukraine in Europe: One hard-earned step closer,” *Wilson Center Global Europe Program*, December 15, 2023.

“The ‘murky’ morality of opposition for US support of Ukraine: A response,” *Just Security*, October 10, 2023.

“Calling the war in Ukraine a ‘tragedy’ shelters its perpetrators from blame and responsibility,” *The Conversation*, October 5, 2023.

“Missiles and miracles: Notes from Kyiv,” *Inkstick*, June 28, 2023.

“The breach of Ukraine’s Kakhovka dam and the nearby power plant,” *Boston Globe*, June 28, 2023.

“A journey to the edge of war and peace,” *Inkstick*, January 24, 2023.

“Factoring the human dimension of Putin’s takeover of Ukraine’s nuclear power plant,” *Boston Globe*, October 24, 2022.

“Was Ukraine wrong to give up its nukes?,” *Foreign Affairs*, April 8, 2022.

“If Ukraine chooses neutrality, what could that look like?” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, April 7, 2022.

“In Ukraine, there’s no second Chernobyl disaster in the making – not yet,” *Boston Globe*, March 10, 2022.

“Ukraine building a number bomb? Dangerous nonsense,” with Matthew Bunn, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, March 9, 2022.

“Breaking the mold of the nuclear patriarchy: Five steps to advancing gender diversity in the nuclear field,” *Inkstick*, January 11, 2022.

“A pragmatic turn in Geneva,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, June 17, 2021.

“Revisiting Ukraine’s nuclear past will not help security its future,” *Lanfare*, May 21, 2021.

“Neither NATO, nor nukes: The answer to Ukraine’s security is a strategic alliance with the United States,” with Thomas Graham, Jr., *Just Security*, May 20, 2021

“Nuclear shades of Red racism,” with Togzhan Kassenova, *Inkstick*, September 24, 2020.

“Impeachment backstory: Nuclear dimension of US security assistance to Ukraine,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, November 13, 2019

“Chernobyl’s effects go far beyond what you’re seeing on HBO. It shook up politics for years,” *Washington Post*, *Monkey Cage blog*, July 12, 2019.

“Without the INF Europe could see a new missile power. (Spoiler: It’s not Russia),” *Washington Post*, *Monkey Cage blog*, February 26, 2019.

“Denuclearization Again? Lessons from Ukraine’s Decision to Disarm,” with Polina Sinovets, *War on the Rocks*, April 19, 2018

INTERVIEWS AND PODCASTS

“How Ukraine gave up nuclear weapons. Can Kyiv develop new nuclear weapons? An interview,” *Radio Liberty*, June 2025.

“The complexities of Ukraine nuclear legacy,” *Deterrence Down Under*, March 2025.

“‘With Putin losing, the risk of nuclear war grows.’ How could it happen?,” *iRozhlas*, Czech Radio, October 26, 2022.

“Alexey und die Katastrophe,” Ukraine – Der Riss mit Mirko Drotschmann, *ZDF*, October 2022.

“A blip on the radar,” *Sideways* with Matthew Syed, *BBC Radio 4*, August 1, 2022.

“Did Ukraine make a mistake by giving up nuclear weapons?” *At the Brink*, March 30, 2022.

“Mariana Budjeryn: A personal perspective on the war in Ukraine,” Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center, Spring 2022.

“Nuclear weapons and the war in Ukraine: A conversation with Dr. Mariana Budjeryn,” *Machiavelli in the Ivory Tower*, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, March 17, 2022.

“What’s next in the Russia-Ukraine crisis?,” *Bloom Europa Podcast*, February 20, 2022.

Regular contributor to *CNN*, *NBC*, *NPR*, *BBC*, *France 24*, *Al Jazeera*, *Voice of America*, *Radio Liberty* as well as multiple Ukrainian and Eastern Europeans TV and radio outlets. Quoted in *The Guardian*, *New York Times*, and *Economist*.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS AND EVENTS

National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC

Member, Committee on International Security and Arms Control (January 2023-present)

Participant, Track-II Russia Dialogue with the Russian Academy of Sciences (2020-present)

Arms Control Negotiations Academy (ACONA), (2019-present)

One of the architects, organizers of, and contributors to a year-long immersive course in arms control history, technology, and negotiations skills in a multi-institutional international collaborative aimed at honing a new generation of arms control negotiators. ACONA is in its 5th year and attracted 80 fellows from over 30 nationalities.

Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Washington, DC

Global Fellow, History and Public Policy Program (2019-2025);

Curator of Ukraine in Europe project with Wilson Center Global Europe Program (2023-present)

Lecturer, NPIHP Nuclear History Bootcamp

Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

Senior nonresident fellow, Center on the United States and Europe (2023-present).

“Cuban Missile Crisis at 60: Lessons of the Past and Relevance for the Present,” Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center, Cambridge, MA (October 14, 2022)

Jointly with Belfer Applied History Project and Intelligence Project, organized a one-day conference that brought together prominent historians and direct participants of the Cuban Missile Crisis to revisit its lessons and consequences and relate it to the war in Ukraine.

“Ukraine’s Nuclear Disarmament: 25 Years After the Budapest Memorandum,” Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center, Cambridge, MA (December 6, 2019)

Organized a one-day conference that brought together decision-makers and experts from the U.S., Ukraine, and Russia to reflect on the history and impact of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament.

National Security Archive Oral History Conference “Nuclear Weapons and Ukraine,” Siena, Italy (September 2019)

Contributed to the oral history conference on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament that brought together direct participants of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament from the U.S., Ukraine, and Russia.

Ukrainian Nuclear History Fellowship, Odesa-Kyiv, Ukraine (Summer 2018)

Wilson Center Nuclear Proliferation International History Project and Odesa Center for Nonproliferation at the Odesa National Mechnikov University.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Cultural Survival, Cambridge, MA, USA

Intern and contributor, part-time (2004-2006), indigenous rights advocacy group

Porohy Magazine, Prague, Czech Republic

Editor and contributor (2002-2003), magazine of the Ukrainian community in the Czech Republic

Goldfarb Consultants, London, UK

Research analyst (2000-2002), qualitative research Ford Motor Company, Jaguar Cars, Ogilvy & Mather, Accenture, Standard & Poor's, British Telecom, ICO Global Communication

Western NIS Enterprise Fund, Kyiv, Ukraine

Public relations manager (1997-1999), US government-funded venture capital fund for Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus

Council of Advisors to the Parliament of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

Research assistant (1993-1996), policy think-tank and advisory body

MISCELLANEOUS

- Nuclear Policy Education Center, member of the Board of Advisors.
- International Studies Association (ISA), American Political Science Association (APSA), Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Women in International Politics and Security (WIPS), member.
- Highly NRiched, contributor and mentor.
- *International Security*, *The Nonproliferation Review*, reviewer.
- Languages: Ukrainian (native), English, Russian (fluent), Belarusian, Czech, Polish (listening and reading comprehension), French (beginner).