Objective

We have no been this close to nuclear conflict since the Cuban missile crisis. U.N Secretary-General António Guterres, as reported by the BBC, acknowledged this fact recently at the 2022 Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): “Today, humanity is just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation.” Examples are many at present where the specter of nuclear escalation is real. In the context of the Ukrainian War, Foreign Minister Lavrov and President Putin have both made clear the help of NATO to Kiev increased made nuclear war a possibility. As reported by Bloomberg he stated “The danger is serious, real. It can’t be underestimated.” This followed the order by President Putin in February 2022 to put the nation’s nuclear forces on high alert. As such, it is now more than ever crucial to understand the causes of the nuclear restraint we have experienced until now so that we can understand what makes escalation more likely,
and inform strategic nuclear decisions with this scholarship. This is the aim of Wargames as Experiments: Strategy and Unintended Escalation (WESUE): to understand how nuclear restraint could fail and lead to nuclear escalation. WESUE uses a geopolitical software as an experimental method to conduct causal research in the field of nuclear strategy, a novelty. This is an emerging field, which would place WESUE right at the cutting edge of research, with a strong emphasis on NATO and Asia, hence the choice of basing the operation of this research project in Denmark at the Centre for War Studies (CWS) at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU). WESUE will offer a simplified version of a war game that can be played repeatedly, easily, and can isolate mechanisms through randomized treatment. According to the Doomsday clock, we are less than two minutes to midnight.

**Fields of science**

natural sciences > computer and information sciences > software

**Keywords**

Nuclear Strategy, International Security, NATO, European Union security, RUSSIA, North Korea, Experimental Methods, Escalation and war

**Programme(s)**

HORIZON.1.2 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

**Topic(s)**

HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01 - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2022

**Call for proposal**

HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01

See other projects for this call
Funding Scheme

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-EF - HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships

Coordinator

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Net EU contribution

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Region

Danmark > Syddanmark > Fyn

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

Contact the organisation  Website  Participation in EU R&I programmes  HORIZON collaboration network

Other funding

€ 0,00

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