

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
Centre for Military Studies

RITUAL  
DETERRENCE **RØ**

INAUGURAL WORKSHOP

DPS Lunch Room 4.2.26 (Thursday, 12 Oct)  
Tórshavn Meeting Room 4.2.50 (Friday, 13 Oct)

**12-13 October 2023**

Organised by the Research Project **Ritual Action: Making Deterrence  
Matter in International Security and Memory Politics**  
**(RITUAL DETERRENCE)**

Funded by the European Research Council (project no. 101043468)



KØBENHAVNS  
UNIVERSITET



## Programme

**Thursday, 12 Oct 2023**

**DPS Lunch Room 4.2.26**

- 12:00-13:00 Welcome lunch @the Lunch Room, 4.2.26
- 13:00-13:15 Welcome: why are we here? /  
**Prof. Maria Mälksoo**, RITUAL DETERRENCE PI
- 13:15-14:15 **Introducing the Project Team**
- Holding the Umbrella: A Ritual Analysis of NATO's Extended Nuclear Deterrence During the Cold War/  
**Dr Thomas Fraise**, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow, MIT  
Affiliated researcher, RITUAL DETERRENCE
- Self-Assertion in a Space of Vulnerability: Russian Deterrence at Sea/  
**Mariia Vladymyrova**, RITUAL DETERRENCE PhD researcher
- US-China Deterrence Politics in the Post-Cold War Era/  
**Dr Cameron Hunter**, RITUAL DETERRENCE Postdoc
- 14:15-14:30 Coffee and Tea
- 14:30-16:00 **Session I: Theorising Ritual Action**
- The Logic of Ritual Action: Enchanting International Relations /  
**Prof. Maria Mälksoo (KU)**
- A Grammar of Ritual Action in World Politics /  
**Prof. Thierry Balzacq (Sciences Po Paris)**
- Domination and Aspiration: Rituals of Epistemic Authority in Global Politics/  
**Dr Xymena Kurowska (Central European University)**
- Lead discussant: **Prof. Rebecca Adler-Nissen (KU)**
- 16:00-16:30 Coffee and Tea
- 16:30-18:00 **Session II: Exploring Rituals in International Relations**
- A Ritual Theory of Peace/  
**Dr Jorg Kustermans (University of Antwerp)**
- Unthinkable Genocide/  
**Prof. Jennifer Mitzen (Ohio State University)**
- The First Inter-Polity System in World History: The Mesopotamian System, 3500-1750 BCE/  
**Prof. Iver B. Neumann (Fridtjof Nansen Institute)**
- Lead discussant: **Prof. Christian Bueger (KU)**
- 18:30-20:45 Dinner /Madklubben København, Store Kongensgade 66, 1264 København K

**Friday, 13 October 2023**  
**Tórshavn Meeting Room 4.2.50**

8:30-10:30      **Session III: Deterrence Rituals**

*Coffee and Tea*

The War in Ukraine, Deterrence, and Ontological Security/

**Dr Amir Lupovici (Tel Aviv University)**

A Counter-Revolution in Military Affairs: The Introduction of Humanitarian  
Dissensus into the Police Order of the Non-Proliferation Treaty/

**Prof. Juha A. Vuori (University of Turku)**

Mimetic Deterrence – Evidence from the Cold War/

**Prof. Harald Wydra (University of Cambridge)**

Omnicide, Evil and Accountability. Nuclear Studies between Value Neutrality and  
Panglossism/

**Prof. Benoît Pelopidas (Sciences Po, CERI)**

Lead discussant: **Prof. Benoît Pelopidas (Sciences Po, CERI)**

**Prof. Maria Mälksoo (KU)** (for the last paper)

10:30-10:45      Coffee and Tea

10:45-12:00      Way forward

12:00-13:00      Departure lunch (CSS canteen)

## List of participants

1. Rebecca Adler-Nissen, University of Copenhagen
2. Thierry Balzacq, Sciences Po
3. Christian Bueger, University of Copenhagen
4. Kjølvs Egeland, NORsAR
5. Thomas Fraise, Massachusetts Institute of Technology/University of Copenhagen
6. Cameron Hunter, University of Copenhagen
7. Kristian Søby Kristensen, University of Copenhagen
8. Xymena Kurowska, Central European University
9. Jorg Kustermans, University of Antwerp
10. Amir Lupovici, Tel Aviv University
11. Jennifer Mitzen, Ohio State University
12. Maria Mälksoo, University of Copenhagen
13. Iver B. Neumann, Fridtjof Nansen Institute
14. Benoît Pelopidas, Sciences Po
15. Mariia Vladymyrova, University of Copenhagen
16. Juha A. Vuori, University of Turku
17. Harald Wydra, University of Cambridge