

SNUAC Asia Square Brown Bag Seminar Series, Spring 2020

## **Nuclear Belt and Road: China's Nuclear Exports and Its Implications for World Politics**

**Dr. Lami Kim**

Nuclear exports are an important and understudied part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Beijing plans to build and finance approximately 30 nuclear reactors in BRI countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa over the next decade. This strategy has significant implications for international politics. First, the bigger China's share of the nuclear market, the more say it will have in shaping rules and norms in global nuclear governance, sparking concern that it will challenge existing nonproliferation and nuclear export norms. Second, China's nuclear exports will increase recipient countries' reliance on China for decades, further increasing China's influence over BRI countries at the expense of the US, and shifting the balance of power in the international system. Third, although nuclear energy is a clean alternative to carbon-emitting resources, as recipient countries mostly lack rigorous regulations and the necessary technology, know-how and personnel to handle the atoms safely, the Nuclear Belt and Road poses environmental concerns. My research will illustrate China's ambitions for the Nuclear Belt and Road and analyze its implications for nonproliferation, the balance of power, and environment.

Lami Kim is a lecturer at the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Hong Kong, a research fellow at the Wilson Center, and a visiting scholar at Seoul National University Asia Center. Her research interests are international security and international organizations with a focus on nuclear nonproliferation. Her work has appeared in *The Washington Quarterly*, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*, *The Diplomat*, etc. She also provided commentaries to *Time magazine*, *Al-Jazeera* and *LA Times*. Previously, she has served as a research fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center, Pacific Forum CSIS and Stimson Center, and also as a South Korean diplomat. Starting from this fall, she will be serving as an assistant professor in Asian Studies at the US Army War College. She holds a PhD degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and a Master's degree from Harvard University.

**Date & Time: June 2 (Tues) 2020, 12:00-13:00**

**Venue: SNUAC Youngone Hall (Rm 210)**