




Welcome Back to Campus!

We are happy to be starting this semester with a little more normalcy than how we left, even if it is with a mask! Be sure to adhere to campus safety guidelines so we can all see smiling faces again soon!

Networking in the COVID-Era

By Ashley A. Humphrey, CNSP & Associate Editor

Over the past few years, Dr. Russel Hirst, Managing Editor of IJNS, has generously labeled me as a networking expert—I do not know if I would go that far, but I definitely try to keep a pulse on the happenings in the nuclear security sector. Anyone who follows me on LinkedIn knows that I try to share valuable information with others' needs in mind. However, for emerging professionals, it can be difficult to know how and when to connect within the industry and, more importantly, how to stand out. There are three key points of professional networking that I keep pinned to the top of my rulebook. First, do not limit your connections to your professional niche. Whether you are networking on LinkedIn or at a conference, be sure to include those who work outside of our personal scope of work. Interacting with a diverse group of professionals opens the possibilities to collaborate based on skill set rather than professional roles. Second, always prepare a general question for an online seminar or conference, and always prepare yourself to ask it. I keep a broad question ready and write down more specific questions during the meeting. Never miss the opportunity to connect with the speaker. Finally, be a giver. Reach out to your network and build camaraderie by offering your services—something as small as making a recommendation on LinkedIn or liking posts to boost social media algorithms. Give without expectation, do not try to hook them as a customer, but rather, find your value in the professional connection. COVID-19 does not restrict any of these networking options, especially when attending many of the online opportunities that organizations like IAEA or WiNS has to offer. With the decline of in-person meetings, the handshake might not be as important as the eye contact in your camera, but the opportunity for sincere human-to-human connection still exists, and it may be more important now, in nuclear security, than ever before. Simply connect.

 @nuclear_journal

Edited by Rachel Brooks & Ashley Humphrey

OVERVIEW:

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- An Interview with Dr. Krista Wiegand
- About Dr. Krista Wiegand

This newsletter is designed to keep students, staff, and journal supporters up-to-date on how the journal is impacting global efforts to encourage diversity in theoretical foundations, research methods, and approaches.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 16-20: IAEA Annual Meeting of the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN); Virtual
- August 18: Official start of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Fall 2021 Semester
- September 20-24: IAEA 65th General Conference; Vienna, Austria
- October 5-6: CSIS PONI Fall Conference; Virtual
- October 12-14: WINS Online Workshop on Cybersecurity in the Nuclear Industry: Managing Cybersecurity Risks; Virtual

An Interview with Dr. Krista Wiegand, Part 1

By Conor Ross, Assistant Editor; and Desmond Shmavonian, UTK Student

Recently, IJNS editor Conor Ross and UT political science student Desmond Shmavonian interviewed Dr. Krista Wiegand, about her career studying international conflict management. Here are some of her insights into her job.

What made you decide to pursue this career?

Dr. Wiegand: "In college I was really interested in world affairs and what was going on in the world, particularly wars and conflicts. I was really interested in the Arab-Israeli conflict and wanted to learn more about civil wars and international wars, so I got my degree in international studies. Then I pursued a Master's degree in international relations and Middle East studies, and I really enjoyed the classes, so I decided I wanted to be a professor and decided that what I wanted to specialize in was international conflict. I study causes of war and do a lot of research on security issues, international security issues, or global security issues. I also

do research on conflict resolution, like how to resolve the conflict, not just how to fight the conflict."

What are some of the bigger challenges of your position?

"At the Baker Center, we have three programs: global security, energy and environment, and leadership and governance. We started off very small in global security, and in the last 7 years we have expanded quite a bit, adding faculty and grad student fellows who are affiliated with the Center. We meet regularly to present research, apply for grants, work on projects together, invite speakers, and host workshops. [...] My work at the Center is a little different than a typical professor because we have a lot of programs going on, and the energy and environment and leadership and governance programs do the same at any given time. In a typical semester we could have at least 30-40 events, maybe more, so that takes a lot of coordination, as you could imagine."

How would you compare how you started in the field to where you are now?

"Good question. For any new scholar, it's really important to work toward trying to set up a reputation that you're known for, and that's a big challenge because there are professors all over the world working on similar issues. We have to come up with really good ideas, we have to publish our scholarship, network, and get our names recognized. Obviously, we have a priority to teach our students in the classroom, but that does require publishing journal articles that are more scholarly. It also involves trying to publish and do outreach with the policy community, like news stories or with policy institutes in Washington or other places. It's a real challenge for young or junior scholars to do that. It's really important for scholars who want to have a reputation in a certain field to stick with a certain topic. For example, I've been studying territorial and maritime disputes since 1998. I feel confident I know the topic. There's always new material and I try to keep up with it, and that's really important to have a good reputation in the field."

About Dr. Krista Wiegand

By Rachel Brooks, Davis Fellow and Associate Editor

Dr. Krista Wiegand is the Director of the Global Security Program at the Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Additionally, Dr. Wiegand is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science. She specializes in international relations, particularly related to East Asia and the Middle East. She has published two books and multiple scholarly articles. The list can be viewed on her [UT faculty webpage](#). Visit her personal website, www.kristawiegand.com.

