



The Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering WMD (PASCC) is run at the Center on Contemporary Studies (CCC) and sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). PASCC awards and supports strategic studies and dialogues that anticipate and try to reduce the threat of WMD capabilities.



The CCC has a respected track record for providing research and timely analysis on a variety of topics to leading decision makers in the U.S. national security community. Located in the Naval Postgraduate School, the CCC is the research wing of the Department of National Security Affairs.

Research in Progress describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information, please contact pascc@nps.edu.

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Understanding Chinese Nuclear Thinking

Performer: Carnegie Endowment for
International Peace
Project Lead: Li Bin
Project Cost: \$149,000
FY15-16

Objective:

U.S. national security policy, including nuclear policy, has increasingly focused on China. Despite more than two decades of official and unofficial U.S.-Chinese nuclear dialogues and scholarship, major questions about the sources of Chinese nuclear thinking remain poorly understood. This project aims to promote debate and understanding about sources of Chinese nuclear thinking, first in Beijing and then through a dialogue between Chinese and American experts. This project also seeks to generate insights that help test competing theories of China's nuclear development, based on either economic scarcity or a specific understanding of nuclear deterrence. It will inform scholars and governmental and non-governmental experts in both countries in an effort to improve strategic stability and remove rhetorical or political barriers to multilateral arms reductions.

Approach:

Seed funding from Ploughshares Fund and the Nuclear Threat Initiative has made the first phase possible, which is underway. In this phase, the principal investigator has invited several Chinese experts to prepare research papers to serve as a focus group in a series of discussions. These papers discuss ideas, decision-making practices, and approaches to nuclear policy in China. The second phase, which is PASCC funded, will arrange for these papers to be translated into English and published in a volume, accompanied by Chinese and American assessments of these papers. In addition, there will be two workshops and briefings with several of the Chinese authors in Washington, D.C., to engage American scholars and government officials.