

N.A.J. Taylor
Research Prospectus

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Since entering academia in 2011, Taylor has secured more than \$250,000 in external grants for individual fellowships, research and travel grants, as well as collaborative projects as both principal investigator and chief grant writer. Sponsors have included the Australian Commonwealth Government, United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office, European Public Law Organisation, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, among others.

Project 1: Theorising Nuclear Harm

People tend to think of ‘harm’ as limited to the individual human body or psyche. For Andrew Linklater, as increasingly with many other international theorists, such shared vulnerability forms the basis of a common or universal solidarity. However, the meaning of harm and its relationship to shared vulnerability was transformed with the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Despite this, nuclear thinking remains trapped within what I call, the *human frame*. I argue that there remains an unexplored, yet crucial, aspect of nuclear harms: they violate not only the human body, but also the global biosphere on which all life depends. To render these human-biosphere connections visible in nuclear discourse, this project problematizes our existing moral categories of harm and cosmopolitanism by turning to the variously self-published or unpublished work of the late Richard Routley. It uses Routley’s “last man example” to question the commonplace binaries between present and future obligations, the local and the global, as well as humanity and nature.

The notion that nuclear harms are fundamentally ecological invites us to interpret anew the prevailing understanding of human relations with the non-human world. Within this context, this thesis calls for a new, multi-centred, nuclear ethical theory for humanity and the biosphere. I argue that doing so requires nothing less than re-imagining the conceptual, empirical, and normative characteristics of harm in the nuclear age, but also our understanding of subsequent efforts to variously prohibit the pain, suffering and vulnerability that accompanies them.

Empirically, it involves expanding the notion of nuclear harm so as to encompass not only the harm that is inflicted by nuclear weapons and war, but also those forms of nuclear harm that arise from civilian and military nuclear accidents and waste. Conceptually, it awakens us to the fundamental fact that such nuclear harms reaffirm the co-constitution and mutual-implication of humanity and Earth’s biosphere. Further, that nuclear harms occur on greater-than-human spatio-temporal scales casts doubt on the continued distinction between the human and non-human, or natural, worlds. Normatively, it prompts us to take seriously the need for a new, multi-centred, nuclear ethical theory that neither de-centres the idea of humanity nor relegates it to the periphery, but rather (re)situates nuclear harm in ecological terms and the global biosphere in ethical terms.

Responding to criticisms that normative thought seldom addresses problems that actually arise, the potentialities for this new way of thinking is then demonstrated by applying these empirical, conceptual and normative re-imaginings to two types of nuclear harm prohibitions. The first type to be examined—in Chapter 4—is the civil society-led nuclear-free zones in uninhabited and inhabited areas (i.e. Antarctica and New Zealand) and nuclear-weapon-free zones in uninhabited and inhabited areas (i.e. the global biosphere and Southern Hemisphere). Analysed for their spatial insights, these zonal arrangements are re-imagined as denuclearised zones of life. The second type of nuclear harm prohibition to be examined for their temporal insights—in Chapter 5—are the state-sanctioned zones of containment which variously attempt to isolate radioactive waste (i.e. Onkalo and Semipalatinsk) and contaminated sites (i.e. Chernobyl and Fukushima). Analysed for their temporal insights, these isolation strategies are re-imagined as zones of containment. Taken together, these insights suggest that this new, multi-centred, nuclear ethics is both

realistic and realizable.

Connecting the nuclear literature and environmental philosophy in this way draws attention to the absence, or neglect, of a sustained discussion in either literature on the critical importance of nuclear harm to understanding human and biosphere relations. Whereas the Cold War nuclear ethics literature principally concerned the moral dilemmas of nuclear deterrence and the ontology of the weapons themselves, various attempts have since been made to ‘revive’ and ‘re-evaluate’ the study of nuclear ethics for a post-September 11 world. Whilst these are welcome and necessary interventions, this thesis contributes a less hubristic, biospheric vision to this broader endeavour by re-imagining the ethics of the nuclear age in ecological terms. What is needed then is a new, multi-centred, nuclear ethics for humanity and the biosphere that displays a greater attunement to the impact of nuclear harms on the beings and things that comprise the non-human world.

<p>Key outputs</p>	<p>N.A.J. Taylor, ‘The problem of nuclear harm for ecological cosmopolitanism’. Accepted with minor revisions in June 2016 at <i>Global Society</i> following peer review. [PDF available on request]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor, ‘Anthropocosmic thinking on the problem of nuclear harm: A reply to Seth D. Clippard, and a plea to Mary Evelyn Tucker and Tu Weiming’, <i>Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture</i>, Vol.10 No.1, March 2016, pp.58-65. [PDF]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor, ‘On the possibility of an Arendtian nuclear theory’, <i>Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities</i>, January 31, 2016. [LINK]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor, ‘Explorations in Antipodean Nuclear Thinking: Val Routley/Plumwood and Richard Routley/Sylvan’. Paper presented at The Seed Box: Environmental Humanities Collaboratory and The Posthumanities Hub, Linköping University, Sweden, September 20, 2015. [PDF available on request]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor, ‘Rethinking cosmopolitan solidarity: Nuclear harm from a cosmic point of view’. Paper presented at the International Society for Environmental Ethics and International Association for Environmental Philosophy <i>11th Meeting on Environmental Philosophy</i>, Allenspark, Colorado, U.S., June 17-20, 2014 and the British International Studies Association <i>Working Group on Global Nuclear Order: Global Challenges in a Nuclear-Armed World</i>, University of Bristol, England, September 2, 2014. [PDF available on request]</p>
<p>Sponsor/s</p>	<p>Australia Awards Endeavour Research Fellowship, Australian Government</p> <p>Australian Postgraduate Award, Australian Government</p> <p>University of Queensland</p> <p>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University</p>

Project 2: Archive of Nuclear Harm

The Archive of Nuclear Harm exhibits, screens, publishes and collects materials on life and death in the nuclear age. We also design and deliver educational programs. Our mission is to create a resource deep into the nuclear future, that is accessible to anyone with an internet connection.

Items of interest include artworks and other cultural artefacts that explore the full range of harms—to bodies and the biosphere—that are inflicted by nuclear weapons, energy, accidents and waste. Since the legacy of the nuclear age must be conceived on timescales of up to one million years, and threatens the continued safe operating conditions of Earth’s biosphere, this will be a memory institution like no other.

The Archive was established in 2012, and is now a part of the Nuclear Futures partnership initiative, a three-year arts and culture program sponsored by the Australia Council for the Arts. Nuclear Futures brings together artists and atomic survivor communities in Australia, Japan, Kazakhstan and the Marshall Islands.

<p>Key outputs</p>	<p>N.A.J. Taylor, ‘Manifesto for an Archive of Nuclear Harm’. Submitted for peer review at <i>Unlikely: Journal for Creative Arts</i> in November 2016. [PDF available on request]</p> <p>Paul Brown, N.A.J. Taylor, and Ellise Barkley (eds.), “Australian Nuclear Culture”. Forthcoming special issue of <i>Unlikely: Journal for Creative Arts</i> as at November 2016. [Including contributions by: James Arvanitakis, Ellise Barkley, Jessie Boylan, Mick Broderick, Adam Broinowski, Paul Brown, Russell Bryant, Teresa Crea, Linda Dement, Marilyn Fairsky, Adrian Glamorgan, Robert (Bo) Jacobs, Luke Harrald, Steve Harrison, Avon Hudson, Ingrid Matthews, Christobel Mattingley, J.D. Mittmann, Nic Mollison, Gordon Murray, Warren (Ebay) Paul, Keith Peters, Elizabeth PO’, John Romeril, Mima Smart OAM, N.A.J. Taylor, John Turpie, and Lynette Wallworth.] [PDF]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor and Robert Jacobs (eds.), <i>Experiencing Hiroshima</i>. Under contract to Routledge’s “War, Politics and Experience” book series edited by Christine Sylvester, to be delivered in December 2016. [Including contributions by: Ran Zwigenberg, Yuki Miyamoto, Thomas Doyle II, Stefanie Fishel, Kathleen Sullivan, Makeda Best, elin o’Hara slavik, Robert del Tredici, Jessica Rapson, Robert Jacobs, Stuart Bender, Adam Broinowski, Erik Ropers, Marcel Quiroz, Imafuku Ryuta, Mick Broderick.] [PDF available on request]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor, <i>Nuclear Deferral</i>, c3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne, Australia, August 17-September 11, 2016 (with Andrew Hustwaite) and Maxey Museum for Man and Nature, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA, United States, September 26-28, 2016. [LINK]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor, ‘Nuclear visions: Suffering between living and dying’. Paper presented at the <i>Creative Arts and Nuclear Futures</i> conference, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia, August 6-7, 2015. [PDF available on request]</p>
<p>Sponsor/s</p>	<p>O’Donnell Endowed Chair in Global Studies, Whitman College</p> <p>College Academy for Research & Creative Activity, University of Alabama</p> <p>Pozible crowdfunding</p> <p>Australia Council for the Arts</p>

Project 3: Alternative Pathways to Nuclear-Free Worlds

In addition to his two primary projects, Theorising Nuclear Harm and the Archive of Nuclear Harm, Taylor also engages in collaborations that variously deploy strategies from the creative arts, divestment and engagement, dialogue, and the creative faculty of the imagination. The singular aim of each of these activities is to bring about a world empty of nuclear weapons. Collaborating partners have been drawn from Europe, North and South America, Africa, Oceania, and Asia.

For instance, with colleagues at The New School in New York he is investigating how people’s imaginations can transform nuclear peace and disarmament efforts. In September 2016, he was invited to Whitman College as a O’Donnell Visiting Educator to have students explore the possibility of alternative pathways to nuclear-free worlds. Whilst former vice-president of the International Court of Justice Judge Christopher Weeramantry wrote that the Athens Dialogue that Taylor co-convened in 2012 was “outstanding” and “a significant step” that makes “a substantial contribution” to our understanding of the constraints and opportunities for comprehensive nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

In addition, he is often invited to contribute to various projects that are led by others, including as a board member of the Consequences of Radiation Exposure Museum and as the lead editor for the Nuclear Futures partnership initiative.

Key outputs	<p>N.A.J. Taylor, <i>Antipodean Nuclear Feminisms: Oceanic Denuclearisation of the Eurocentric Phallus</i>. Under contract to Palgrave Macmillan’s Global Outreach programme, to be delivered in December 2018. [PDF available on request]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor, ‘Is there an ecological path to a nuclear-weapon-free world?’. Accepted with major revisions to Nonproliferation Review in July 2016. [PDF available on request]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor, Joseph A. Camilleri and Michael Hamel-Green, ‘Dialogue on Middle East biological, nuclear and chemical weapons disarmament: Constraints and opportunities’, <i>Alternatives: Global, Local, Political</i>, Vol.38 No.1, 2013, pp.78-98. [An earlier sole-authored draft (“Theatre of the Absurd”) was shortlisted for the Global Change, Peace & Security Award (2010) and Nonproliferation Review Award (2010).] [PDF]</p> <p>Joseph A. Camilleri, Michael Hamel-Green, Marianne Hanson, Michalis S. Michael and N.A.J. Taylor, <i>Athens Dialogue on a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction as well as their Means of Delivery</i> (Athens: European Public Law Organization, 2013). [Translated into: Arabic, Farsi, and Hebrew.] [PDF]</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor and Joseph A. Camilleri, ‘Will Australia erode or build trust with Iran?’, <i>The Guardian</i>, July 15, 2013. [LINK]</p>
Sponsor/s	<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom Government</p> <p>Institute for Human Security, La Trobe University</p> <p>School of Political and International Studies, University of Queensland</p> <p>European Public Law Organization, Athens, Greece</p>