Student / Young Pugwash Conference (January 27, 2024) -- Application

Applicant: Sarah Weiler ([LinkedIn](), [CV]())

Provisional title: The use of AI-powered technologies in the UN's efforts to promote peace and security globally: Past projects, ongoing initiatives, future potential

I'm a young professional, having graduated in July 2022 with a joint Masters degree in "Social Sciences, Development Studies and International Relations" from Aalborg University and the University of International Relations, Beijing. During and after university, I have conducted research on nuclear weapons policy (described here: https://forum.effectivealtruism.org/s/nSp2jyg3dJkukbBid), intra-state conflict dynamics, and several other social scientific topics.

In my current position as an intern with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), I am investigating how AI-powered tools can be used responsibly and effectively to support UN operations. However, by the time of the Student / Young Pugwash Conference, my internship will already have ended and while my presentation is strongly informed by my work with UN OCHA, I would like to emphasise that I will not be speaking on behalf of the UN or any of its entities or agencies. Instead, my affiliation from January 15, 2024 onwards will be with the [EU Tech Policy Fellowship](https://) (organised by Training for good, a Brussels-based non-profit).

At the conference, I would like to present findings from a scoping review that I have been conducting over the last few months during my internship with UN OCHA. The presentation will inform listeners about past, ongoing, and prospective efforts by individuals, teams, sections, and entities across the UN system to responsibly use AI-powered tools and models for the promotion of peace and security. This will include an overview of published guidelines and recommendations as well as prominent examples of specific AI-based applications (e.g., [PulseSatellite](https://) to inform humanitarian operations through information derived from satellite imagery analysis, or [the UN DPPA's use of Natural Language Processing](https://) to make diplomatic negotiations and inner-state debates more inclusive and accessible).

The presentation will also analyse concerns, challenges, and barriers to the integration of AI in the UN's operations. Based on the aforementioned scoping review and on numerous conversations I had with UN staff, the presentation will highlight areas, questions, and tasks that remain unresolved. This will illuminate how audience members might use their skills to assist the effective and responsible development and adoption of AI-powered solutions for problems of peace and security.