

What is Pugwash?

Pugwash is an international network of scientists and others concerned about the social impact of science, particularly the threat posed by nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Pugwash shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 with the founder of British Pugwash, Prof Joseph Rotblat, for its work on arms control and disarmament during the Cold War.

The network's success has depended on its reputation for impeccable scientific integrity and lack of bias. Pugwash has several national groups and British Pugwash plays a major role in both UK and international activities.

Origins

Pugwash was born on 9 July 1955 when Bertrand Russell released the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, calling on world leaders to "learn to think in a new way". Joseph Rotblat chaired the launch and convened the 1957 conference in Pugwash, Nova Scotia that set up the British Advisory Committee for Pugwash. British Pugwash was formed in 1963, with Sir Neville Mott as the first Chair. Other scientists, including Cecil Powell, Rudolf Peierls and Dorothy Hodgkin, have guided British Pugwash over the years.



Joseph Rotblat (right) with Bertrand Russell

"The quest for a war-free world has a basic purpose: survival. But if in the process we learn how to achieve it by love rather than fear, by kindness rather than by compulsion; if in the process we learn to combine the essential with the enjoyable, the expedient with the benevolent, the practical with the beautiful, this will be an extra incentive to embark on this great task. Above all, remember your humanity."

Last lines of Joseph Rotblat's Nobel Acceptance Speech, December 1995

What does British Pugwash do?

British Pugwash, linking with experts from Pugwash's international network, uses scientific expertise to inform the government and public on issues relating to weapons of mass destruction - especially nuclear weapons - and nuclear power, matters of war and peace, the environment and the social responsibility of scientists.

Up to date information on all our public activities and publications can be found on our website at www.britishpugwash.org



Professor Elena Simperl and Rachel Coldicutt were keynote speakers at the 2024 SYP Conference on 'Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Peace and Security'

Areas of work include:

- UK nuclear weapons possession and modernisation
- Nuclear risk reduction and disarmament
- Offering independent scientific advice on policy making
- Public outreach and awareness-raising
- Promoting social responsibility in science
- Disruptive and emerging technology
- Clean Energy scenarios



Matteo Bordin (SYP) interviewed Professor Carlo Rovelli at the 2024 Hay Festival before he gave the annual Pugwash lecture.

Membership benefits

Membership is open to everyone in the UK qualified by profession or experience to contribute to the work of Pugwash. Many of our members are scientists, engineers and technologists, including several who are Fellows of the Royal Society. The participation of other professionals (for example, economists, sociologists and experts on international relations) in our work is becoming increasingly important.

We particularly welcome young scientists to our youth group, Student and Young Pugwash (SYP), where they can widen their scientific knowledge and learn new skills.

Members are encouraged to suggest and participate in studies and activities at both national and international levels. Members receive an annual report and regular newsletter. The British Pugwash website provides up to date information on the group's activities and publications, including events and meetings.

Minimum subscription: £25 / year

Membership is free for students and under-35s

Please see overleaf for the application form.



Members of International Pugwash attend a meeting to discuss European nuclear issues at Bristol in January 2023.



Prof Dame Athene Donald gives a British Pugwash lecture at Cambridge University in May 2024.

Membership Application

I wish to apply for membership of
British Pugwash / Student & Young
Pugwash (please specify below)

Full name / Title

Academic / professional qualifications

Occupation

Area of interest related to Pugwash activities

Mailing address

Telephone number

Email

This information will only be used to inform you about
Pugwash activities

Governance

British Pugwash is governed by an Executive Committee of elected and co-opted members, with elections every year.

Patrons:

- Lord Martin Rees OM FRS
- Dame Athene Donald DBE FRS
- Sir Timothy Gowers FRS
- Sir Brian Heap FRS
- Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith FRS
- Prof Margaret MacMillan CH
- General Sir Nick Parker KCB CBE
- Sir Hew Strachan DL FRSE FRHistS
- Prof Angela Vincent FMedSci FRS

For details of the current British Pugwash Executive Committee please visit our website.

You can also join as a member online:

<https://britishpugwash.org/what-is-pugwash/join-british-pugwash/>

Contact

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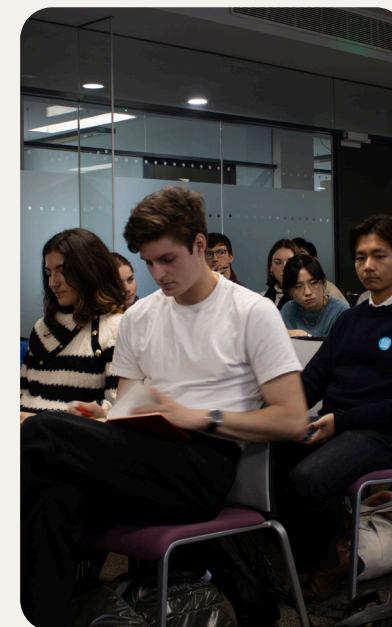
British
Pugwash

Pugwash
conferences
on science and
world affairs

Student / Young

Pugwash UK

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www.britishpugwash.org