TO SPACE AND BEYOND: POLICY, WEAPONIZATION, AND ARMS-CONTROL
Contrasting Views on the Future of Space and the United States’ Influence

Cambridge, MA: The issues of U.S. space policy, space-based weapons, arms control and U.S.-China space relations are increasingly salient as space technology plays a progressively more important role in current military and commercial affairs. As the dominant power in space, the United States is faced with the challenge of maintaining a space policy that fosters cooperation and avoids conflict with other spacefaring nations.

In light of these evolving issues, The Harvard Extension International Relations Club (HEIRC), in collaboration with Harvard Extension Business Society (HEBS), is hosting a panel on space security and the future of space relations on December 9th, 2009, from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. at Harvard University.

The panel will include diversified opinions presented by Dr. Joan Johnson-Freese, Chair of the Department of National Security Strategy at the Naval War College, and Dr. Laura Grego, scientist for the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Dr. Joan Johnson-Freese’s research has focused largely on space programs and policies, looking specifically at technology transfer and export, missile defense, transparency in space and regional development, transformation, and globalization. Dr. Joan has testified before the Senate Committee in 2007, and has served on numerous advisors boards. She has also appeared in front of Congress and recently authored Heavenly Ambitions: America’s Quest to Dominate Space.

Dr. Laura Grego’s expertise is on nuclear weapons, global security, and space-based weapons. Her research examines the technical issues of space weapons, security costs and their benefits to international security. Prior to joining UCS in 2002, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Dr. Grego has testified before the Congress Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, and has published numerous journal articles.

The panel will be moderated by leading political analyst Jennifer Donahue, who has covered presidential races since 1992 for CNN, C-SPAN and other media organizations. Donahue is widely quoted by the New York Times, Boston Globe, Newsweek and was a Fall 2008 Fellow for Harvard Kennedy School’s Institute of Politics.

The evening aims to present a lively debate with multiple points of view from the panel experts on these highly controversial topics as well as other current political, strategic and technical challenges the United States faces in space.

For further information, please feel free to contact us!