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A Letter from the IJNS Issue 7.1 Davis Editorial Fellow

Rachel Brooks

Davis Editorial Fellow (2020–2022)

Publications Manager

International Journal of Nuclear Security

When I took over the Davis Editor Fellowship position, the COVID-19 pandemic had just begun, and I had just finished managing the IJNS Special Issue on INSEN. I was already familiar with the process that an IJNS submission went through to be published, and I felt that I was ready to take over this role. I was preparing to start my Master of Arts degree in English. Then, a worldwide pandemic shut everything down. Everyone's lives changed, and publication understandably became less of a priority for many researchers around the world.

Now, two years later, I have closed my time as the Davis Editor with a finished Master of Arts degree, a published thesis, and incredible experience thanks to IJNS. I am so excited to finally close out Volume 7 Issue 1 for the academic years 2020–21 and 2021–22. Every scholar published in this issue worked so hard during an incredibly difficult time, and I am proud to be a small part of sharing their research.

Issue 7.1 is a little unusual compared to previous IJNS regular issues. IJNS typically publishes one volume per academic year. Because the 2020–21 academic year was so different for people around the world, IJNS did not receive many submissions in this time period—certainly not enough to call it a full issue in Volume 7. So, we decided to keep Issue 7.1 open for two academic years instead of one.

In this volume are 11 manuscripts relating to nuclear security research, representing countries on multiple continents as well as international interests. Mostafa Kofi et al. discuss the increased need and potential barriers for academics, particularly those who use radioisotopes in medicine at universities and hospitals, to understand nuclear security culture. Raphael Duguay presents Security by Design in regulatory frameworks as a beneficial option for small modular reactor physical protection systems. Débora M. Trombetta et al. used Monte Carlo simulations to facilitate their investigation into the use of fast-neutron and gamma-neutron coincidences as a potential addition to other detection methods for special nuclear materials. Lekhnath Ghimire and Edward Waller argue that a robust nuclear security program contains the ability to collect nuclear forensics data to identify illicit nuclear materials. Md. Shamsul Huda Soheli et al. propose ground-penetrating radar to detect underground threats to a nuclear power plant. Pinar Temocin and Noriyuki Kawano compare New Zealand's nuclear-free peace movement to Japan's official policy of nuclear deterrence and neutrality toward the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Susetyo Hario Putero et al. report on Universitas Gadjah Mada Nuclear Engineering Program's training program for Indonesia's police and security officers to provide knowledge about nuclear security threats. Jung Soo Kim et al. outline the Republic of Korea's growing

nuclear industry and associated physical protection systems. Raymond Agalga et al. overview the growth in Ghana's nuclear security regime and nuclear education over the past decade. Julius Cesar Trajano reviews the Philippines' nuclear energy policies and plans. Muhammed Ali Alkis analyzes the current state of the international nuclear security regime's ability to respond to and prepare for the growing threat of nuclear terrorism.

Issue 7.1 also contains an article written by the winner of IJNS's 2021 Student Writing Competition, Halima Jemmal, a PhD student of nuclear sciences at the University of Ibn Tofail, Morocco; the winning submission was co-authored with one of Jemmal's professors at the university, Abdelmajid Choukri, and their collaborator from INRA/CRRA/URTNEQ, Morocco, Mohammed Mouhib. Issue 7.1 has five book reviews collected by the IJNS Book Review Editor, Arjun Banerjee; authors in addition to Banerjee include Shrujana Senthil, Lopamudra Bandyopadhyay, Natasha McKamey, and G. Shreekumar Menon. This issue also has a special Letter from the Editor written by Dr. Russel Hirst, the managing editor for IJNS since its inception in 2015. Last year, Dr. Hirst officially retired from his career as Associate Professor of Technical Communication at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He completed his last year of teaching this past 2021–22 academic year. This issue is the last under Dr. Hirst's Managing Editorship at IJNS, and we are incredibly grateful for his leadership.

These past two years have been personally beneficial in my own scholarship as well. IJNS gave me the resources to research a topic that I became so interested in when I first started volunteering for the journal. Academic publishing is vital in today's research economy, but it can also be difficult to participate in because of how competitive it is. Scholars in so many different fields around the world mention that they sometimes feel like their work was rejected because they didn't use the language correctly. Seeing so many different English languages used in IJNS submissions made me wonder if there was some way that I could better understand what reviewers expected to see from the English language in nuclear security manuscripts. IJNS aims to ensure that any scholar in nuclear security, whatever their institutional contexts or resources, could publish their work in an international, academic, peer-reviewed journal. Part of that mission is giving to authors any language assistance they may need for free and not charging for publication in the journal. If we can better understand what readers expect, we can better help everyone who wants to publish with IJNS. To help answer this question, I created a survey for reviewers in the nuclear security field to respond to. If you took that survey, thank you so much! You contributed to my Master of Arts thesis and my understanding of what IJNS editors need to do to improve the resources we offer to authors and reviewers.

I look forward to continuing to work with IJNS as the publications manager and interim coeditor-in-chief with outreach manager Ashley Humphrey, CNSP. We hope to continue Dr. Hirst's legacy of building a communication platform for international nuclear security scholars as well as providing opportunities for early-career technical communicators. I have now graduated from the University of Tennessee and work professionally as a technical editor, but I will always be interested in academic publishing, and I hope to continue to help researchers with their publication goals. To everyone who published in IJNS, everyone who reads these articles, and to the past and present IJNS editorial team: thank you all for the work that you do, and thank you for choosing IJNS as a platform to share your work and engage with others' research.

Thank you,

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Publications Manager

Rachel's new email for IJNS matters: rachel.ijnsutk@gmail.com