

THE SPACE POLICY INSTITUTE
PRESENTS A VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON

U.S. SPACE DIPLOMACY
IN
CIVIL, COMMERCIAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 10:00 AM – NOON

ELLIOT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- 1957 E ST, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20052

10:00 AM Welcome and Introductory Remarks

- Alyssa Ayres, *Dean, Elliott School of International Affairs*
- Scott Pace, *Director, Space Policy Institute*

10:10 AM U.S. International Challenges and Opportunities

- Valda Vikmanis-Keller, *Director of the Office of Space Affairs, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State*
- Eric Desautels, *Director of the Office of Emerging Security Challenges & Defense Policy, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification & Compliance, U.S. Department of State*
- Emily Pierce, *Attorney, Office of the Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State*

11:00 AM International Perspectives on Space Diplomacy

- Elle Agnew, *Canadian Space Agency, Embassy of Canada*
- Koji Aribayashi, *S&T Counsellor, Embassy of Japan*
- Sylvie Espinasse, *European Space Agency, Washington Office*
- Nicolas Maubert, *Counselor, Space (CNES), Embassy of France*

11:50 AM Wrap-up Discussion (All)

- Moderated by Scott Pace, *Director, Space Policy Institute*



Dean Alyssa Ayres

Alyssa Ayres was appointed dean of the Elliott School of International Affairs and professor of history and international affairs at George Washington University effective February 1, 2021. Ayres is a foreign policy practitioner and award-winning author with senior experience in the government, nonprofit, and private sectors. From 2013 to 2021, she was senior fellow for India, Pakistan, and South Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), where she remains an adjunct senior fellow. Her work focuses primarily on India's role in the world and on U.S. relations with South Asia in the larger Indo-Pacific. From 2010 to 2013 Ayres served as deputy assistant secretary of state for South Asia. During her tenure at the State Department in the Barack Obama administration, she covered all issues across a dynamic region of 1.3 billion people at the time (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives,

Nepal, and Sri Lanka) and provided policy direction for four U.S. embassies and four consulates.

Originally trained as a cultural historian, she received an AB from Harvard College and an MA and PhD from the University of Chicago. She is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the Halifax International Security Forum's agenda working group, and a member of the Women's Foreign Policy Group board of directors.



Dr. Scott Pace

Dr. Pace rejoined the faculty of the Elliott School of International Affairs in 2021 after serving as Deputy Assistant to the President and Executive Secretary of the National Space Council from 2017-2020. He previously served as the Associate Administrator for Program Analysis and Evaluation at NASA from 2005-2008 and Deputy Chief of Staff for the NASA Administrator from 2002-2003. Prior to NASA, he was the

Assistant Director for Space and Aeronautics in the White House Office of Science and

Technology Policy. From 1993-2000, he worked for the RAND Corporation's Science and Technology Policy Institute, and from 1990-1993, he served as the Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Office of Space Commerce, in the Office of the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Harvey Mudd College in 1980; Masters degrees in Aeronautics & Astronautics and Technology & Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1982; and a Doctorate in Policy Analysis from the RAND Graduate School in 1989.

Speaker Biographies

Panel 1:



Emily R. Pierce

Emily R. Pierce is currently an Attorney-Adviser for Oceans, International Environmental & Scientific Affairs specializing in space law in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State. She served as Special Assistant to the Legal Adviser in 2020 after returning from New York City, where she was

assigned to Legal Section at the US Mission to the United Nations. Ms. Pierce has also completed rotations in United Nations Affairs and Ethics, and was detailed to the legal staff at the National Security Council in 2012. Prior to law school, she worked as a paralegal for a DC-based law firm and was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she studied international relations and negotiations at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) and the Universidad de San Andrés. Ms. Pierce is a member of the American Society of International Law and served on the 2020 Annual Meeting Committee. She holds a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a JD from the George Washington University Law School.



Eric Desautels

Eric Desautels is the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance at the United States Department of State. Since 2015, he has served as the Director of the Office of Emerging Security Challenges in the Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance Bureau at the U.S. Department of State. The office is responsible for missile defense issues, outer space security cooperation and engagement, emerging technology security issues, undersea cables security issues, and Polar security issues.

Prior to this, he served as the Chief of Staff in the Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance Bureau.

Mr. Desautels served as senior advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security with responsibility for missile defense, space issues, interdiction issues, WMD and missile nonproliferation, sanction, North Korea, Syria, and Libya. Previously, Mr. Desautels served as a staff member on the Senate Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services and worked for TASC, Inc.



Valda Vakmanis Keller

Ms. Vikmanis Keller joined the Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in 1999 and served her first tour in Okinawa, Japan as a consular officer with subsequent tours in the EUR bureau. She converted to the Civil Service in 2008 and worked in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) as the head of the Africa Team and then as the Partnership and Outreach Coordinator for INL's Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership. Ms. Vikmanis Keller joined the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) in 2014 as the Director of Human Resources & Administration and assumed the role of Executive Director in 2015. In this capacity she was responsible for CSO's human resources, finance, information technology, general services, and administrative functions. From January 2017 until April 2018, she was CSO's Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary responsible for the EX office as well as the Office of Partnerships, Strategy, and Communications. Ms. Vikmanis Keller returned to INL in

October 2018 as the Division Director of the Technical Advisory Division (TAD) in the larger Knowledge Management office, providing INL with technical expertise through a network of in-house and external subject matter experts and partners supporting innovative solutions to combat transnational crime and illicit drugs and counter current and emerging threats. Most recently Ms. Vikmanis Keller served as the Chief of Staff in the Department's Bureau of Budget and Planning. She joined the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) in August 2021 as the Director of the Space Affairs office. Ms. Vikmanis Keller received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and her JD degree from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Panel 2:



Elle Agnew

Eleonora "Elle" Agnew joined the Canadian Space Agency as the Manager, International and Regulatory Affairs in the Policy Directorate in July 2016 after 29 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces. Her last post was as the Director of Space Strategic Plans in Director General Space where she was responsible for, amongst other files, developing the Concept of Operations for and standing up the Canadian Space Operations Centre. In her current position, she is responsible for managing international and multilateral relations, including participation in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as well as advising on regulatory issues.



Sylvie Espinasse

Sylvie Espinasse is the head of the European Space Agency (ESA) Office in Washington since January 2020. She represents ESA in the United States and Canada, and supports the implementation of the Agency's cooperation with these two States, and the identification of new areas of potential collaboration. This involves relations with U.S and Canadian government bodies and entities and monitoring of the North American space industry. Prior to this position she was responsible of the Coordination Office of the ESA directorate of Human and Robotic Exploration and executive secretary of the ESA Programme Board for Human spaceflight, Microgravity and Exploration. She joined ESA in 2009 as an administrator in the Directorate of Human Space Flight. From 2000 to 2009, she was a project manager at the Italian Space Agency (ASI), in charge of the Italian participation in some ESA and NASA science and exploration missions and she was part of the Italian delegation in ESA. She started her

professional career in the private sector in the field of applied research and environmental monitoring systems. She has a PhD in Geophysics from the University Joseph Fourier in Grenoble (France).



Nicolas Maubert

Nicolas Maubert is currently the Representative of CNES (French Space Agency) and Space Counselor of the French Embassy in the United States. He has 20 years of professional experience in multiple space organizations within the industry and government, in various international environments (Europe, South and North America). He previously held leadership roles in space program management, system engineering and operations, and has been deeply involved in the French space policy consolidation. He has served notably as spacecraft and launch operation manager for CNES at the European Spaceport in French Guiana, system manager for the Galileo navigation program within the European Space Agency in the Netherlands, or satellite and ground mission segment program manager for Thales Alenia Space in Italy and France.

Mr. Maubert graduated as an engineer from the National Higher School of Aeronautics and Space (Supaero) in Toulouse (France) with a Master in Space Telecommunication and System Engineering from the Polytechnic School of Montréal (Canada). In 2018, Nicolas won a solo crossing race of the Atlantic Ocean on a rowboat in 42 days from Africa to South America.



Koji Aribayashi

03/2001 Graduate from Tokyo Institute of Technology (Master's: Nuclear Engineering)
04/2001 Join Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
04/2001 Atomic Energy Division (MEXT)
04/2003 Unit Chief, Office of Emergency Planning and Environmental Radioactivity (MEXT)
08/2004 Unif Chief, Office for Evaluation (MEXT)
04/2006 Deputy Director, Life Science Division (MEXT)
05/2008 Deputy Director, Atomic Energy Division (MEXT)
04/2010 Deputy Director, Space Development and Utilization Division (MEXT)
04/2011 Deputy Director, Economic Damage Response Office for Nuclear Power Plant Accidents (Cabinet Secretariat)
06/2012 First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the ASEAN (MOFA)
07/2015 Deputy Director, Development Planning Division of Research and Development Bureau (MEXT)
04/2016 Director, Office for Corporate Strategy (National Institute for Materials Science)
08/2017 Secretary to Minister (MEXT)
10/2018 Director for Space Development and Cooperation, Space Development and Utilization Division (MEXT)
01/2019 Director, Office for Radioactive Waste Management Policy (MEXT)
07/2021 Counselor, Embassy of Japan in the U.S (Chief of Science Section)