

James Acton biography

James Acton holds the Jessica T. Mathews Chair and is co-director of the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. A physicist by training, Acton's current research focuses on the escalation risks of advanced conventional weapons and the future of arms control. His work on escalation includes the Carnegie edited volume, *Entanglement: Chinese and Russian Perspectives on Non-nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Risks*, and the *International Security* article "Escalation through Entanglement."

Acton's publications span the field of nuclear policy. They include the Carnegie report, *Wagging the Plutonium Dog*, and two Adelphi books, *Deterrence During Disarmament* and *Abolishing Nuclear Weapons* (with George Perkovich). He co-wrote *Why Fukushima Was Preventable*, a groundbreaking study into the root causes of the accident.

An expert on hypersonic conventional weapons and the author of the Carnegie report, *Silver Bullet? Asking the Right Questions About Conventional Prompt Global Strike*, Acton has testified on this subject to the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee and the congressionally chartered U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Acton is a member of the International Advisory Council for the Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe. He has published in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, *Dædalus*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Science & Global Security*, and *Survival*. He has appeared on CNN's State of the Union, NBC Nightly News, CBS Evening News, and PBS NewsHour.