

Speaker Bios

Lt Gen Nina M. Armagno, (Ret), USSF established her reputation as an empowering and influential leader throughout an illustrious, 35-year military career. Armagno served as the Director of Staff Headquarters, United States Space Force, from August 2020 to August 2023. She orchestrated the establishment of the sixth branch of the United States Armed Forces by directing the formulation of service plans, positions, policies, and procedures. This achievement cemented Armagno's legacy of adept and innovative leadership, as she synchronized a new Headquarters Staff to resolve multifaceted cross-functional issues that ensured efficient and cohesive operations for the United States Space Force.



Armagno's career is underscored by key positions shaping space program operations and development. As the Director of Space Programs for the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology, Armagno crafted comprehensive strategies to coalesce support for space programs across various governmental entities, including the Department of Defense, Congress, and the White House. She steered national strategic nuclear war plans, space policies, and international engagements as the Director of Plans and Policy at Headquarters, United States Strategic Command.

Armagno was commissioned from the United States Air Force Academy in 1988 and is the only person to have commanded both launch wings in the Air Force. As the first Lieutenant General commissioned in the Space Force, Armagno's trailblazing military career has progressed into the private sector, where she serves on the Board of Directors and Strategic Advisory Groups for several industry-leading companies, such as Rocket Lab, Intelsat, United Launch Alliance, Lockheed Martin, and VirnetX.

Armagno holds a Master's degree in National Security Studies from the National War College and in Education Administration and Management from Chapman University, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the United States Air Force Academy. Armagno has received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the General Jerome F. O'Malley Distinguished Space Leadership Award, Woman of Influence Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Patriot Award. Armagno's commitment to excellence continues today as a selected member of The Council on Foreign Relations, further enhancing her impact on national security policy.

Col. Sarah Babbitt, USAF, is the Commander of the Department of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Detachment 910. She administers and provides a college-level officer training program for the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. Col Babbitt directs the University and AFROTC actions for recruiting, training, motivating, and educating Air Force and Space Force officer candidates. She instructs courses in leadership, national security, and air power history. Col Babbitt is responsible for who is accepted, trained, and ultimately commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Air Force and Space Force. In addition to University of Washington, Col Babbitt



leads candidates from several eligible institutions to include Seattle University, Olympic College, Shoreline Community College, North Seattle College, Seattle Pacific University, Bellevue College, Highline College, Pierce College, Green River College, and University of Washington Campus sites at Tacoma and Bothell.

Col Babbitt grew up in East Wenatchee, Washington, and received her commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Washington State University in 2000. She holds master's degrees from Webster University, the U.S. Naval War College, and the National War College. A career Security Forces Officer, she served as a Flight Commander, Operations Officer and three times as a Squadron Commander. Her experience in the security forces career field ranges from law enforcement, anti-terrorism, air base defense, and contingency deployments.

PJ Blount (Ph.D., M.S., Global Affairs, Rutgers University; LL.M., King's College London; J.D., University of Mississippi; B.A./A.B.J., University of Georgia) is an Assistant Professor of Space Law at Durham University's Space Research Centre. He is also a visiting scholar at Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, Thailand. Previously, he has served as a Lecturer in Law at Cardiff University, an adjunct professor at the University of Mississippi School of Law, a Research Fellow at SES, a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Luxembourg, an adjunct professor at Montclair State University, and a Visiting Scholar at the Beijing Institute of Technology School of Law.



Blount's primary research areas are legal issues related to Space Security and Cyberspace Governance. He has published and presented widely on the topic of Space Security Law and has given expert testimony on Space Traffic Management before the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Space. He is an editor of the Proceedings of the International Institute of Space Law and was formerly the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Space Law*. He currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the International Institute of Space Law and is a member of the State Bar of Georgia (USA).

Mai'a K. Davis Cross is the Dean's Professor of Political Science, International Affairs, and Diplomacy and Director of the Center for International Affairs and World Cultures at Northeastern University. Her work focuses on diplomacy, public diplomacy, and space diplomacy, especially in terms of European and transatlantic relations. Her research on space addresses key questions related to the geopolitics of space, the future of human space exploration, public-private collaboration on space technology, and space as a global common. She has co-edited a 2023 double-length special issue on *Space Diplomacy* for the Hague Journal of Diplomacy, and is the author or editor of six books, including most recently *International Cooperation Against All Odds: The Ultrasocial World* (Oxford University Press, 2024). She holds a PhD in Politics from Princeton University, and a bachelor's degree in Government from Harvard University. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on its task force on US Space Policy.



Allison Crutchfield is the Senior Counsel and Senior Director of Space Flight Policy at Stoke Space. In this role, Allie guides the company in areas of law and regulatory policy and leads licensing efforts for the fully reusable Nova launch vehicle system. Before joining , Allie spent eight years at SpaceX managing federal regulatory licensing and policy for the company's Falcon, Dragon, and Starship programs. Allie's rich experience in these programs spanned commercial launch and reentry licensing, long-term regulatory policy, insurance, human spaceflight, and general strategy for aerospace, airspace, and maritime matters. Allie holds her BA and JD from West Virginia University. In her role at Stoke, Allie strategically guides the company in areas of law and regulatory policy.



Casey Dreier leads The Planetary Society's advocacy and policy efforts to advance planetary exploration, planetary defense, and the search for life. He educates and empowers the organization's members to take political action. He writes, teaches, and speaks to The Society's members, the public, and policymakers to impress upon them the importance, relevancy, and excitement of space exploration.



Casey is committed to demystifying the politics and policy process behind space exploration for all audiences. He is a trusted source for journalists and has been featured in many publications, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Scientific American, Vox, and The Verge, to name a few. He has also appeared as an expert on BBC News and both seasons of National Geographic's MARS series as a "MARS Big Thinker."

He also leads the strategic planning of The Planetary Society's space policy and advocacy program. He works closely with The Society's leadership, its Board of Directors, and other policy experts to craft the organization's formal positions and goals for the future of space exploration. He provides trusted analysis of the budgetary, political, and policy decisions relating to space, pursues original research, and works collaboratively to generate policy ideas and guidance for the U.S. space program. He also hosts the podcast Planetary Radio: Space Policy Edition, published monthly since 2016.

Michael Doyle is cofounder and president of Space Northwest, a non-profit dedicated to maximizing the impact of the Pacific Northwest on humanity's future in space. He has over 20 years of experience in software development and management at Goldman Sachs and Amazon. He is passionate about expanding the space frontier and that "space is for everyone."

Mike is a leader with a passion for space and over 20 years of experience in technology innovation and management. Mike is



known as an empathetic leader, bridging and earning trust between companies, teams and individuals across multiple backgrounds, roles and seniority.

Together with other Seattle-area space community leaders, Mike cofounded Space Northwest to maximize the impact of the Pacific Northwest on humanity's future in space. He led vision development and program structuring. He coordinates Space Northwest's engagement with space community initiatives and events. He represented the Washington space ecosystem at the State of the Space Industrial Base conference, both its Seattle workshop and its plenary session in Albuquerque. Mike serves as an inaugural member of the Space Industrial Council, in partnership with DoD's Defense Innovation Unit and New Space Nexus. He has spoken at industry events including the Space Frontier Foundation's NewSpace 2022 conference and the Aerospace Futures Alliance 17th Annual Summit.

Mike has worked in world-class technology organizations, including Amazon.com and Goldman Sachs. At Amazon, Mike leads product and engineering teams that leverage cloud computing to streamline and automate the calculation and reporting of Amazon's income taxes. He directs engineering work across 5 sub-teams in the US and India, including fully-remote teams, with a mix of full-time and contract staff. He has served as an ambassador for innovation within Amazon and externally through industry speaking engagements.

At Goldman Sachs, Mike served as the bridge between business and tech teams across the firm to define, manage and deliver critical initiatives. He led innovative projects focused on customer experience and regulatory compliance. He worked extensively in complex, cross-divisional, multi-stakeholder, multi-system rollouts. He managed high-touch interaction and communication with C-suite stakeholders for GS Bank USA.

Andrea Harrington currently serves as the Co-Director of the Institute of Air and Space Law and Associate Professor at the McGill Faculty of Law. She is also an Adjunct Professor in the Space Resources Program for the Colorado School of Mines. Prof. Harrington previously served as Dean of Space Education and Full Professor at Air University for the United States Space Force (USSF), where she was responsible for overseeing the West Space Seminar and Schriever Space Scholars, as well as leading Guardian Education development efforts for USSF Space Delta 13. In that role, she led the establishment of ground-breaking USSF academic programs in Washington DC through Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.



She is a licensed attorney in Massachusetts. She served as Associate Director of the University of Mississippi Air and Space Law programs and Associate Chair for the Policy, Economics, and Law Department in the International Space University's Space Studies Program. Among other publications, she is the author of the book *Space Insurance and the Law: Maximizing Private Activities in Outer Space*, which won the British Insurance Law Association Book Prize for 2022. Prof. Harrington is a licensed attorney in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She holds a DCL and LLM from McGill, a JD from the University of Connecticut, an MSc in European Politics and Governance from the London School of Economics, and a BA from Boston University.

Diana Jack Diana Jack is currently the International Government Relations & Strategy Lead at Blue Origin, where she manages the company's engagement on international policy issues and alignment with the United States' and partner countries' space policy goals. She has been with Blue Origin over two years, and previously was a Strategy Senior Manager leading the company's orbital launch and space mobility strategy.



Prior to joining Blue in 2022, Diana was a Senior Manager in Avascent's space practice, providing management consulting services to traditional and new space companies and governments, including for growth, capture, market, and industrial strategies. She has previously held positions at the Council on Foreign Relations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Geneva Center for Security Policy, and the United States Council for International Business, working at the nexus of business and foreign policy. Diana has studied at the George Washington University Space Policy Institute, holds a Master's in International Affairs from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and a Bachelor's summa cum laude in European Studies and German Language from Washington University in St. Louis.

Jeff Liu is a Mission and Project Execution Manager at Starfish Space, a startup working toward the future of affordable, accessible satellite servicing. His work centers on advancing guidance, navigation, and control software, with a particular focus on computer vision and autonomous navigation systems. Though Jeff is a recent addition to the space industry, he brings extensive experience from leading large-scale technology teams at companies like Amazon and PayPal, as well as senior leadership roles in several high-growth technology startups. He began his career at Deloitte Consulting and holds a B.S. in Information and Computer Science from the University of California, Irvine.



Kristi Morgansen Is a Professor and Chair of the William E. Boeing Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the University of Washington. Prof. Morgansen's research focuses on guidance, navigation, control for autonomous underwater, surface, air and space systems. In particular, her work addresses nonlinear systems where sensing and actuation are integrated, stability in switched systems with delay, and incorporation of operational constraints such as communication delays in control of multi-vehicle systems. Applications include both traditional autonomous vehicle systems such as fixed-wing aircraft and underwater gliders as well as novel systems such as bio-inspired underwater propulsion, bio-inspired agile flight, human decision making, and neural engineering. The results of this work have been demonstrated in estimation and path planning in unmanned aerial vehicles with limited sensing, vorticity sensing and sensor placement on fixed wing aircraft, landing maneuvers in fruit flies, joint optimization of control and sensing in dynamical systems, and deconfliction and obstacle avoidance in autonomous systems and in biological systems including fish, insects, birds, and bats.



Saadia M. Pekkanen is the Job and Gertrud Tamaki Endowed Professor at the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition to this appointment in The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, she is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Political Science, and Adjunct Professor at the School of Law. She earned Master's degrees from Columbia University and Yale Law School, and a doctorate from Harvard University in government. She works at the intersection of international relations and international law, specializing in the commercial, legal, and security policies shaping outer space affairs. Her regional expertise is in the foreign affairs of Japan and Asia, engaging broader themes of states, strategy and grand strategy, industrial policy, alliances, and governance in the world order.

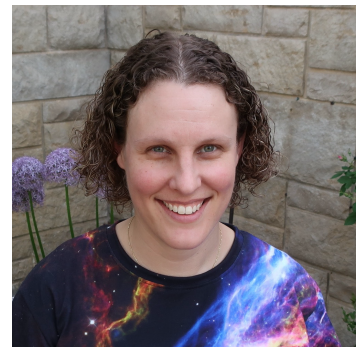


At the Jackson School, she is the founding director of the Program on Strategy, Policy, and Diplomacy Research (SPDR). At the School of Law, she is the founding director of the Space Law, Data and Policy Program (SPACE LDP). She has recently co-edited *The Oxford Handbook of Space Security*. She is a member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and a member of the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR).

Geoffrey Potter is the Director of International Relations and Protocol for the Office of Governor Jay Inslee, where he has served since 2020. Prior to joining the Governor's Office, Geoff was Debate Director for the Inslee for America Campaign, Operations Director for the China Ocean Institute, and, for five years, Director of Programs and Policy for the Alliance for Gun Responsibility. He has held numerous positions with political campaigns across the country, including Senator Patty Murray, and then-Senator Hillary Clinton. He holds a Master's Degree in International Studies from the University of Washington and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Syracuse University. Currently living in Seattle, he originally hails from Connecticut.



Meredith Rawls is a Research Scientist in the UW Department of Astronomy who works for Vera C. Rubin Observatory, a huge new telescope in Chile that will begin a ten-year imaging survey in 2025. She also co-leads SatHub, the observation and data analysis arm of the International Astronomical Union Centre for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky (IAU CPS). Her work involves developing and validating data pipelines for large volumes of astronomical images to enable science, and she is increasingly involved in interdisciplinary efforts to mitigate the impacts of bright commercial satellites on science and our sky.



Dr. Melissa Rice is a Professor of Planetary Science at Western Washington University, where she has held a joint appointment in the Geology Department and the Physics & Astronomy Department since 2014. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Astronomy at Cornell University in 2012, and was a NASA Astrobiology Institute Postdoctoral fellow at Caltech from 2012-2014. Her research focuses on the history of Mars, and she and her students are part of NASA's active Curiosity and Perseverance rover teams. Specifically, she works with the Mastcam-Z cameras, which are the "scientific eyes" of the Perseverance rover. She also manages a reflectance spectroscopy laboratory facility at WWU. When she's not exploring Mars, she enjoys traveling and exploring the best planet in the solar system: Earth!



Jaganath "Jay" Sankaran is an Assistant Professor in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and a nonresident fellow in the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution. He spent the first four years of his career as a defense scientist with the Indian Missile R&D establishment. Dr. Sankaran's work in weapons design and development led to his interests in missile defenses, space weapons, nuclear weapons, military net assessment, and arms control. The current focus of his research is the growing strategic and military competition between the major powers. In particular, Dr. Sankaran studies the impact of emerging technological advances on weapons systems deployed by these states.



Dr. Sankaran has held visiting fellowships at the US Air War College, the Congressional Budget Office, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. He has served on study groups of the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) and the American Physical Society (APS) Panel on Public Affairs examining missile defenses and strategic stability. He has published in *International Security*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Asian Security*, *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, *Arms Control Today*, *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, and other outlets. His first book, "Bombing to Provoke: Rockets, Missiles, and Drones as Instruments of Fear and Coercion," is forthcoming from Oxford University Press in October 2024.

Scott A. Schumacher is an Associate Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law, where he has been a faculty member since 2001. He is also the Co-Director of the Law School's Global Business Law Institute. Prior to joining the UW faculty, he was an attorney in private practice in Seattle, Washington, and he also served as a Trial Attorney with the United States Department of Justice.



Ben Straughn is co-chair of Perkins Coie's NewSpace practice, and assists startups and early-stage companies in addressing the unique issues clients face when doing business in the space economy. Ben understands corporate financial matters, routinely counseling clients on angel and venture capital transactions. His clients span industries in which intellectual property is a key component, including space, software and SaaS, consumer packaged goods; food and beverage; gaming, e-commerce, cloud migration, and artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML).



Tarah Wheeler is an information security executive, social scientist in the area of international conflict, author, and poker player. She is CEO of the cybersecurity compliance company Red Queen Dynamics.

Tarah serves as the Senior Fellow for Global Cyber Policy at Council on Foreign Relations and was elected to Life Membership at CFR in 2023. She is a member of the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Board of Directors, an IANS Research faculty member, and a Foreign Policy contributor on cyber warfare. She has been a US/UK Fulbright Scholar in Cyber Security and Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict at the University of Oxford, the Brookings Institution's contributing cybersecurity editor, a Cyber Project Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and an International Security Fellow at New America leading a new international cybersecurity capacity building project with the Hewlett Foundation's Cyber Initiative.



She is the author of the best-selling *Women In Tech: Take Your Career to The Next Level With Practical Advice And Inspiring Stories*. She has spoken and testified on information security at the United States Senate, European Union, at the Malaysian Securities Commission, at Los Alamos National Laboratory, for Foreign Policy, the OECD and FTC, at universities such as Stanford, American, West Point, and Oxford, and multiple governmental and industry conferences. She has been an inaugural contributing cybersecurity expert for the Washington Post, Head of Offensive Security & Technical Data Privacy at Splunk & Senior Director of Engineering and Principal Security Advocate at Symantec Website Security. She has led projects at Microsoft Game Studios (Halo and Lips) and architected systems at encrypted mobile communications firm Silent Circle. She has four cashes and \$6110 in lifetime earnings in the World Series of Poker.