SDS 2025 Information Booklet

Hosted by SPACE LDP (UW Law) and SPDR (UW JSIS)

Welcome to the Space Diplomacy Symposium 2025!

We are excited to welcome you to the University of Washington for a day of reflection on diplomacy with some of the world's premier experts and practitioners across the fields of space law and security, international affairs, and space medicine and bioethics.

As the numbers and types of space actors increase, the importance of diplomacy will increase in maintaining cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the space domain. The aim of the annual Space Diplomacy Symposium (SDS) is to situate diplomacy in the traditional categories of civilian, commercial and military space activities across all regions of the world.

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Sponsors

A very special thanks to the sponsors of this year's event:

Event Information

November 7, 2025

Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall
University of Washington
4069 Spokane Ln NE, Seattle, WA 98105

You can access the SDS 2025 Website and Registration here: https://www.law.uw.edu/academics/programs/gbli/space-ldp/space-diplomacy-symposium/2025

Directions

The Walker Ames Room is located on the second floor of Kane Hall. Kane Hall is the large concrete and brick building located at the North East corner of Red Square.

Parking

Parking can be found at a number of lots on the University of Washington Campus. The Central Plaza Garage is the closest to the event, but any parking garage on campus is within walking distance.

More parking information can be found here: https://transportation.uw.edu/park/visitor

Public Transportation

The University of Washington is easily accessible by Seattle's train system called the Link Light Rail. The closest station is "University District" which is a short walk from the venue.

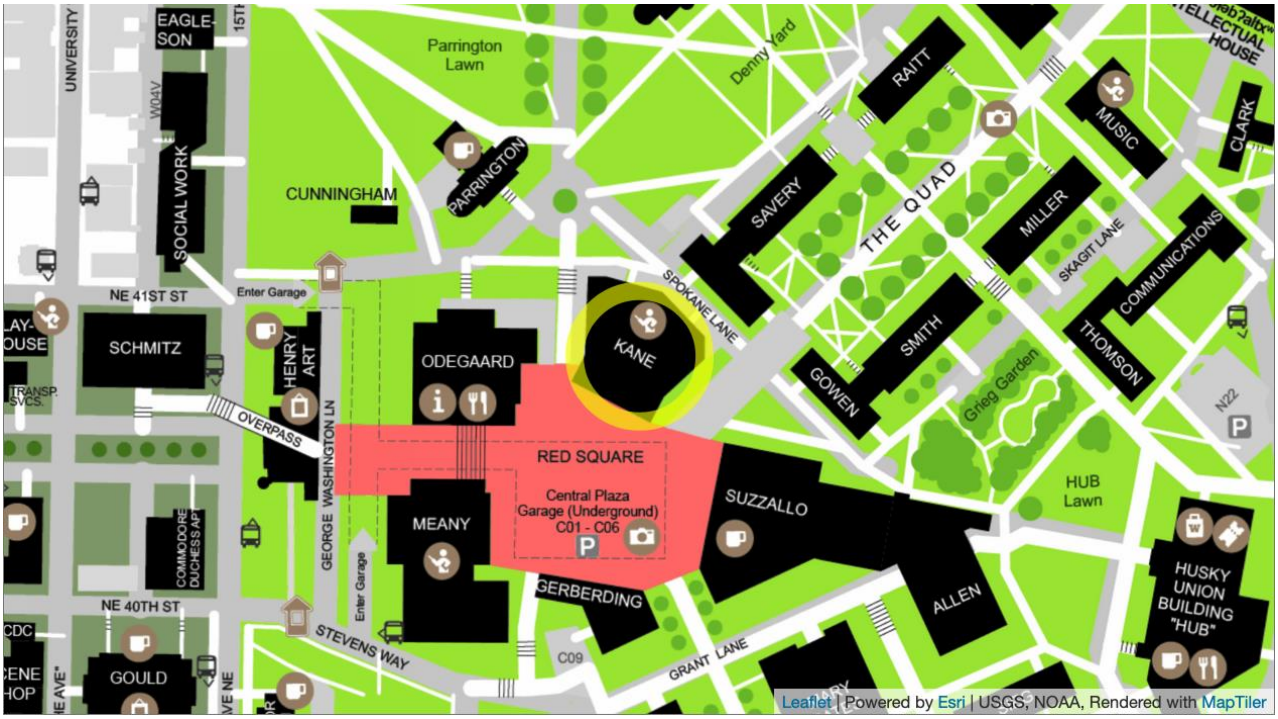
A number of bus routes also come through the University of Washington Campus.

Nearby Hotels (Walkable to Kane Hall, UW)
This list is provided for convenience only and does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the University of Washington.

College Inn Hotel – 4000 University Way NE (0.2 miles, ~4-minute walk
Graduate Seattle – 4507 Brooklyn Ave NE (0.6 miles, ~10-minute walk)
Residence Inn by Marriott – 4501 12th Ave NE (0.4 miles, ~8-minute walk)

University Inn – 4140 Roosevelt Way NE (0.5 miles, ~10-minute walk)
Watertown Hotel – 4242 Roosevelt Way NE (0.6 miles, ~12-minute walk)
Silver Cloud Inn – 5036 25th Ave NE (1.0 mile, ~18-minute walk)

Campus Map



Program

8:15 a.m. **Registration; Coffee and tea**

9–9:10 a.m. **Welcome**

Saadia M. Pekkanen — Job and Gertrud Tamaki Endowed Professor, The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies (JSIS), University of Washington (UW); Member, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)
Scott Schumacher — Professor of Law; Co-Director, Global Business Law Institute (GBLI); Associate Dean, UW School of Law

9:15–9:45 a.m.
Principal Keynote: Diplomacy in the World Order

The purpose of this segment is to offer broad reflections on the role, practice and relevance of diplomacy in the international relations of space. The speaker will raise public awareness of essential topics in the space domain in which diplomacy will be necessary to pursue opportunities and resolve differences in the peaceful interests of all.

Presider: Saadia M. Pekkanen, SPACE LDP, UW School of Law; SPDR, Jackson School, University of Washington; Member, CFR

Keynote: Esther Brimmer, James H. Binger Senior Fellow in Global Governance, CFR; former Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs

9:45–9:55 a.m.
Break

10–11:15 a.m.
Military Space Diplomacy

The purpose of this segment is to showcase allied diplomatic initiatives for peace in, through, and at the nexus of space and the principal challenges these efforts face from the tactical to the strategic level. For SDS 2025, one key theme will be the challenges for space as it intersects with other technology frontiers such as cybersecurity.

Presider: Jessica L. Beyer — Assistant Teaching Professor; Lead Cybersecurity Initiative, JSIS, UW

Panelists:
Graham Calladine — Chief Executive Officer, Questor Inc.

Setsuko Aoki — Professor, Chiba Institute of Technology; Member, Committee on National Space Policy (CNSP), Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

Corey Trusty — Col. United States Space Force; Military Fellow, CFR

Greg Miller — Dean of Space Education for the United States Space Force; Professor of Military and Security Studies, Air University; Adjunct Professor, SAIS-Johns Hopkins

11:15–11:25 a.m.
Break

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Civil Space Diplomacy

The purpose of this segment is to highlight how and why actors across all regions of the world are forging diplomatic pathways to sustain space exploration, development and prosperity. For SDS 2025, one key theme will be the challenges for global space governance from the rise of mega constellations.

Presider: James R. A. Davenport — Research Assistant Professor, Department of Astronomy; Director, Institute for Data Intensive Research in Astrophysics & Cosmology (DiRAC), UW

Panelists:
Francisco Del Canto Viterale — Assistant Professor, University of North Dakota; Research Associate, Institute of Science and Technology Studies, University of Salamanca, Spain

Amber Charlesworth — Public Policy, Project Kuiper, Amazon; former Director of International Space Council, United States National Space Council

Greg Hellbourg — Staff Scientist and Spectrum Manager, Caltech

Benjamin Schmitt — Senior Fellow, University of Pennsylvania; Affiliate, Center for Astrophysics, Harvard & Smithsonian; Term Member, CFR

12:45–1:30 p.m.
Lunch Break

1:45–3 p.m.
Commercial Space Diplomacy

The purpose of this segment is to assess the ways diplomacy opens opportunities in the global space economy for private actors and can be positioned to resolve commercial, legal and policy challenges across sovereign borders. For SDS 2025, one key theme will be the medical and biological challenges for sustaining humanity in space.

Presider: Amy Hinterberger — Associate Professor; Chair, Department of Bioethics and Humanities, UW Medicine

Panelists:
Rebecca Connolly — Chairperson, Space Law Council of Australia and New Zealand; Chief Executive Officer, SPACECyT Institute; Adjunct Senior Lecturer, Law School, University of Sydney

Kristi Morgansen — Boeing-Egtvedt Endowed Professor; Director, Washington NASA Space Grant Consortium; Chair, William E. Boeing Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, UW

Alexandra Stankovic — Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School; Director, Human Performance Laboratory; Executive Director, Center for Space Medicine Research, Massachusetts General Hospital

Crystal Pryor — Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, aXXelerate; Chief Research Officer, Trade Strategic; former Vice President and Director of Research, Pacific Forum

3–3:15 p.m.
Break

3:15–3:30 p.m.
Reflections and Takeaways

The purpose of this segment is to offer broad reflections and takeaways from SDS 2025 on the future trajectory of diplomacy in the international relations of space. Drawing on the dialogues from SDS 2025, the speakers will raise public awareness of where and how diplomacy will remain essential to building, securing, and advancing human activities in space.

Presider: Saadia M. Pekkanen, SPACE LDP, UW School of Law; SPDR, Jackson School, University of Washington

Panelists:

P.J. Blount — As Assistant Professor of Space Law, Durham University's Space Research Centre; Executive Secretary of the International Institute of Space Law

3:30–5:30 p.m. **Reception**

6 p.m. **Adjournment**

Speaker Biographies

Setsuko Aoki is a Professor of the Chiba Institute of Technology, Japan and Professor Emerita of Keio University, Japan. She is a specialist in public international law especially in space law, arms control and export control. She obtained a Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) from McGill University, Montreal, Canada in 1993. She is a member of the Committee on National Space Policy (CNSP), Cabinet Office of Japan from 2012-2022 and 2024 up to the present. She is a member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) (vice president 2017- 2023), International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) (since 2013) and International Law Association (ILA) (member of Space Law Committee) (since 2008). She was awarded Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon (awarded for space law achievement) in April 2025.

Jessica L. Beyer is an Assistant Teaching Professor at the University of Washington in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies and a lead of the Jackson School's Cybersecurity Initiative. Dr. Beyer's research focuses on international technology politics, online communities and politics, and dis/misinformation. She is currently working on a project focused on the types of politically significant information that spread in informal online spaces. Dr. Beyer's past research explored political mobilization emerging from highly populated online communities including posting boards and multiplayer online games and focused on actors such as Anonymous and other hacktivists, the Pirate Parties, and digital pirates.

P.J. Blount is an Assistant Professor of Space Law at Durham University. He is also a visiting scholar at Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, Thailand. Previously, he served as a Lecturer in Law at Cardiff University, an adjunct professor for the LL.M. in the Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi School of Law, 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 international space law with a focus on space security and cyberspace law and governance. He has published and presented widely on the topic of space law and has given expert

testimony on Space Traffic Management before the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Space.

Esther Brimmer is the James H. Binger senior fellow in global governance at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Brimmer's career spans government, academia, and non-governmental organization leadership. Her primary areas of interest are governance of the global commons, international organizations, and transatlantic relations. Her U.S. government service includes leading U.S. policy in international organizations as the assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs from 2009 to 2013. She also served on the policy planning staff from 1999 to 2001. At CFR she is writing a book on the need for better governance mechanisms to manage expanding human activities in outer space, and she convenes the Council of Councils, which brings together twenty-seven international affairs research organizations from twenty-four countries for policy analysis and discussion.

In her academic career, Brimmer was the J. B. and Maurice C. Shapiro professor at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. She was the first deputy director and director of research at the Center for Transatlantic Relations (CTR) at the Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies from 2001 to 2009, where she was also a member of the faculty.

From 2017 through 2022, Brimmer was executive director and CEO of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the largest nonprofit professional association dedicated to international education with around 10,000 members in over 160 countries. Brimmer has served in the private sector as a senior advisor at McLarty Associates, and earlier as an associate at McKinsey & Company. Brimmer received her bachelor's degree from Pomona College and masters and doctorate degrees in International Relations from Oxford University.

Graham Calladine is Chief Executive Officer of Questor, Inc., which solves critical software challenges such as unknown code origins, hidden vulnerabilities, license discovery and versioning, and is positioned as the essential intelligence layer for the global software supply chain. He is a security veteran who has secured and defended many fortune 500 enterprises across the world, worked for software giants and startups. He has over 25 years of experience in boxed products, cloud, distributed systems, secure

software development at Microsoft, UK Government, Snap, Space, Finance, VCs and startups. Now he spends he spends his time researching security aspects of space, satellites, OSS, LLMs and hardware.

Amber Charlesworth is the Head of Space Policy at Amazon's Project Kuiper, an initiative to launch a constellation of Low Earth Orbit satellites that will provide low-latency, high-quality broadband connectivity worldwide. She previously served as the Director for International Space Policy at the White House's National Space Council where she led efforts to generate national space policies and strategies to meet America's civil, commercial, and national security space objectives. Prior to joining the White House, Amber was the Lead Foreign Affairs Officer at the U.S. Department of State's Office of Space and Advanced Technology, where she was responsible for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in civil and commercial space activities. Amber holds a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, a J.D. from Creighton University School of Law and an LL.M. in Space, Cyber and Telecommunications Law from the University of Nebraska College of Law.

Rebecca Connolly is the CEO of the SpaceCyt Institute and is the current Chair of the Board of the Space Law Council of Australia and New Zealand. She is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer and leads the International Space Law research and teaching program at the University of Sydney Law School. Dr Connolly is the 2025 McCain Fulbright Scholar at the United States Naval Academy where she taught on Space Power and International Law. She is also a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. Dr Connolly was the Australian 2023 Thawley Scholar in International Security with a visiting research placement at both the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Lowy Institute for space policy and national security. Her research focuses on the intersection of strategy and legal governance for outer space relating to commercialization, militarization and security.

James R. A. Davenport is a Research Assistant Professor in the University of Washington's Department of Astronomy, and Associate Director of the DiRAC Institute. His research program focuses on time domain and large survey astronomy, with an emphasis on magnetically active stars from missions including Kepler, ZTF, Gaia, and TESS. He is also a leading numerous optical technosignatures/SETI projects with collaborators at Breakthrough Listen.

Gregory Hellbourg is a scientist and spectrum manager at the California Institute of Technology, working at the intersection of radio astronomy, spectrum governance, and space policy. His research focuses on protecting passive scientific services amid the expansion of satellite constellations and next-generation communications, combining technical expertise in radio frequency interference mitigation with international regulatory engagement. He contributes to the U.S. delegation in interdisciplinary initiatives with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), promoting sustainable spectrum management and the integration of scientific evidence into global space governance frameworks.

Amy Hinterberger is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Bioethics and Humanities in the School of Medicine at the University of Washington. She is a sociologist whose work explores the ethical and political dimensions of biomedicine and biotechnology. Before joining UW in 2024, she held academic positions in the UK and US, including at King's College London, the University of Warwick, Harvard University, the University of Oxford, and the University of London. She received her PhD in Sociology from the London School of Economics in 2010. She also holds affiliated appointments as an External Faculty Associate at the W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics, University of British Columbia, and as Visiting Professor in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at King's College London.

Gregory D. Miller is Dean of Space Education for the United States Space Force, Professor of Military and Security Studies at Air University, and Adjunct Professor at SAIS-Johns Hopkins University, in Washington, D.C. Previously, he served as Director of the Schriever Space Scholars program and Chair of the Department of Spacepower at the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), in Montgomery, AL. Dr. Miller received his B.A. in Political Science and History from the University of California, Los Angeles (1996), an M.A. in Security Policy Studies from the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University (1998), and an M.A. (2000) and Ph.D. (2004) in Political Science from The Ohio State University. His research interests cover a broad range of topics in the areas of international relations theory and international security (especially reputation, deterrence, and military alliances), terrorism and political violence, strategy formulation and evaluation, and the application of international relations and political violence concepts to spacepower theory.

Kristi Morgansen is the Boeing-Egtvedt Endowed Professor at the University of Washington and the Chair in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. She received a BS and a MS in Mechanical Engineering from Boston University, respectively in 1993 and 1994, an S.M. in Applied Mathematics in 1996 from Harvard University and a PhD in Engineering Sciences in 1999 from Harvard University. Professor Morgansen's research interests focus on 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.

Saadia M. Pekkanen is the Job and Gertrud Tamaki Endowed Professor of International Studies, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, and Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is Founding Director of the Space Law, Data, and Policy Program (SPACE LDP, Law School); and the Founding Director of the Program on Strategy, Policy, and Diplomacy Research (SPDR, Jackson School). 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 space security, diplomacy, and international affairs. She is an elected member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), and a lifetime member of the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR).

Crystal Pryor is Managing Director of TradeStrategic LLC, a Seattle-based research and consulting firm specializing in strategic trade and economic security. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Policy Research (CPR), University at Albany, SUNY, leading research on dual-use technology policy and export controls in Asia and globally. Dr. Pryor previously held a postdoctoral fellowship in the U.S.-Japan Program at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center. Her expertise includes Japan's security policy, dual-use technologies, and nonproliferation, with both U.S. government and commercial consulting experience.

Benjamin L. Schmitt is a senior fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, where he holds a joint academic appointment with the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy. He is also a senior fellow at Perry World House. At Penn, Schmitt focuses on the project development and field deployment of the Simons Observatory, a new set of experimental cosmology telescopes and energy support infrastructure under construction at a high-altitude site in the Atacama Desert in northern Chile. In his joint role at Penn, he also pursues research and teaching with the Kleinman Center related to European energy security, critical infrastructure protection, export controls policies, and modern sanctions regimes. At Perry World House, Schmitt focuses on national security analysis

focused on the transatlantic community and the Indo-Pacific, as well as emerging space security challenges.

Scott Schumacher is the Director of the Graduate Program in Taxation at the University of Washington. He is also the Director of the Law School's Federal Tax Clinic. He teaches courses in taxation and White Collar Crime. Prior to joining the UW law school faculty full-time 2001, he was an attorney with Chicoine & Hallett, P.S., in Seattle, where his practice focused on civil and criminal tax controversy and litigation. He also served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division and an attorney-advisor to the Hon. Arthur L. Nims, III, Chief Judge of the U.S. Tax Court. He is admitted to the bars in Washington state, the U.S. Supreme Court, and numerous federal courts.

Aleksandra Stankovic is the Founding Director of the Center for Space Medicine Research at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and is an Assistant Professor of Bioastronautics in the joint Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences & Technology. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Harvard University, a PhD in Experimental Psychology from the University of Cambridge, and a Master's degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from MIT. She completed her postdoctoral training at the NASA Johnson Space Center. Her research work supports optimal human performance in extreme environments through improved training, teaming, and cooperation between humans and technology systems.

Colonel Corey L. Trusty serves as the Military Deputy, International Affairs Space Division, at Headquarters, United States Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, Pentagon, VA. Col Trusty currently creates, advocates for, and facilitates Department of the Air Force and US Space Force space security cooperation policies and programs that advance US national security objectives through pol-mil affairs, cooperative research and development, acquisition, and foreign military sales. Col Trusty was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Bioethics from Tuskegee University and a Master's degree in Public Health from American Military University. He is a career space officer, but has diverse experience in ballistic missile early warning, space domain awareness, spacelift, space control, intelligence, cyber, nuclear deterrence operations and special operations.

Dr. Francisco Del Canto Viterale currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Space Studies in the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences at the University of North Dakota. Also, he is a Research Associate at the Institute of Science and Technology Studies at the University of Salamanca in Spain, and he serves as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Artefactos Journal of Science and Technology Studies. His core area of knowledge is Social Science, and his area of specialization is the intersection between Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) and International Relations (IR) with special emphasis on International Space Relations, Space Policy, and Space Diplomacy.

Contact

Questions about today's event?

Contact the Space Law, Data and Policy Program (SPACE LDP)

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