# SMA STRATCOM Panel Discussion: Challenges to 21st Century Deterrence (Part I)

## Speaker Biographies

Benjamin Bahney is a senior fellow at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Center for Global Security Research (CGSR) where he studies strategic competition in the 21st century in the areas of space, cyber, and advanced science and technology. His research interests include how these new areas of competition affect strategic stability, deterrence, and escalation management. Mr. Bahney has written for Foreign Affairs magazine, Foreign Policy, Lawfare, War on the Rocks, and has contributed to the opinion pages of the New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times. He was also a contributor to the volume Cross-Domain Deterrence: Strategy in an Era of Complexity published by Oxford University Press (2019).

Anna Péczeli is a post-doctoral research fellow at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She is also an affiliate at the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University, and an adjunct fellow at the Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies (CSDS) at the National University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary. Prior to joining LLNL, she worked at Stanford University: in 2018-2019 she was a visiting postdoctoral research scholar at The Europe Center (TEC), and in 2016-2017 she was a Stanton nuclear security fellow at CISAC. In Hungary, she was a senior research fellow at CSDS, an assistant lecturer at Corvinus University of Budapest, and an adjunct fellow at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs. During her PhD studies, she held a visiting research fellowship at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, and a visiting Fulbright fellowship at the Nuclear Information Project of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) in Washington, DC.

Melanie W. Sisson is a fellow in the Brookings Institution Foreign Policy program’s Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology where she researches the use of the armed forces in international politics, U.S. national security strategy, and military applications of emerging technologies. Sisson previously was vice president of analysis at Govini, an early-stage national security AI/ML technology company, and senior fellow and director of the Stimson Center Defense Strategy and Planning program. At Stimson, Sisson partnered with the Stanley Center and U.N. Office of Disarmament Affairs to address the implications for international security of military applications of AI, and published “Military Coercion and US Foreign Policy: The Use of Force Short of War” (Routledge, 2020). A former senior national security project associate with the RAND Corporation, manager of program evaluation for a non-profit mental health organization, and member of the U.S. intelligence community, Sisson earned a doctorate in political science from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a master's from the Columbia University School of International Affairs. She is a consultant to the U.S. Department of Defense, lectures regularly with universities nationwide, and is published in national media outlets and academic journals.