



Through the Eyes of Gen Z

National Security Challenges and Solutions for the 21st Century

Join the U.S. Army's Mad Scientist Initiative on **29 April 2021** as we collaborate with The College of William and Mary's [Project on International Peace and Security \(PIPS\)](#) Program to broaden our aperture on the Operational Environment (OE). Starting at **1300 EST**, we will livestream two moderated discussion panels where PIPS Research fellows will discuss the ramifications of their respective research topics on the OE and the changing character of competition, conflict, and U.S. strategy – register for the event [here](#).

1300-1400 Panel 1: Our Pacing Threats

Luke Shabro, Moderator, Deputy Director, U.S. Army Mad Scientist Initiative, Army Futures Command

Amelia Larson, Class of 2021, Majors: International Relations and Economics

Research Thesis: *The current wave of militarized Russian youth initiatives is reaching out to post-Soviet youth in ways that will challenge the U.S. and its partners.*

Nitya Labh, Class of 2022, Majors: International Relations and Economics

Research Thesis: *The effects of sea level rise on small island countries present an opportunity for China to conduct island-building and land reclamation in the Southwestern Pacific. Chinese expansion in this region raises the prospect of grey zone competition, threatening the US's forward defenses and alliances in the Pacific.*

Morgan Pincombe, Class of 2021, Major: International Relations; Minor: Public Health

Research Thesis: *Mirroring the unequal treaties of its Century of Humiliation, China imposes unequal contracts for fishing access and port infrastructure on Gulf of Guinea countries that enable overfishing, illegal fishing, and military power projection. These unequal contracts create an opportunity for the United States to engage in legal cooperation with Gulf of Guinea countries, developing a model to counter Chinese influence globally.*

1400-1405 Break

1405-1505 Panel 2: Shaping the Future with Novel Tools

Caroline Duckworth, Moderator, Class of 2021, Majors: International Relations and Data Science, Proclaimed Mad Scientist and Consultant

Lauren Boyes, Class of 2022, Major: International Relations; Minor: Economics

Research Thesis: *As climate change accelerates current rates of internal displacement and rapid urbanization, the United States has a low-cost, high-reward opportunity to develop technical assistance partnerships with environmentally vulnerable low- and middle-income countries.*

Sania Sahid, Class of 2022, Major: International Relations; Minor: Economics

Research Thesis: *Digital piracy networks present a messaging opportunity for civil society organizations. Through targeted advertisements, pre-movie trailers, and modified content aimed at previously inaccessible audiences, piracy websites can help support vulnerable populations worldwide.*

Selene Swanson, Class of 2022, Major: Government; Minor: Management & Organizational Leadership

Research Thesis: *Local governments have the opportunity to combat growing affective political polarization in the United States with the introduction of citizens' assemblies.*

1505-1510 Concluding Remarks: **Lee Grubbs**, Director, Mad Scientist Initiative and ACE Chief, G-2, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

