

## PERSONAL BIO

### Short biography (59 words):

ERIKA SIMPSON, M.A., Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Western University. She is the author of the book *NATO and the Bomb* and numerous articles and columns. In November 2015, she was awarded the Shirley Farlinger Lifetime Achievement Award for Peace Writings by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, an NGO with consultative status at the United Nations.

### Short biography with links to URLs (49 words):

Erika Simpson is an associate professor of international relations in the department of political science at Western University in London, Canada. She is author of the book, *NATO and the Bomb* and many book chapters, journal articles and opinion pieces available on [Erika Simpson's personal webpage](#)

### Short biography without links (48 words):

Dr. Erika Simpson is Associate Professor of International Relations at Western University and the author of the book *NATO and the Bomb*, and numerous scholarly articles. She is a regular columnist for Postmedia, Canada's largest newspaper chain, and serves as the Vice-President of the Canadian Peace Research Association.

### Short biography for media outlets (193 words):

Dr. Erika Simpson is Associate Professor of International Relations at Western University and the author of the book *NATO and the Bomb*, and numerous scholarly articles. She is a regular columnist for Postmedia, Canada's largest newspaper chain and a commentator on CTV National News. She serves as the Vice-President of the Canadian Peace Research Association and she is a Past Vice-Chair of the Canadian Pugwash Group, the national affiliate of the International Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. In November 2015 she was awarded the "Shirley Farlinger Lifetime Achievement Award for Peace Writings" by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, an NGO with consultative status at the UN. Most recently she served for two years as a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Grant adjudicator and she continues to serve as a Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health (CIMVH) peer reviewer. She has written for Ottawa's *Embassy Magazine*, Toronto's *Globe and Mail* and her regular column appears throughout Ontario (e.g. *The Barrie Examiner*, *The Brantford Expositor*, *Chatham Daily News*, *The Kingston-Whig Standard*, *The London Free Press*, *Owen Sound Times*, *Ottawa Sun*, *Pembroke Observer*, *Peterborough Examiner*, *Toronto Sun* and *Windsor Star*).

## **CREDENTIALS**

Professor Erika Simpson is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Western Ontario or 'Western University' in London, Ontario, Canada. Erika Simpson is an internationally-renowned scholar in International Relations, Canadian foreign and defence policy, and International Security. She has a sustained record of research excellent and productivity since she received her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in 1995 from the University of Toronto. She teaches courses on international relations, international security, global violence and Canadian foreign and defence policy.

## **ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

Degree	Year	Discipline/Field	Institution	Country
Post-doc	1995	International Relations	Carleton University	Canada
PhD	1995	International Relations	University of Toronto	Canada
Master of Philosophy	1988	International Relations	University of Toronto	Canada
Bachelor of Arts, Honours	1984	International Relations	University of Saskatchewan	Canada

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Position Held and Institution/Organization	Department/Faculty/City	Country	Period (year)
Associate Professor	Department of Political Science, Social Science Faculty, University of Western Ontario (Western University), London	Canada	2001-present
Visiting Fellow	Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia, Vancouver	Canada	2002-2004
Assistant Professor	Department of Political Science, Social Science Faculty, University of Western Ontario (Western University), London	Canada	1995-2001
Post-doc and Sessional Lecturer	Political Science, Carleton University	Canada	1994-1995
Consultant	Common Security Consultants, Hull, Quebec	Canada	1991-95

Since the 1990s, she has written and taught extensively on the following main areas of expertise:

## RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND KEYWORDS

Research Specialization	Keywords
Arms Control	deterrence, diplomacy, disarmament
Canadian Defence and Foreign policy	Canadian peacekeeping operations, peace enforcement, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), drones, Light Armoured Vehicles (LAVs), Saudi Arabia
International Relations	international relations; international relations theory; international security studies; strategic studies; liberal internationalism
Global Governance	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Treaty on the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC), NPT's Article VI
Nuclear Security	Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) and NWS (Nuclear Weapon States), nuclear materials, nuclear waste, Article IV, Article V, Article VI
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	NATO's history, nuclear strategy and purpose, Article V, NATO's Strategic Concept
Nuclear Proliferation	arms control and disarmament, nuclear waste, NPT, TPNW, nuclear postures
Terrorism	nuclear terrorism, biological and chemical warfare, nuclear non-proliferation
United Nations (UN)	UN's history, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Treaty on the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), UN peacekeeping support operations, training

## RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

She has made a number of contributions to both knowledge and practice during her 20-plus year career in these fields including the following five most significant research contributions:

### *5 most significant research contributions:*

Simpson is one of the leading thinkers on both the history and practice of nuclear deterrence and disarmament. Her early doctoral work on Canada's decision to acquire and divest itself of nuclear weapons - the only monograph published on the country's history of nuclear commitments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) – focused on leaders' evolving views on deterrence and

disarmament and established her as a prominent member of the so-called liberal internationalist school of Canadian foreign policy – an approach that combines normative, philosophical and political approaches. Her sole-authored monograph, *NATO and the Bomb* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001), remains one of the most widely cited sources on this subject, and brings together a wide variety of classified and declassified documents to analyse the Canadian leadership's changing approach to nuclear weapons between 1957 and 1991. Simpson's own contribution to the debate (aside from an authoritative book surveying the issue) was a closer examination of the belief systems and normative objections to deterrence and disarmament and the presentation of case studies of the Diefenbaker, Pearson and Trudeau governments (published in edited books). She followed this up with a systematic evaluation of the liberal internationalist philosophy of Lester B. Pearson (published in *The Journal of Canadian Studies*), and then engaged in a focused study of the merits and demerits of NATO expansion (published in *International Journal* and *Peace Research*). With a prominent Canadian Senator Douglas Roche, she then brought together over ten years some of the world's leading diplomats on nuclear disarmament – including Jonathan Granoff, Bill Kidd, David Krieger, Josef Rotblat, Sue Miller, Alyn Ware – in many panels and roundtables to examine the prospect of reaching agreement through the UN's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ('the NPT Treaty' or the NPT). Most recently, Simpson was asked to represent the prestigious Canadian Pugwash Group, the national affiliate of the International Pugwash Conferences on Science and Global Affairs at a conference on 'New Nuclear Dangers' sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Pugwash Conferences in August 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan attended by prominent diplomats including U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Building on this work on nuclear deterrence and disarmament, Simpson has become a leading voice on the NPT's 'Article VI' – a political commitment made by all heads of state and government to work toward general and complete disarmament (nuclear disarmament, conventional reductions, chemical and biological weapons conventions, and terrorism reduction). Simpson has published numerous articles and book chapters on the development of this humanitarian principle, the status of 'pre-emptive warfare', and its impact on the practice of states and international organisations (including in Afghanistan). Her 2010 book chapter presented and critiqued the United States' nuclear posture and remains one of the definitive examinations of pre-emptive force. She has also developed the first proposal (co-authored with Senator Romeo Dallaire) to denuclearize Canada's Arctic and make it into a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ). On the basis of this work, Simpson has been asked to collaborate with other researchers and diplomats developing the concept of an Arctic NWFZ – including Canadian members of parliament, the United Nation's former high-level representative for nuclear disarmament and the president of the Pugwash International Conferences.

Simpson's place as one of the most prominent scholars on disarmament globally was recognized in 2015, when the President of the Canadian Peace Research Association (CPRA) nominated her as the Vice-President, and she was awarded the Shirley Farlinger Lifetime Achievement Award for Peace Writings by the Voice of Women, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) with ECOWAS status at the UN. In her role as a longtime Director and Board member of the Canadian Pugwash Group (CPG), she served first as treasurer and then as vice-chair over twelve years when CPG sponsored many international conferences on nuclear disarmament. Pugwash Canada's reports and seminars are cited and used widely by scholars, diplomats and NGOs around the world to enhance their understanding of nuclear disarmament and to guide their work in its implementation. In her continuing role as Vice President of the CPRA and a Past Vice Chair of CPG, Simpson also guided the development of Canadian peace-related conferences, panels, roundtables and websites – tools that help Canadians understand possible risks surrounding nuclear proliferation. Her work with CPG since 2002 is used widely both within and outside the United Nations to guide analytical work on the challenges posed by NATO's nuclear doctrine ('the Strategic Concept') for Article VI and the UN's 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons ('the Prohibition Treaty' or the TPNW).

In the early 2000s, Simpson also established herself as one of the key journalistic voices on Canadian foreign policy in the wake of the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. At a pivot point in the country's history of international relations, she began to write opinion pieces (op. eds) that developed a strategic focus for Canada that included a new approach to understanding Canada's security policy – as part of a larger world community – as well as an agenda for global engagement that transcended the long-held Conservative government's focus on Canada-U.S. bilateral relations. This approach was set out in highly-circulated op eds in *The Postmedia Network*, *Embassy Magazine* and the *Hill-Times*. As the author of over fifty widely-circulated columns, as well as the invited speaker for over forty public lectures in Astana, Berlin, Halifax, Ottawa, New York City, Pugwash, Toronto, and Vienna, her influence in foreign policy was further enhanced when, in 2015 she was asked by the Department of National Defence to a one-day consultation about Canadian defence policy and in 2017, when she was asked by the Department of Global Affairs to a one-day consultation on Canadian defence and nuclear policy. Highlighting issues concerning defence, diplomacy and development in a syndicated column in *The Postmedia Network*, Canada's largest digital and hardcopy chain, she reaches approximately 2 ½ million people on a monthly basis. As a by-product of her work on Canadian foreign and defence policy, Simpson also teamed up with prominent activists, politicians, scientists and social scientists (Romeo Dallaire, Ian Fairlie, Bill Kidd, Henrik Lagerlund, Sakhi Naimpoor, Murray Thompson) to publish co-authored editorials that assess various efforts and approaches, thus providing important reference points for those general readers interested in Canada's approaches to international issues.

Simpson's most recent and high profile contribution to scholarship and public debate was through her refereed and non-refereed papers and op eds on the proposed Deep Geologic Repository (the only proposal of its kind in the world). In her publications on the topic of constructing an underground nuclear waste depository close to the shores of Lake Huron, Simpson analyses the controversy surrounding the proposal from Ontario Power Generation (OPG), and examines multilevels of government (including First Nations), NGOs and trends which are supporting or undermining the nuclear waste burial concept – both domestically and globally. In two published refereed papers, and a 20,000 word article (submitted to *International Security*), Simpson analyses the development and evolution of the debate, and examines how its impact is relevant to both state and non-state actors. This subject is now one of the central foci of her current research and she is well-known in North America as a prominent analyst of the Canadian proposal.