

AN OPEN WORLD?

THE CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE
OF NIELS BOHR'S OPEN LETTER TO
THE UNITED NATIONS OF 1950

OPEN WORLD CONFERENCE 2025

An Open World? The Contemporary Relevance of Niels Bohr's Open Letter to the United Nations of 1950

The Black Diamond, The Royal Library, Copenhagen DK

19-21 November 2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

19 November 2025

11:00 - 12:00 REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS

Welcome

12:00 - 12:20 Speech by Professor Theis Lange
Head of Department, Department of Public Health

Opening

12:20 - 12:50 Speech by David Dreyer Lassen
Rector, University of Copenhagen

Speech by government representative

Setting the Scene

- 12:50 - 13:20** **Speech by Mathilde Kimer**
Journalist and Foreign Correspondent, Danmarks Radio (DR):
Burning the Bridges
- Speech by Frank von Hippel**
Senior Research Physicist, Professor of Public and International Affairs Emeritus with Princeton's Program on Science & Global Security: **How Evgeny Velikhov's Nuclear Glasnost Facilitated the End of the Cold War Nuclear Arms Race**
- 13:20 - 13:50** **BREAK**

SESSION 1: The Legacy of Bohr's Open Letter

- 13:50 - 14:25** **Sir Peter Gluckman**
Distinguished Professor at the Liggins Institute, University of Auckland: **The science-policy nexus: the emergent challenges and opportunities for science diplomacy**
- 14:25 - 14:40** **Tomas Bohr**
Professor Emeritus of Physics, Technical University of Denmark (DTU): **The Atomic Nucleus, the War, and the Open Letter**
- 14:40 - 14:55** **Christian Joas**
Director, Niels Bohr Archive, University of Copenhagen: **Niels Bohr and the Making of the Open Letter**
- 14:55 - 15:20** **Ole Wæver**
Professor of International Relations, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen
- 15:20 - 16:00** **Klaus Mølmer**
Professor of Quantum Optics and Photonics, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen: **Open science in a closing world**
- 16:00 - 16:30** **BREAK**

SESSION 2: Legitimate Limits of Openness Today

Moderator Janus Juul Eriksen

16:30 - 17:00

Rebecca Slayton

*Associate Professor, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University: **What is “open” about the internet? Affordances, vulnerability, and power in cyberspace***

17:00 - 17:30

Michela Massimi

*Professor of Philosophy of Science in the Dept. of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh: **Science and the ideal of an open world: Philosophical reflections on Bohr’s letter to the UN***

17:30 - 18:00

Sabina Leonelli

*Professor of Philosophy and History of Science and Technology, Technical University of Munich: **Science for an Open Society: The Rational and the Humane***

18:00 - 18:30

Discussion

20 November 2025

8:30 - 9:00 **REFRESHMENTS**

SESSION 3: Data and Artificial Intelligence

Moderator Stine Lomborg

- 9:00 - 9:30** **Serge Belongie**
*Professor of Computer Science at the University of Copenhagen and Head of the Pioneer Centre for AI: **Generative AI & Magical Thinking***
- 9:30 - 10:00** **Isabelle Augenstein**
*Professor at Department of Computer Science, University of Copenhagen: **Closed AI? On the Impact of Large Language Models on Natural Language Processing Research***
- 10:00 - 10:30** **To be confirmed**
- 10:30 - 11:00** **Discussion**
- 11:00 - 11:30** **BREAK**

SESSION 4: Nuclear Threat

Moderated by Ole Wæver

- 11:30 - 12:00** **Tong Zhao**
*Senior Fellow, Nuclear Policy Program and Carnegie China, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: **How Can Openness Prevent Nuclear Catastrophe?***
- 12:00 - 12:30** **Hans Kristensen**
*Director Nuclear Information Project, Federation of American Scientists: **Challenges for nuclear transparency in an era of renewed nuclear competition.***
- 12:30 - 13:00** **Pavel Podvig**
Senior Researcher, WMD, United Nations Institute for

Disarmament Research (UNIDIR): Are nuclear weapons obsolete? Nuclear policy lessons from the Russian war against Ukraine

13:00 - 13:30 **Discussion**

13:30 - 14:45 **LUNCH**

SESSION 5: Being a young, hopeful, and open-minded scientist in an ever-closing world (DUA)

Moderated by Casper Andersen

14:45 – 15:15 **Keynote by:**

Casper Andersen

Professor, School of Culture and Society, Aarhus University

International Science Contested – A Generational Challenge

15:15 - 16:30 **Panel Debate with:**

Birgitte Pristed

Associate Professor, School of Culture and Society - Russian and Balkan Studies, Aarhus University

Anja Simonsen

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen

Janus Juul Eriksen

Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Technical University of Denmark (DTU)

Morten Kjærgaard

Associate Professor, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen

17:00 – 18:30 **CONFERENCE RECEPTION**

21 November 2025

08:30 - 9:00 REFRESHMENTS

SESSION 6: Science and Openness

Moderator Helle Porsdam

9:00 - 9:30 Gundo Weiler
World Health Organization, Director of Special Initiative on Noncommunicable Diseases and Innovation

9:30 - 10:00 Ana María Cetto
Professor of Theoretical Physics, Instituto de Física UNAM:
Pushing the Boundary Between Openness of Science and Political Closure

10:00 – 10.30 BREAK

10:30 - 11:00 Zuoyue Wang
Professor of History, College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, Cal Poly Pomona:
Reflections on US-China Scientific Exchanges from the Cold War to the Contemporary World

11:00 – 11:30 Jahnvi Phalkey
Founding Director, Science Gallery Bengaluru

11:30 - 12:00 Discussion

12:00 - 12:30 Closing words