

Views of nuclear technology in the aftermath of Hiroshima (1945-1957):
A comparative study of Japan, the United States, and France

Conference at Stanford University
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Convened by:

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Non-technical description of the project (199 words):

This conference will initiate a collaborative project that comparatively examines the immediate responses in Japan, the United States, and France to the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Bringing together current scholarship and newly available historical materials in multiple languages and national academic communities, we seek to better understand how the bombings were experienced and addressed in the three countries, how such experiences and responses shaped the later development of nuclear technology, and what role these episodes played in the making of the postwar world. We will integrate diverse expertise – e.g., nuclear history, international security, energy politics, science policy, sociotechnical imaginaries, philosophy of science and technology – of scholars in four multidisciplinary research groups: the Program in Science, Technology, and Society and the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University; and the Center for the Study of Technology, Knowledge and Practice and the Center for Research in Medicine, Science, Health, Mental Health, and Society at Université Paris. Such new interdisciplinary historical insight into these postwar years is crucial to developing a better understanding of the subsequent nuclear history (including the 2011 Fukushima disaster) and more effective coordination of national and transnational efforts to tackle energy and security challenges.