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Problems without Passports: Transnational Threats and Security Challenges

Friday, 20 June 2025 10:45 (1h 30m)

This roundtable will explore the national security implications of "problems without passports" – former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan's term for transnational challenges that evade traditional boundaries and defy simple policy solutions. Focusing on issues like climate change, pandemics, transnational economic crime, disinformation, and threats in space and cyberspace, the discussion will examine how these complex, interconnected risks disrupt the conventional frameworks of national security. Panellists will analyse the limitations of existing security architectures in addressing such pervasive threats, highlight the need for a more adaptive and inclusive policy approach, and debate innovative, cross-sectoral strategies that draw from environmental, health, finance, psychology, and technology disciplines. In doing so, the roundtable will consider how broadening the national security agenda to integrate global and human security concerns might redefine and strengthen the UK's approach to these pressing issues. By facilitating dialogue across academic disciplines, policy sectors and perspectives, this roundtable seeks to promote a more resilient, policy-engaged understanding of security challenges that extend beyond borders, better equipping the UK to respond to an era of shared, borderless threats

Track Classification: Security Policy and Practice