**The Graduate Programs in**

**International Studies**

***Dissertation Defense***

***Explaining Nuclear Energy Pursuance: A Comparison of the United States, Germany and Japan***

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Abstract:

Energy is critical to the functioning of the global economy and seriously impacts global security as well. What factors influence the extent to which countries will pursue nuclear energy in their overall mix of energy approaches? This dissertation explores this critical question by analyzing the nuclear energy policies of the United States, Germany and Japan. Rather than citizen opposition or proximity to nuclear disasters, it seems that a country’s access to other resources through natural endowments or trading relationships offers the best explanation for nuclear energy pursuance.

Committee Members: Dr. Steve Yetiv (chair), Dr. Francis Adams and Dr. Heidi Schlipphacke

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