



# Television, Security, and Vigil:

How popular culture can (re)construct nuclear politics



# Popular Culture

“Popular culture is **both ordinary and exceptional**: ordinary in its everydayness, but exceptional in its potential to support and multiply identity, social meaning and relations of power” (Griffin, 2019: 508)

**BBC**

THE DEEPER  
YOU GO  
THE DARKER  
IT GETS

**VIGIL**

FROM THE MAKERS OF LINE OF DUTY

**A** Advanced Television

### BBC's Vigil most watched new drama in 3 years |

Vigil stars Suranne Jones, Rose Leslie, Shaun Evans, Paterson Joseph and Martin Compston. The series is available in full on BBC iPlayer.

1 month ago



**m** Daily Mail

### BBC's Vigil is named the most-viewed new drama in three years

BBC's Vigil is named the most viewed new drama in three years after drawing 13.4million viewers in its first episode. By Connie Rusk For...

1 month ago



**w** Wales Online

### BBC's Vigil named most watched UK drama in last three years

BBC's Chief Content Officer, Charlotte Moore said: "Vigil kept viewers hooked as Suranne Jones took them on a thrilling journey like no other.

1 month ago



Screensho

**SPOILER  
ALERT!**

A woman in a red survival suit and helmet is suspended by a yellow hoist on the deck of a submarine. The submarine's dark hull and various equipment are visible in the background, set against a backdrop of churning blue water.

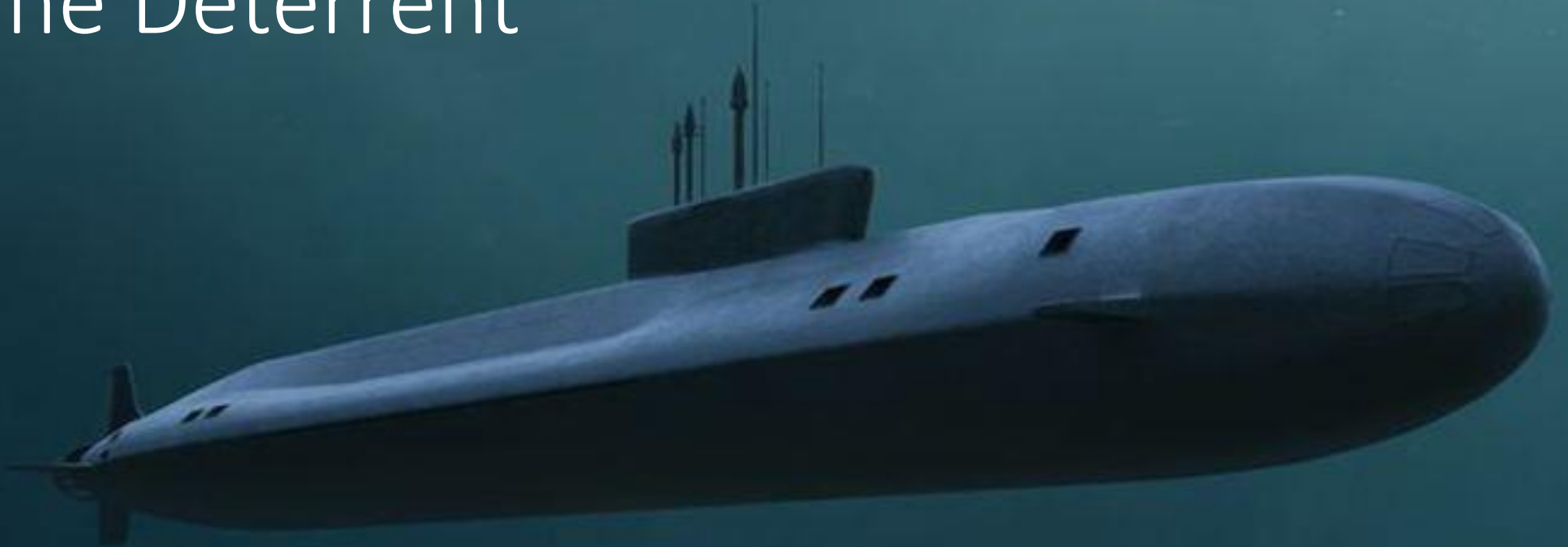
*“We’re eight women,  
140 men”*

*“Can you even begin to imagine the tactical challenge?”  
“No, no, didn’t think so”.*

*“confine her to quarters”*

Gender

# The Deterrent



“The entire nuclear deterrent rests on just three things. The first, you must have viable weapons. And second, your enemy can't ever know if you'll use them. Which is why we keep the letter of last resort in a safe, inside another safe, on board this boat. The final thing is, your enemy mustn't be able to stop you. **So you stay hidden.**”

# The Russian



A close-up of a woman's face on the left side of the frame, looking towards the right. The background is dark and textured, possibly a control panel or a futuristic environment, with a prominent red grid overlaying the lower right portion. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the woman's features against the dark background.

# Conclusion

It is important that Political Science and International Relations take fictional dramas seriously



# Recommended further reading:

- Aubrey. (1982). *Nukespeak : the media and the bomb* . Comedia.
- Bleiker. (2018). *Visual global politics* . Routledge.
- Chilton. (1985). *Language and the nuclear arms debate: nukespeak today* . Pinter.