

# **The Challenges of Nuclear Safety**

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Abstract: As shown by what happened in Fukushima in 2011, and in Chernobyl, twenty five years earlier, nuclear reactors are capable of catastrophic accidents whose effects could reach across space and time. Many proponents of nuclear energy argue that reactors can be operated safely without accidents. However, the key question is not whether it *can* be safe, but whether it *will* be safe. This talk will examine different theories of nuclear safety and the various structural and organizational factors that help answer this question.