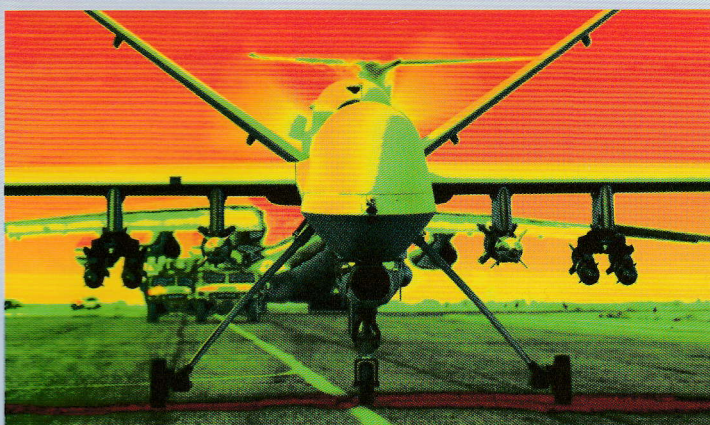


Engineering Clean Wars? Cyber Warfare and Autonomous Weapon Systems: Provocative Realities and Ethical Perspectives

In recent years, the rise of robotics and cyber technologies in warfare has given rise to a new variety of ethical questions. In the realm of military technology, these new developments are often defended as a path to more 'human' wars, including more effective combat, more durable defence, more rapid conflict resolution and less human victims. Automated fighting appears then as an effective way to achieve these goals. The removal of human fighters from the battlefield—the vision offered by fully robotic warfare—would be the most direct way to reduce casualties. However, the use of robotics and automatized war also pose very serious ethical questions. The depersonalization of warfare increases the tendency to declare war, and war risks to become uncontrollable from a human and political perspective. Therefore, with regards to international law and the long-term goals of military programs, automated warfare may create new possibilities for immorality in war, and even the threat of complete human self-destruction.

In this International Peace Day, we want to understand these developments in cyber warfare and autonomous weapon systems, and to develop an ethical and juristic reflection on these new phenomena in the military against the background of



© U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Brian Fergu

a changing scene of world politics, with old and new military powers, and with the growth of populism all over the world. The colloquium brings together world authorities from the fields of engineering, law, ethics, and theology to reflect and to have dialogue on this new and urgent topic in peace ethics for the next generations.

This colloquium is aimed at professors and bachelor and master students, students from teacher training programs, members of peace and human rights movements, aid workers, community and family workers, employees of social organizations, alumni of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, teachers, priests and other religious workers, pastoral workers, volunteers in pastoral and social movements, and other interested parties in the political, academic and military world and beyond.

Peace Day KU Leuven is an organization of the Faculty Theology and Religious Studies and Pax Christi Flanders.



KU LEUVEN



DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2020, from 09h30 till 16h30
LOCATION: Promotion Hall, KU Leuven, Naamsestraat 22, 3000 Leuven
CONTACT: didier.pollefeyt@kuleuven.be, Chairman Centre for Peace Ethics
INFO: https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/centres/centr_peace/peace-day-2020
ENTRANCE IS FREE – NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

PROGRAMME:

- 09h30: Introduction by **Johan De Tavernier**, Dean Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven Centre for Peace Ethics, KU Leuven, Belgium
- 09h35: *New Military Technologies: Science or Science Fiction?*, by **Daniel Fiott**, Institute for European Studies, Free University Brussels, Belgium
- 10h20: *Cyberwar and Security*, by **Bart Preneel**, Department of Electrical Engineering, KU Leuven, Belgium
- 11h05: Respondent: **Martin Meganck**, Faculty of Engineering Technology, KU Leuven, Belgium
- 11h15: Coffee break
- 11h35: *Autonomous Weapons and the Dehumanisation of Warfare*, by **Noel Sharkey**, Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield, UK
- 12h20: Respondent: **Ludo Froyen**, Faculty of Engineering Science, and Chair of the Ethics Committee for Dual Use. Military Use & Misuse of Research, KU Leuven
- 12h30: Panel discussion with the audience
- 13h00: lunch
- 14:30: *Autonomous Weapon Systems: Ethical and Theological Reflections*, by **Esther D. Reed**, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Exeter, UK
- 15h15: Respondent: **Dominique Lambert**, Département de Philosophie, Université de Namur, Belgium
- 15h25: *Autonomous Weapons and the Laws of War: Legal and Ethical Reflections*, by **Jan Wouters**, Faculty of Law, Institute for International Law & Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium
- 16h10: Respondent: **Robin Vanderborght**, Research Group International Politics, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- 16h20: Closing Remarks by **Tom Sauer**, Research Group International Politics, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Annemarie Gielen, General director Pax Christi Flanders

PRAKTISCH