Interest Group on Peace and Security

Pre-conference Workshop

ESIL Annual Conference 2024

Posthumanism, Technology, and Peace and Security

Wednesday 4th September 2024, 15.45-18.45, Vilnius

Technological advancements have had a profound impact on the way in which international law relating to peace and security operates. Peacebuilding and security work has been furthered and supported by new technologies, supporting the deployment of humanitarian assistance and enhanced connection between those working in the field. Autonomous weaponry is arguably more targeted and effective than traditional means of warfare, raising the possibility of further protection for civilians during war. At the same time, such technologies can be deployed in a way which directly undermines the aims of international law on peace and security. Acts of terrorism can be coordinated more effectively and in a more devastating, surprising way, organised via enhanced and encrypted communications, while autonomous weapons raise the question of a potential accountability gap, where harm is caused without a clearly identifiable, and liable, actor launching the weapon. Such issues raise the question of whether the law on international peace and security has entered an era of posthumanism, in which the emphasis of the individual as civilian, as actor, and as individual on whom liability can be imposed, is no longer a key consideration. Our speakers focus on the way in which this changes our understanding of the law on peace and security.

Programme

- Zichen Ding (University of Sheffield) *Autonomy and Responsibility: the Mens Rea Standards of Command Responsibility and Accountability for Autonomous Weapons Systems*

- Denise Koecke (European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)) *Merging man and machine: A legal analysis of brain-computer interfaces in armed conflict*

- Andrea Farrés Jiménez (British Red Cross / Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge) *Mechanised judgment, impoverished judgment? The impact of the use of AI in the application of IHL*

- Dr Yahli Shereshevsky (University of Haifa) *International Human Rights Law and Meaningful Human Control*