Utrecht University

ASSER INSTITUTE
Centre for International & European Law

Who are 'humans' in military artificial intelligence?

Interdisciplinary workshop

Utrecht, 12-13 June 2025
PROGRAMME

Day 1   Thursday 12 June 2025 (16.00-18.00) – Keynote panel

Location: Johanna Hudig building (Alex Brenninkmeijer room), Achter Sint Pieter 200. Entry is also possible through the courtyard of Kromme Nieuwegracht 47E

15.30-	Registration
16.00-16.15	Introduction & welcome by the organizers
	Machiko Kanetake (Utrecht University), speaking also on behalf of Marta Bo (Asser Institute)

Keynote Panel

16.15-17:30	Ingvild Bode (University of Southern Denmark)
	Jessica Dorsey (Utrecht University)
	Lauren Gould (Utrecht University)
17.30-18:00	Discussions

Day 2   Friday 13 June 2025 (10.00-17.00) – Workshop

Location: Janskerkhof 15A, Room 2.02

09.30-	Registration

Panel 1 Assumptions about 'humans' (to be) involved in control

10.00-12.00	Henning Lahmann (Leiden University)
	The Patterns of Life of Actual Humans
	Rupert Barrett-Taylor (Alan Turing Institute)
	Process Management, Technology and Meaningful Control over Warfare

Qiaochu Zhang (University of Southern Denmark)
Who are 'Humans'? Unpacking Chinese Understandings of Human Agency in AI-enabled Military Systems

Marc Steen (TNO) and Nick Johnston (TU Delft)
Human-Centric AI in Military Operations: A Virtue Ethics Approach

12.00-13.00   Lunch break

Panel 2 Deconstructing dichotomy and hierarchy in discourse and practice

13.00-15.00   Anna Nadibaidze (University of Southern Denmark), Ingvild Bode (University of Southern Denmark) & Alexander Blanchard (SIPRI)
Control and Human Agency in the Debate on Military Applications of AI: The Politics of Concepts

Anna Zimmermann (University of Vienna)
(Hu)Man in the Loop: Gender Biases in Military AI

Arthur Gwagwa (Utrecht University) & Thomas Mollema (Highberg)
Identifying Epistemic Silencing in the LAWS Discourse and the Urgent Need for a New Framework for Epistemic Inclusion

Zaeem Hassan Mehmood (Greenwich University)
AI and Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific: Examining the Human Factor in Algorithmic Decision-Making

15.00-15.30   Coffee break

Panel 3 Processes and effectiveness of contestations and reform

15.30-17.00   Roberto J. González (San José State University)
Silicon Valley's Conscientious Objectors: Tech Employee Protests and the Militarization of AI

Nori Katagiri (Saint Louis University)
Human Response to the Politics of Project Maven

Larissa Furtwengler (Airspace Tribunal)
"When the Sky is Not Safe, No Other Place is Safe" -The Case for a New Human Right to Live Without Physical or Psychological Threat from Above

17:00-   Drinks

About the organisers

This workshop is co-organised by Utrecht University and Asser Institute. The event is supported by: Utrecht University's focus area on 'Governing the Digital Society'; the 'Realities of Algorithmic Warfare' (RAW) project under the research platform Contesting Governance; the Asser Institute's DILEMA project (Designing International Law and Ethics into Military Artificial Intelligence); and Utrecht University's Research Platform on Peace, Security, and Human Rights.