

Robotic Weapons Control Symposium
Pace University New York City – 5 June 2013

Location:

Student Union Room – One Pace Plaza, New York, NY 10038

Organizer:

Dr. Matthew Bolton, Assistant Professor of Political Science, mbolton@pace.edu

Student Assistants:

Cayman Mitchell

Cassandra Stimpson

Overview:

The purpose of this symposium is to bring together a small but interdisciplinary and diverse group of scholars from inside and outside the Pace University community to discuss the political and ethical implications of the growing use of robots in war, from bomb disposal robots to drones to the emerging class of fully autonomous weapons. The symposium will explore the following key questions:

- *What are the ways that robotics is changing weapons technology?*
- *What will be the military, political, ethical and humanitarian impacts of the growing roboticization of warfare?*
- *What, if any, legal and normative restrictions should be placed on armed robots?*

The symposium is organized by the Political Science Department, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Pace University New York City. It is funded by a Thinkfinity Grant from Verizon Foundation, in partnership with Pace University's Center for Teaching Learning and Technology.

Provisional Program (To be finalized):

| Time | Activity | Participants |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 8.30-9.30am | Continental Breakfast and Registration | |
| 9.30-10.00am | Welcome | Pace University Political Science Department |
| 10.00-11.15am | Robotics and Weapons Technology: An Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ethical Robotics” – Dr. Illah Nourbakhsh, Carnegie Mellon University • “AI and Autonomous Robotics at Pace” – Dr. D. Paul Benjamin, Pace University NYC (TBC) • “Why We Need to Ban Killer Robots” – Dr. Noel Sharkey, Sheffield University (via Skype) |
| 11.15-11.30am | Coffee Break | |
| 11.30am-12.45pm | Ethical Dimensions of Robotic Weapons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Human Rights and Autonomy” – Dr. Peter Asaro, The New School • “Unmanned Systems and the Frame Problem” – Dr. Michał Klincewicz, CUNY/Pace University NYC • “Critiquing the Autonomous ‘Ethical Governor’” – Cayman Mitchell, Pace University NYC |
| 12.45-1.30pm | Lunch | |
| 1.30-2.45pm | Legal Dimensions of Robotic Weapons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Human Rights Impact of Drone Warfare” – Sarah Knuckey, NYU Global Justice Clinic (TBC) • “Sow What You Reap? Targeted Killing by Drones” – Thomas McDonnell, Pace University Law School • “Responsibility, Robotics and Jewish Law” – Dr. Robert Wiener, Pace University NYC |
| 2.45-3.00pm | Coffee | |
| 3.00-4.15pm | Political Dimensions of Robotic Weapons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Military Objectives, Targeting and Strategy Making” – Dr. Heather Roff, University of Denver • “Targeted Killing and Scapegoating” – Cassandra Stimpson, Pace University NYC • “Killer Robots as Necroarchitecture” – Dr. Matthew Bolton, Pace University NYC |
| 4.15-5.15pm | Wrap-Up Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Matthew Bolton, Pace University, NYC • Dr. Heather Roff, University of Denver • Dr. Illah Nourbakhsh, Carnegie Mellon University |
| 6.00-8.00pm | Dinner at Harry’s | |

Selected Suggested Readings:

This is by no means intended to be a comprehensive bibliography, but rather a selection of readings that offer a sense of the range of debates about robotic weapons.

General Book:

Peter W. Singer. (2009) *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century*. New York, Penguin.
<http://wiredforwar.pwsinger.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=58>.

Useful Articles and Policy Documents:

- Kenneth Anderson & Matthew Waxman. (April 2012) "Law and Ethics for Robot Soldiers." <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2046375>.
- Peter Asaro. (Forthcoming 2013) "On banning autonomous weapon systems: human rights, automation, and the dehumanization of lethal decision-making." *International Review of the Red Cross*.
<<http://peterasaro.org/writing/Asaro%20IRRC%20Proof.pdf>>.
- Christof Heyns. (9 April 2013) Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns. A/HRC/23/47.
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session23/A-HRC-23-47_en.pdf>.
- Human Rights Watch. (19 November 2012) *Losing Humanity: The Case Against Killer Robots*. Washington DC, HRW.
<<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/11/19/ban-killer-robots-it-s-too-late>>.
- Gary E. Marchant et al. (2011) "International Governance of Autonomous Military Robots." *The Columbia Science and Technology Law Review*. 12. pp. 272-315.
<<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/ai/robot-lab/online-publications/marchant-autonomous-robots-final.pdf>>.
- Lieutenant Colonel Douglas A. Pryer. (March-April 2013) "The Rise of the Machines." *Military Review*. pp. 14-24.
<http://usacac.army.mil/CAC2/MilitaryReview/Archives/English/MilitaryReview_20130430_art005.pdf>.
- Stanford International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic and NYU Global Justice Clinic. (September 2012) "Living Under Drones: Death, Injury and Trauma to Civilians from US Drone Practices in Pakistan."
<<http://www.livingunderdrones.org/download-report/>>.
- Ryan J. Vogel. (2010) "Drone Warfare and the Law of Armed Conflict." *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*. 39. Pp. 101-138.
<<http://djilp.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/3-Vogel.pdf>>.