British
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The Politics of Human-Machine Interaction in Military Technologies

Thursday 19 June 2025 10:45 (1h 30m)

This panel aims to investigate the political impacts and constraints on the interaction of emerging technologies and human control. While the mainstreaming of generative AI, its embedding in command, control, and information analysis systems, and the recent alleged employment of increasingly autonomous targeting processes in Ukraine and Gaza have brought to the fore debates concerning the proliferation of lethal autonomous weapons, we contend that the political changes entailed by these technologies are located in interaction of technological processes and human politics, decision-making, and experience, rather than in the technologies themselves. Consequently, we emphasise the contingent role of human-technology interaction in shaping international security, and examine how these processes of interaction shape and are shaped by emerging technologies.

The presentations on this panel deliberately adopt a plurality of perspectives, scales, and technological manifestations, from discourses of lethal autonomy to great power competition, via remote control weaponry and the making of human experience. Through this plurality, this panel will seek to capture the variety of forms human-technology interaction takes, and address the multiple directions through which security actors respond to new technological manifestations.

Membership

Track Classification: War Studies Working Group