British International Studies Association

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Regulating Threats through Artificial Intelligence: Transformations in Governance and Security

Friday, 20 June 2025 16:45 (1h 30m)

This panel explores the expanding role of AI and other advanced technologies in managing insecurities across diverse domains, from health and migration to finance and social services. As states and institutions increasingly rely on algorithms to address issues like antimicrobial resistance, border control, policing, and economic risk, these technologies have the potential to (re)shape governance architectures. On the one hand, AI tools promise increased efficiency and scope in the analysis of large datasets and various administrative tasks. On the other hand, widely debated risks related to accuracy, bias, and transparency, as well as implications for privileging logics of classification and quantification in contexts shaped by deep (racialized) hierarchy, cast doubt on the (ethical) use of these tools.

Panelists will discuss whether algorithmic governance inadvertently produces new forms of insecurity, as AI systems privilege certain data sources and reinforce systemic inequities under the guise of neutrality. At the same time, the panel considers how algorithms affect political agency and how algorithms and AI create new sites of contestation and resistance. By examining AI-driven practices across multiple domains, the panel critically assesses how these technological solutions shape governance and security practices, globally and locally.

Track Classification: International Studies and Emerging Technologies Working Group