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Emerging challenges in the (geo)politics of AI governance and regulation

Wednesday 3 June 2026 09:00 (1h 30m)

As the field of AI governance and regulation has become a space of (geo)political dynamics, this panel calls for investigating various frameworks to govern AI, as well as their political, legal, ethical, and other implications for international politics and security. The panel's presentations explore the shifting landscape and emerging challenges of governing AI technologies in both civilian and military domains. They highlight three particular, interconnected challenges in AI governance. The first is the increasing fragmentation and distributed nature of AI governance across actors from both the public and private sectors, such as states, international organizations, and tech companies. The second is the power dynamics forming AI governance frameworks at the national, regional, and global levels. The third is how AI governance emerges from a site of political contestation between various actors'discourses, narratives, and practices, including those related to risk perceptions, international humanitarian law, multilateralism, and ethics. By highlighting these emerging trends, the panel contributes to the ongoing theoretical conceptualization of AI governance in IR and global security. It also forms an empirical contribution by examining different states (the UK, South Korea, the US, France, China, Japan), international organizations (the EU, NATO), and the private sector (Palantir).

Track Classification: International Studies and Emerging Technologies Working Group