



## Call for Papers

EuroISME's eighth annual conference

# The Ethical Implications of Emerging Technologies in Warfare

To be held at the

## Spanish Infantry Academy in Toledo, Spain, 13-16 May 2018

The nature of warfare and conflict is changing rapidly in ways that present challenging ethical and legal dilemmas. Warfare has, of course, been in near constant change since time immemorial. The invention of the spear, siege engines, gunpowder, the musket, the repeating rifle, the machine gun, the tank and the aeroplane mark just a few of the important step changes in the evolution of warfare.

However, are we living through just another step change, or is there something radically different about what is happening now? At its 2018 spring conference in Toledo, Spain, EuroISME will look at these important issues with a particular focus on three important areas:

### 1) Technology

Whilst it is the drone (whether armed or unarmed) that has most captured the public's interest, new technology goes way beyond the 'eye in the sky'. We are fast approaching a time when autonomous or semi-autonomous weapon systems will become combat viable and artificial intelligence will move from science fiction to science fact. New technologies include more sophisticated intelligence gathering and communications monitoring, plus a whole range of emerging techniques of cyber war.

### 2) Ethical and legal considerations

The current laws of armed conflict, the Geneva Conventions and Just War Theory all make two key assumptions. Firstly, that acts are carried out as a result of human intervention – the apparatus of warfare is inanimate and can have an effect only following direct human input. Secondly, warfare is an essentially kinetic activity involving projectiles or equipment which are instruments of physical force. Thus, the current legal and ethical frameworks appear poorly suited to an era of cyber warfare, hybrid warfare, and terrorism. How deeply should we be concerned about this – both at the *ius ad bellum* level and the *ius in bello* level?

### 3) Are emerging military technologies changing the nature of the relationship between civil society and the military?

The nature of the relationship between civil society and the military is not immune from the seismic shift in how we all now interact. The way in which people relate to each other socially has been transformed through the near universal use of modern communications in general, and social media in particular.

In the past, 'war' meant armed attacks, invasions and the maintenance of large combat ready forces. This model of conflict presents real physical, political and economic risks. However, for example, cyber

propaganda, whether to seek new recruits or perhaps to influence an election, is much less risky. Fake news, from untraceable sources, can be an effective tool in moving public opinion before during and after a conflict. Von Clausewitz knew this when he identified the will of the people as one of the trinity of factors necessary for success in warfare. We now live in an age where a single news story – unverified or not – can move public opinion dramatically.

The issue is further complicated by the militarisation of police forces, the use of intelligence agency assets to engage with an enemy and targeted killings using military or other assets.

Taken together, all these issues raise the important question of how do we ensure that ethics remains relevant to modern conflict and can exercise a positive influence on it.

### **Papers/submissions/proposals for panels & round-tables**

We invite papers on any of the subjects mentioned above, although we will also welcome papers on military ethics which go beyond the subjects mentioned. Interested military officers, academics, and others, are invited to submit an abstract of no more than 450 words to [admin@euroisme.eu](mailto:admin@euroisme.eu).

*The deadline for the submission of abstracts is February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.* In the weeks thereafter, the programme committee will assess your abstract and inform you whether your abstract has been accepted. You will subsequently have sufficient time to prepare the oral presentation of your paper, which, as a general rule, is to last 20 minutes – the Q&A not included.

We also welcome proposals for round-tables or panels. If approved by the programme committee, a time-slot of 90 minutes can be made available. Proposals which involve two or more nationalities will receive particularly favourable attention.

### **Programme**

The informal part of the programme will begin on Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>, early in the evening with a walking tour through the touristic medieval streets of Toledo followed by an informal meet & greet with Spanish *tapas*. The formal part of the programme will run from Monday morning May 14<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday, lunch time, May 16<sup>th</sup>. It will include a ceremonial dinner.

### **Publication**

EuroISME intends to publish the most salient publications in a peer reviewed volume, which will be published by Martinus Nijhoff publishers, an imprint of Brill. Authors who have demonstrated the necessary level of scholarship are welcome to adapt their presentation following the conference and submit it to the editors of the volume. The Guidelines for Manuscripts can be found at [http://www.euroisme.eu/wp-content/uploads/pdf\\_EuroISME\\_Book\\_Series\\_Guide\\_for\\_manuscripts.pdf](http://www.euroisme.eu/wp-content/uploads/pdf_EuroISME_Book_Series_Guide_for_manuscripts.pdf) For further details, please contact Ms. Ivana Gošić at [admin@euroisme.eu](mailto:admin@euroisme.eu)

### **Participation and registration**

All participants must register for the conference. A registration form and further details, such as the conference fee, will be available on our website from 1 December 2017.

### **Enquiries**

For all further enquiries, please contact Ms. Ivana Gošić, [admin@euroisme.eu](mailto:admin@euroisme.eu) Please come back for updates on this website.