



Is Just War Doctrine keeping pace?

14th annual conference, at the Army War and
Leadership School, Madrid, Spain, 21-23 May

20 April 2025

Programme

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday, 20 May		
18:30-20:00 hrs	Meet & greet	Reina María Cristina room
Wednesday, 21 May		
08:30-09:00 hrs	Registration and coffee	Reina María Cristina room
09:05-09:20 hrs	Opening by Air Cdre. (ret) John Thomas, President of EuroISME	Garrido Hall
09:20-09:40 hrs	Welcoming speech by Brig.Gen. Carlos Frias, Director of the War and Leadership Army School	Garrido Hall
09:40-10:10 hrs	Inaugural address by: Prof.dr. Pieter Vos (The Netherlands), “Beyond Just War”	Garrido Hall
10:20-10:40 hrs	Coffee break	Reina María Cristina room

10:45-12:15 hrs

Session 1 with the parallel panels No. 1 to 4

Panel No. 1: The tactical influence of new technology

Noreña hall

chair: Gérard de Boisboissel (France)

- Dr. Nathan Wood (Germany), “The strategic meme reserve: partisan information fighters (NAFO) and the future of information operations”
- Koen Hogenelst, Marc Steen, Heleen Huijgen (The Netherlands), “ELSA framework for human enhancement technology; a focus on practical implementation”
- Gérard de Boisboissel (France), "The tactical influence of new technology"

Panel No. 2: Can soldier enhancement be just? [\(full panel proposal\)](#)

Director’s hall

chair: Madalyn Kehne (USA)

- Prof.dr. Michael Gross (Israel), Ryan Shandler (USA), and Prof.dr. Nicholas Evans (USA), “Enhancing soldiers for future warfare: good science; bad ethics?”
- Madalyn Kehne (USA), Prof.dr. Nicholas Evans (USA), “Super soldiers: why create them?”
- Dr. Adam Henschke (Australia), “Military institutions, responsibility, and post-enhanced veterans”

Panel No. 3: The Russo-Ukrainian war

Escaño hall

chair: Kristina Tonn (Germany)

- Gita Leitlande, PhD, (Latvia) “The Just War Principles and Russia”
- Col. (ret.) Prof.dr. Boris N. Kashnikov (Russia), “War on Ukraine. The motivation”
- Daria Chaganova (Russia), “The rhetoric of *res nullius* («No one’s property») as a problem for just war theory”

Panel No. 4: Military ethics education

Lacambra room

chair: Capt. Uwe Hildenbeutel (Germany)

- Prof.dr. Marcus Hedahl (USA), Kyle Fruh (USA), “The continued relevance of the just war tradition in military education”
- Prof.dr. Edward Barrett (USA), “How well are militaries cultivating moral character?”
- Lt.Col. Dr. Patrick Hofstetter (Switzerland), “Understanding soldier identity through the lens of group prototypicality”
- Michael Skerker (USA), “A possible solution to Aristotle’s weird, offensive, and barely coherent account of courage”

12:15-13:20 hrs

prize ceremony for the best European student’s thesis on military ethics of 2024

Garrido Hall

13:25-14:25 hrs

lunch

Batalla de Bailén Room

14:35-16:05 hrs

Session 2 with the parallel panels No. 5 to 8

Panel No. 5: Operational effectiveness suffers from a lack of openness: fostering a just and psychologically safe culture in the armed forces ([full panel proposal](#))

Garrido Hall

chair: Dr. Eva van Baarle (The Netherlands)

- Dr. Cornelia Vikan and Dr. Christian Moldjord, (Norway), “How do we foster a just culture in the Armed Forces? The case of the Norwegian Air Force”
- Dr. Stephanie K. Erwin (USA), “Psychological safety and inter-personal risk-taking in the profession of arms”
- Dr. Leonie Boskeljon-Horst, Dr. Anke Snoek and Dr. Eva van Baarle (The Netherlands), “Learning from the complexities of fostering a restorative just culture in practice within

the Royal Netherlands Air Force”

- Dr. Eva van Baarle, Jelger Spijkerboer, Amber Spijkers, Dr. Teun Eikenaar, Marsha Meijer, Dr. Anke Snoek and Dr. Leonie Boskeljon-Horst, (The Netherlands) “Fostering a just culture in the Netherlands Armed Forces through action research: An overview of achievements, challenges and moral dilemmas”

Panel No. 6: The role of AI in military education and decision-making

Director’s hall

chair: Prof.dr. Lonneke Peperkamp (The Netherlands)

- Gérard de Boisboissel (France) and Dr. Ioanna Lekea (Greece), “Practical relevance of simulators and AI for ethical military decision-making: training and operational concepts”
- Milan Mor Markovics (Hungary), “Ethical horizons: the role of AI in shaping modern just war principles”
- Prof.dr. Christian Enemark (UK), “Anthropomorphic warbots and artificial humanity”

No. 7: Round Table: The chaplaincy in hybrid and potential high-intensity combat operations

Escaño hall

chair: Dr. Andrea Ellner (EuroISME BoD [\(full round table proposal\)](#))

Round table with contributions from the chaplains: Helga Knecht MA (The Netherlands), Bart van Dijk PhD (The Netherlands), Prof. dr. Pieter Vos (The Netherlands), Janne Huikko BA (Finland), Dr. Janne Aalto (Finland), Rev Dr Matthew Coles (UK) and Gen. Hans de Ceuster (Belgium)

Panel No. 8: Humanitarian intervention, *Jus ad vim*

Lacambra room

chair: Dr. George Wilkes (UK)

- Dr. Christian Nikolaus Braun (UK) & Prof.dr. Daniel Brunstetter (USA), “*Jus ad Vim* and the ethics of retributive tit-for-tat strikes”
- Sofya Vasileuskaya (Russia), “The theory of just war: 35 years after the experiment of

«humanitarian intervention»”

- Wout Bisschop (The Netherlands), “A case for the legitimate authority of states in international military coalitions

16:10-16:25 hrs Tea break

Reina María Cristina room

16:30-± 18:30 hrs AGM (members only!)

Garrido Hall

NO PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING!

Thursday, 22 May

08:30-08:55 hrs coffee

Reina María Cristina room

09:00-10:20 hrs Session 3 with the parallel panels No. 9 to 12

Panel No. 9: Modern challenges facing just war theory

Noreña hall

chair: senior chaplain Stefan Gugerel (EuroISME BoD, Austria)

- Dr. Zdeněk Mikulka (Czech Republic), “An axiological perspective on just war theory: relevance for contemporary conflicts”
- Rev’d. Col. (Ret.) Timothy S. Mallard (UK), “Strategic ethical reasoning: *jus ad bellum*, ethical convergence and nation-state decisions to go to war”
- Veronika Dr. Bock (Germany), “The Oppenheimer Moment of our generation. Artificial intelligence and autonomy in military contexts considering the just war theory”
- Dr. Axel Augé, (France), “Defining the just war: what narrative can be used to maintain moral forces, to persuade combatants to take to the field and to stay there?”

Panel No. 10: Institutional ethics of military research and ethics of research with military institutions

Director's hall

chair: Dr. Adam Henschke (Australia), Prof.dr. David Whetham

As research funding is being cut across Europe, and as defence funding is being ramped up, many research institutions are facing the ethical challenge of whether they should collaborate on, and partner with, military research, and military institutions. What compounds this challenge is that that much of the research itself either does not raise concerns for ethics committees or IRBs, or they do not have the necessary expertise in defence, national security, and geopolitics to properly assess the risks that this research might raise. As such, many universities across Europe are developing policies to guide military research and collaborations with partners either engaged in military activity or who contribute to military practices. This session is intended to be an opportunity for the Euro-ISME community to discuss the challenges that they are facing in space, to share what policies their institutions are developing or have in place, and to explore what options are available for researchers and institutions moving forward.

Panel No. 11: Just peace, *jus post bellum*

Escaño hall

chair: senior chaplain Dr. Janne Aalto (Finland)

- Prof.dr. Dragan Stanar (EuroISME BoD, Serbia), “Just Peace Theory: perspectives, challenges, and perils”
- PD Dr. theol. Paul Silas Peterson (Germany), “...but peace, and good will, are best” – theories and conceptions of peace in just war doctrines of the Western tradition”
- Dr. Arseniy Kumankov (Russia), “Beyond victory: rethinking legalist paradigm”

Panel No. 12: Defending values and virtues - ethics education in the German Armed Forces ([full panel proposal](#))

Lacambra room

Chair: Capt. Uwe Hildenbeutel (Germany)

- Lt. Col. Martin Rose (Germany), “Ethical basics of German soldiers // Leadership culture and Soldatic self-understanding // importance of virtues and values for German soldiers”

- Lt. Col. Frey, “Ethical education in the Bundeswehr // Contribution to the readiness to defend”
- Cpt. Uwe Hildenbeutel, “Training material for ethical education using the example of a training board // Discussion and exchange”

10:30-10:50	Coffee break	Reina María Cristina room
11:00-11:50 hrs	Key-note address plus Q&A by Mr. Laurent Gisel, Head, Arms & Conduct of Hostilities Unit (ICRC) , on the report “International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts” (published Sept. 2024)	Garrido Hall
12:00-12:15 hrs	Group photo	courtyard
12:20-13:35 hrs	Lunch	Batalla de Bailén Room
13:40-15:10 hrs	Session 4 with the parallel panels No. 13 to 16 Panel No. 13: Technology and military ethics <i>chair: Prof.dr. Dragan Stanar (EuroISME BoD; Serbia)</i>	Noreña hall
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof.dr. Lina Vidasuskytė (Lithuania), “Technology and morality: an ethical analysis of autonomous weapons” • Dr. Maciej Zając (Poland), “Surrender to autonomous weapons’ systems - does the IHL need an update?” • Dr. Andrew Rebera (Belgium), “The crisis of confidence: AI systems and the disruption of military epistemic authority” • Col. (ret) Jean-Marc Vesco (France), “Ethics by design weapon systems: enabling the implementation of just war theory with emerging military technologies and fair and ethics-compliant EU defence business” 	

Panel No. 14: Concerned Philosophers for Peace “Realities of war, peace, and global politics in a high-tech world” ([full panel proposal](#))

Director’s hall

chair: Dr. Andrea Ellner (EuroISME BoD)

- Dr. Jennifer Kling (USA), “From Foxholes to Computer Consoles”
- Prof.dr. David K. Chan (USA), “New Wars and Just Wars”
- Major MPhil. Saulo Freire Landgraf (Brasil), “Between the Chameleon and the Moth: Just War in the 21st Century”
- Dr. Andrea Ellner (UK, EuroISME BoD), “Right authority and the authoritarian right – Three approaches to justice and legitimacy in decisions to go to war in ‘flawed democracies”

Panel No. 15: Just war tradition and the environment

Escaño hall

Chair: Dr. Farah Duquesne Weber (Belgium)

- Raisa Forster, PhD (Finland), “Ecosocial care ethics and security”
- Laura Puumala PhD, (Finland), “*Jus ad bellum* and environmental wars”
- Raisa Foster, Laura Puumala, Lt.Col. Dr. Juha Mäkinen (Finland), “Beyond Just War – A proposal for eco-social sustainability in NATO-Finland’s defense forces strategy”
- Teemu Mäki (Finland), “NATURAL PRESSURE — When we start taking other species seriously, how will the definition of war change and how will the costs of war be calculated?”

Panel No. 16: “Just war theory in global contexts: ethical concepts and practical cases”

Lacambra room

chair: Dr. Florian Demont (Switzerland)

- Dr. Charles Anthony Pfaff (USA), “Understanding Chinese views of *Jus Ad Vim*”

- Dr. Liezl Groenewald (AfroISME; South Africa), “Conceptual and substantive discontinuities in the just war theory: an African perspective”
- Benjamin Daud (Austria), Thomas Breininger (Austria), Laurenz Weselka (Austria), “The utility of Just War Theory in preventing nuclear conflicts: case studies of India/Pakistan, South Africa, and the Near East”

15:15-15:35 hrs	Tea break	Reina María Cristina room
15:40-16:15 hrs	Key note address plus Q&A by Prof. Elke Schwarz (UK), “Ethics in Peril: On the precarious state of ethics in digital war”	Garrido Hall
pause		
18:30-22:00 hrs	Reception & formal dinner	Batalla de Bailén Room

Friday, 23 May

08:30-08:55 hrs	coffee	Reina María Cristina room
09:00-10:30 hrs	Session 5 of parallel panels No. 17 to 18	
	Panel No. 17: Ethics, perceptions and narratives	Noreña hall
	<i>Chair: Dr. phil. Lic. theol.. Markus Thurau (Germany)</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magdalena M. Baran (Poland), “Narratives as tools of Just War? - ethics of old and new media and styles of war journalism” • Dr. Farah Duquesne Weber (Belgium), “From Just War to Just Narrative: ethics and legitimacy in contemporary warfare” • Prof.dr. Celestino Perez jr (USA), “The positional problem in civil wars” 	

Panel No. 18: “Using Games to Teach Ethics to Military Professionals” ([full panel proposal](#))

Director’s hall

chair: Prof.dr. David Whetham EuroISME BoD; UK)

- Prof.dr. David Whetham, “Embedding Ethics into AI Design”
- Professor Ted Lechterman, “Teaching military ethics through immersive technology: A case study”
- 2nd Lt. Dimitrios Skretas (Greece), “Tabletop war games as tools for ethical decision-making in counter-terrorism. The case of covert pursuit”

Panel No. 19: The Gaza crisis

Escaño hall

chair: Rev. Col (ret) Prof.dr. Philip McCormack (UK)

- Dr. Tzippi Gushpantz (Israel), “Bridging the gap between ethical theory and operational practice: Insights from the October 7th Failure”
- Dr. George Wilkes (UK), “Case studies and testimony to changing pressures on just war commitments: thoughts on Gaza”
- Dr. David Perry (USA), “Were mass casualties in Gaza inevitable?”
- Dr. David William Mac Gillavry (Czech Republic), “On the social psychology of ‘Jus in Bello’: modern warfare and the temptation of unjustifiable violence”

Panel 20: Theoretical perspectives of just war theory

Lacambra room

chair: Dr. Arseniy Kumankov (Russia)

- Dr. Ashley Roden-Bow (Portugal), “Bad faith and the moral equality of combatants: A Sartrean defence of revisionist Just War theory”
- Jonathan David Thompson (USA), “Doctrine of double effect and proxy warfare”

- Dr. Florian Demont (Switzerland), “Human rights, just war theorizing, and the right normative framework for *ius ante bellum*”

10:30-10:50 hrs	Coffee	Reina María Cristina room
10:50-12:00 hrs	<p>Farewell panel: Military ethics and the changing trans-Atlantic relationship</p> <p><i>This panel will focus on the changing US stance towards NATO, Ukraine and Europe in general.</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Maj.Gen. (ret) Juan Moliner Gonzalez (Spain)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof.dr. Shannon French (Inamori Institute, USA) • Col. (ret) Jean-Marc Vesco (C&V Consulting, France) • Emmanuel Jacob (EUROMIL, Belgium) • Prof.dr. Pere Vilanova (University of Barcelona, Spain) 	Garrido hall
12:00 hrs- ...	presentation by Her Excel. Mrs. Margarita Robles Fernandez, Defence for Minister of Spain (t.b.c.)	Garrido Room
...	<p>Closing comments and announcement of the 2026 conference location & dates</p> <p>by the President of EuroISME, Air Cdre.(ret) John Thomas</p>	Garrido Room