



Technology-mediated tragic decisions in military, cybersecurity, and humanitarian crises

Introduction

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Overview

Agenda

Some notes regarding the Centre for Ethics

The main idea of the workshop

Goals we want to achieve

Round of introduction

The workshop is organized by the research Network Ethics of Monitoring and Surveillance (NEMOS), University Research Priority Program Ethics, University of Zurich and obtains support by the Swiss Ministry of Defense (Armasuisse Research & Technology).



Agenda – Tuesday, October 21 – morning

- 09.00 – 10.00 General introduction into the topic of the workshop & Round of introductions, followed by a short break.
- 10.00 – 13.00 **Cybersecurity, Cyberconflict, and Cyberdefense**
(session leader: Endre Bangerter)
- **Don Howard**: Virtue in cyberconflict
 - **Marc Henauer**: Dilemmas in Cyberspace, when fighting malicious activities
 - **Mariarosaria Taddeo**: Information warfare: the ontological and regulatory gap
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch (canteen of the Botanical Institute, just around the corner)



Agenda – Tuesday, October 21 – afternoon

- 14.30 – 17.30 **Terrorism and Humanitarian Crises**
(session leader: Caroline Clarinval)
- **Seumas Miller**: Terrorism and Counter-terrorism: Ethical Issues
 - **Matthew Hunt**: Navigating ethical challenges in humanitarian crises: tragic choices, uncertainty and least-worst options
 - **Udo Wagner-Meige**: The challenges of tragic decisions in war and disaster zones for humanitarian organizations. How can technology help?
- 18.00 Dinner: Restaurant Tüfi, Dufourstrasse 154, Zürich

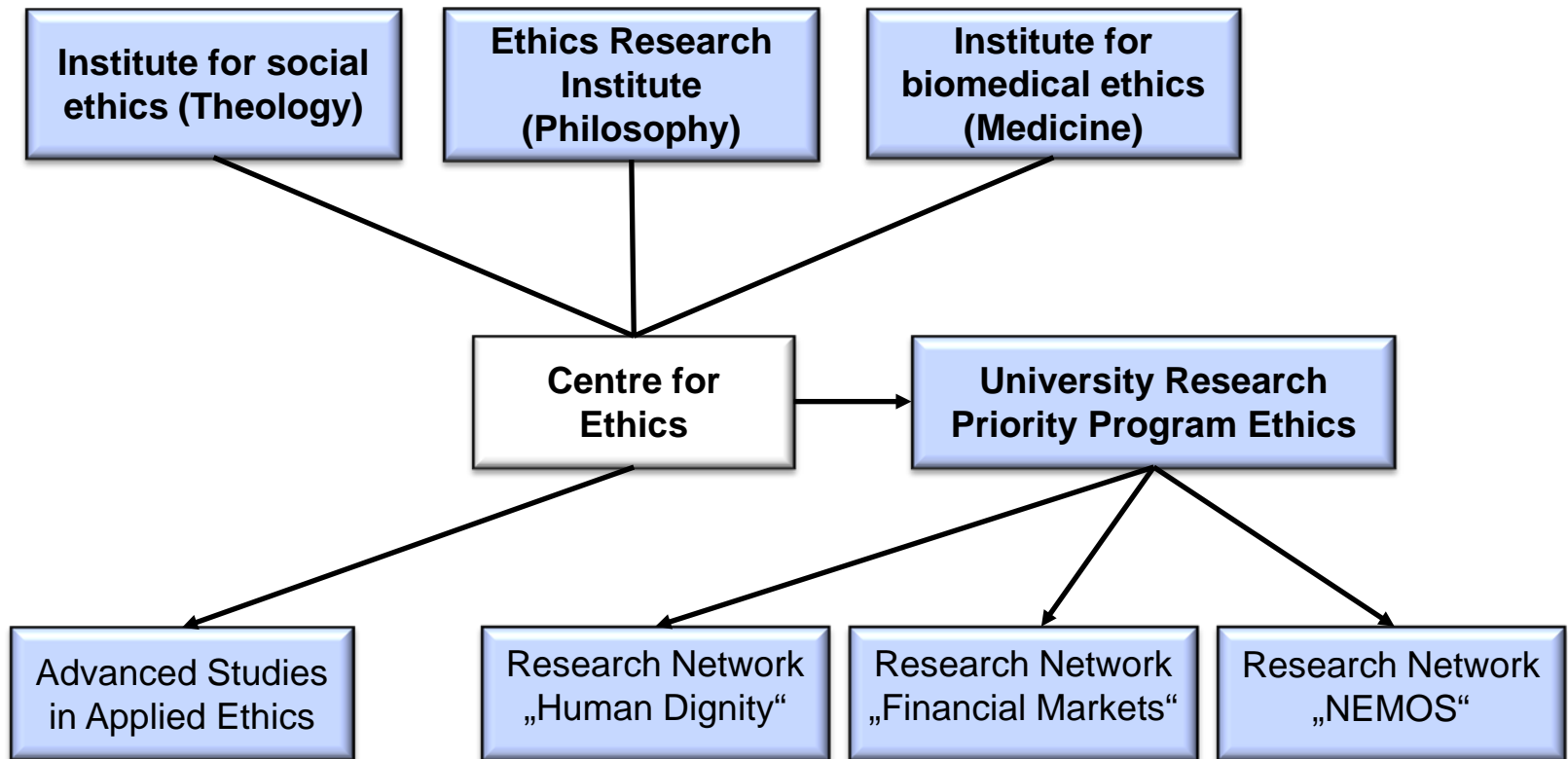


Agenda – Wednesday, October 22

- 09.00 – 13.00 **Automated and Autonomous Military Systems**
(session leader: Daniel Messelken)
- **John Sullins:** Challenges in making ethical decisions mediated by information and robotics technologies
 - **Roberta Arnold:** The legal implications of the use of autonomous systems in military operations
 - **Mike Villano:** An experimental study of decision making in operating RPAs (“Drones”)
 - **Robert H. Latiff:** The ethics of emerging weapons technologies
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch (canteen of the Botanical Institute)
- 14.30 – 16.30 **Planning Block**
Short introduction on research funding possibilities.
General discussion and conceptual set-up of research proposals on relevant topics identified in the workshop



The Centre for Ethics (founded 1995)





The Centre for Ethics: Institutes (1)

Ethics Research Institute (since 1989)

- Prof. Dr. Francis Cheneval (political philosophy)
- Prof. Dr. Christoph Halbig (general ethics)
- Prof. Dr. Peter Schaber (applied ethics)
- **Areas of specialization:** Meta-ethics; normative ethics; Justice in applied contexts (e.g. in the working environment); Respect as a core concept of ethics; property rights; global justice; virtue ethics, environmental ethics, etc.

Institute for Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine (since 2007)

- Prof. Dr. Dr. Nikola Biller-Andorno (biomedical ethics)
- **Areas of specialization:** Research ethics, clinical ethics, public health ethics, ethical issues of biomedical research and technology, health law, etc.



The Centre for Ethics: Institutes (2)

Institute for Social Ethics (since 1964)

- Prof. Dr. Richard Amesbury (theological ethics)
- **Areas of specialization:** theological ethics, foundational issues of theoretical and applied ethics, ethics and religion in the contemporary world, etc.

University Research Priority Program Ethics (since 2006)

- Prof. Dr. Markus Huppenbauer (theological ethics)
- **Areas of specialization:** Three Research Networks: “Human Dignity”, “Justice and Financial Markets”, “Ethics of Monitoring and Surveillance” & two Graduate Programs.



Network „Ethics of Monitoring and Surveillance“

The research network “Ethics of Monitoring and Surveillance” investigates moral consequences of ICT systems that record, accumulate and analyze information on human behavior to allow for specified social interventions. Such systems may be used both for monitoring, where humans (partly) agree to ICT based data collection, and surveillance, where third parties observe humans without their consent.

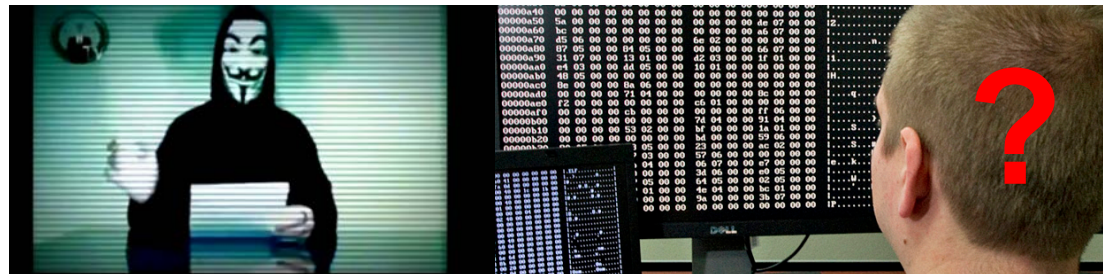
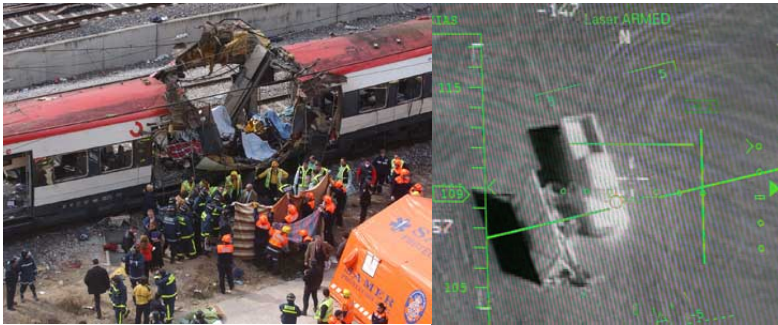
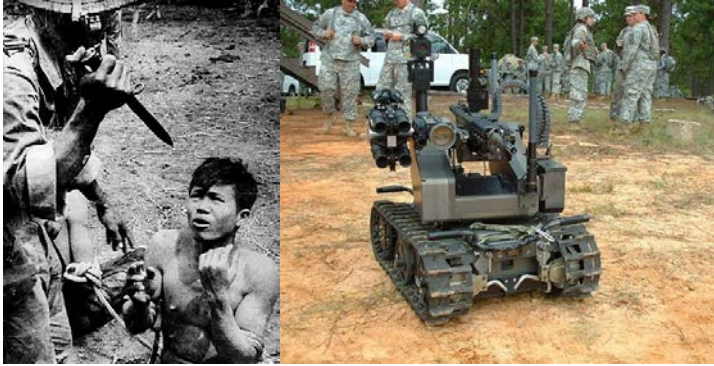
Within NEMOS, both normative questions on the legitimate use of such ICT based monitoring and surveillance systems and empirical questions regarding their impact on human moral psychology are investigated.

Current projects:

- Semi-Autonomous Surveillance and Combat Systems (start end of 2013)
- Systems for Moral Monitoring, Assessment and Training (start in 2011)
- Ethics and emerging defense technologies (start in 2015)
- Affective and effective visual displays (project partner, start in 2015)
- (Several pending proposals)



Topic of the Workshop (1)





Topic of the Workshop (2)

Operative decisions in military, cybersecurity and humanitarian crises can be of a tragic kind, i.e. it is unavoidable that important values are violated independent of the option chosen. Examples include collateral damage in military strikes, value conflicts in cyber-defense and counter-terrorism, or ethical dilemmas faced by humanitarian professionals working in humanitarian crises, disasters or areas of extreme poverty.

It is well-known that such tragic decisions are hard to make and the deciders may have coping problems. It is often stated that extrinsic factors like time shortage or incomplete information are important elements that both impede ethical decision making and cause psychological problems in the deciders after the decision made.

To avoid these caveats, more and more of these operations are technology-mediated. For example, they include visualization and decision support systems, remotely-operated systems like “drones”, or robots.



Goal of the Workshop

These developments raise the question how mediation through technological systems change the tragic character of such decisions both regarding their ethical evaluation (e.g., arguing that the involvement of technology makes tragic decisions “less tragic” in a normative sense) and their psychological impact on the deciders.

In the workshop, case studies of technology-mediated tragic decisions will be discussed both from an ethical and psychological perspective.

The goal is to evaluate relevant questions for further research and the set-up of collaborations to tackle these questions.

One part of my job is to built collaborations and write grants for addressing such questions (i.e., you are in the nice position that someone else will to a major part of the work...)



Round of Introduction

Please tell in a few words (~3 minutes) who you are and what you do.