



The transformation of war through information technology and its impact on the ethics and law of armed conflicts

The example of “drones”

**Markus Christen,
University of Zurich, URPP Ethics**



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Event-ID: 15Drones1988

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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



Agenda – Friday, November 6

- 13.00 – 14.00 Overview & Round of introductions
- 14.00 – 16.00 **The Impact of Operating “Drones”, an Insider View**
(session leader: Daniel Messelken, University of Zurich)
- **Joe Chapa:** Remotely Piloted Aircraft Ethics in Practice
 - **Wilbur Scott:** RPA Field Simulations
 - **Jim Kajdasz:** How Communication Mediums impact Force Employment Decisions
- 16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30 – 18.30 **Research Settings for Understanding “Drones”**
(session leader: Chuck Crowell, University of Notre Dame)
- **Mike Villano:** Results of a RPA Simulation Study
 - **Christopher McClernon:** RPA Behavioral Science Research
 - **Peter Lenhart:** A Remote Pilot Station for enhanced Situation Awareness

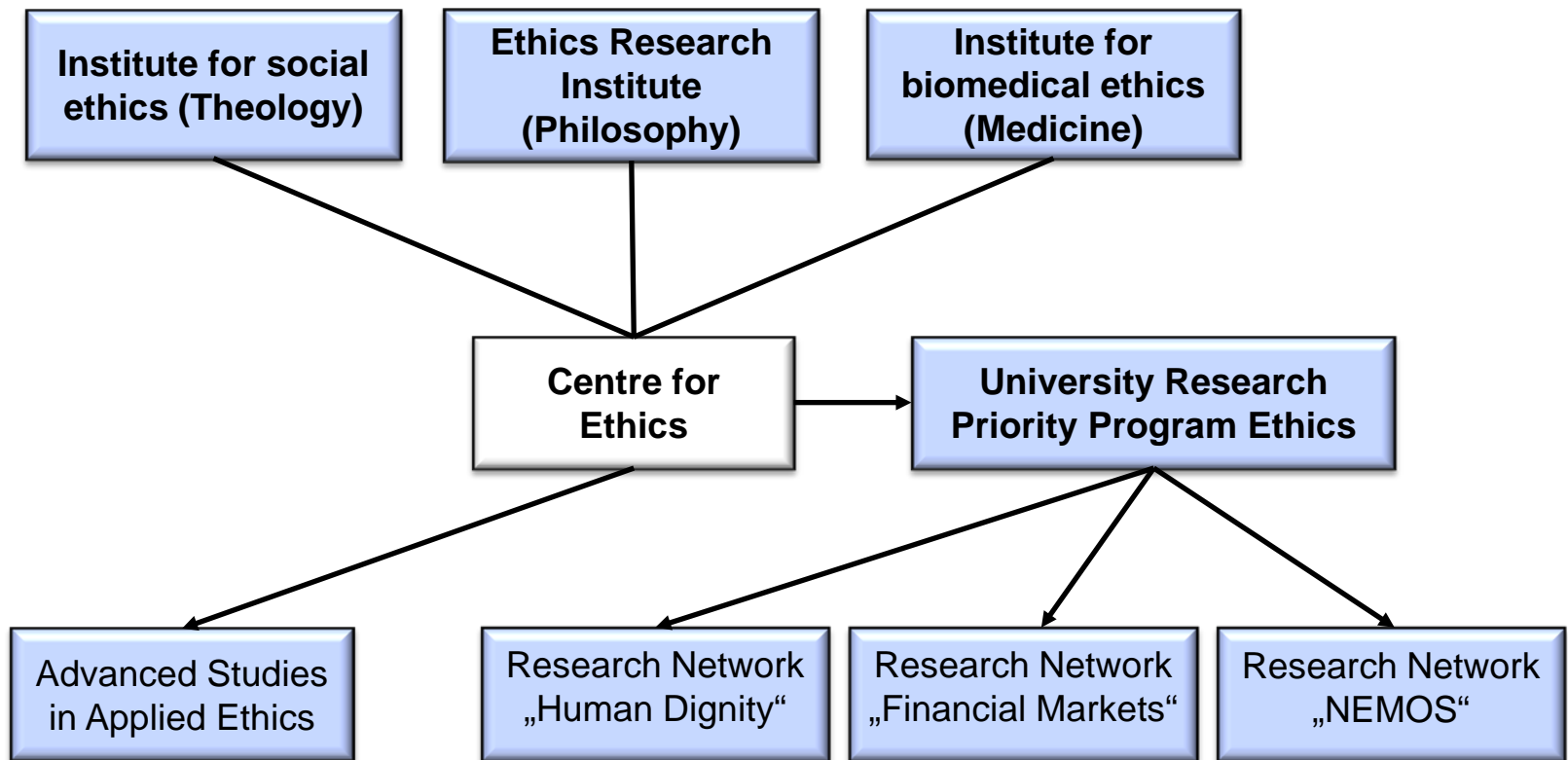


Agenda – Saturday, November 7

- 09.00 – 11.00 **“Drones” in a Broader Ethical and Legal Context**
(session leader: Florian Demont, ETH Zurich MILAK)
- **James Cook:** Remotely Respecting the Just War Theory
- **Caroline Donnellan:** Consequences of Drone Strikes
- **Neil Davison:** Increasing Autonomy in Weapon Systems
- 11.00 – 12.00 Brunch Break
- 12.00 – 14.00 **Ethics of Future Autonomous Weapons**
(session leader: Mauro Mantovani, ETH Zurich MILAK)
- **Heather Roff:** Responsibility, Liability and Lethal Autonomous Robots
- **Don Howard:** In Defense of (Virtuous) Autonomous Weapons
- **John Sullins:** Where International Humanitarian Law Ends and Ethical Design Begins
- 14.00-14.30: **Final discussion & next steps (publication & conference)**



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
- Systems for Moral Monitoring, Assessment and Training
- Ethical issues of Big Data
- Visualization in science
- (several pending projects, among others: Cybersecurity)



Topic of the Workshop

Information technology has become a decisive element in modern warfare. Most of today's weapon systems would not function without sophisticated computing power, but also planning and executing of military operations in general heavily rely on information technology.

Paradigmatic examples of the transformation of war through information technology are the use of remotely controlled systems like "drones" (remotely piloted aircrafts, or RPA) or increasing research in autonomous weapons that do not involved human control to a substantial degree.

This development may change the ethical nature of decisions made in war as well as the work of stakeholders outside of the military, in particular of humanitarian organizations like the international committee of the Red Cross. Furthermore, it has implications on the law of armed conflicts.



Goal of the Workshop

This workshop intends to analyze this development by referring to the example of remotely operated systems that increasingly involve autonomous capabilities, so-called “drones”. The experiences of armed forces gained by using such systems in various contexts (surveillance, combat), their tactical, strategical and ethical impact, as well as the legal consequences of their use will be evaluated.

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

This event is part of an initiative for setting up a workshop/conference series that regularly discusses these and related issues:

- **First Workshop: 2014**
- **Planned conference: 2017 (proposal pending)**



Round of Introduction

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