

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

April 4, 2016

International Humanitarian Law / Law of Armed Conflict: Autonomous Weapons

Robotic systems play many roles in the modern battlespace, deployed on land, in the air and on or under the sea. While some of those systems are "automatic," to date they are not "autonomous" in as much as they cannot select and engage a target on their own. Humans are still in or on the loop. However, the specter of a fully autonomous weapons system, at present mostly the realm of science fiction literature and movies, looms ever larger as nations and their militaries invest immense resources in that direction. Autonomous weapons systems raise a host of legal, ethical, moral, and policy questions. The workshop aimed at looking at some of those questions.

Facilitated by [Oren Gross](#), Irving Younger Professor of Law and Director of the Institute for International Legal and Security Studies.

- 9:00 Introductory Remarks
Dean [David Wippman](#)
[Fionnuala Ni Aolain](#), Robina Chair in Law, Public Policy, and Society and Faculty Director, Human Rights Center
- 9:15 Session I - In Defense of (Virtuous) Autonomous Weapons
[Don Howard](#), University of Notre Dame
- 10:30 Session II - Jus nascendi, Robotic Weapons and the Martens Clause
[Peter Asaro](#), The New School
- 1:00 Session III - Autonomous cyber-weapons
[Rebecca Crootof](#), Yale Law School
- 2:10 Session IV - Autonomy and the Law of Armed Conflict
[Christopher Ford](#), U.S. Naval War College
- 3:20 Session V - The International Law Response to Autonomous Weapon Systems: The Choice Between a Ban, Genuine Regulation and Doing Nothing
[Markus Wagner](#), Warwick Law School
- 4:20 Concluding Remarks