

Peter Asaro, School of Media Studies at The New School, New York, USA

Regulating Autonomous Weapons: Recent Diplomatic and Political Developments

This talk will review the recent developments in discussions on the regulation of Autonomous Weapons Systems at the United Nations, including the CCW GGE in Geneva and the General Assembly in New York. It will also consider the conclusions of the UN Secretary General's report on AWS, the recommendations of the ICRC on a legally binding instrument on AWS, and the Rolling Text of the CCW GGE Chair on potential elements of an instrument. It will also consider the significance of the recent Political Declaration on the Responsible Use of AI in the Military that has been adopted by many states. The talk will consider the progress of the previous year, where states stand on the issue, and potential next steps towards a treaty negotiation.

Ethical and Legal Approaches to the Autonomy of AI Systems *(panel discussion)*

Salient properties required for autonomous decision-making will be examined, exploring how far we are in the process of ensuring these properties in current AI systems. Moreover, the legality of Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS) will be examined, focusing on whether AWS may align with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and its principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution. Finally, the two-tiered approach to prohibiting and regulating AWS, advanced by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), will be examined. The moral foundations of the ICRC distinction between regulated versus prohibited systems will be explored, as well as the moral foundations for the specific requirements for human control in regulated systems.