

The University of Hong Kong

香 港 大 學



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

The Morality of Autonomous Weapons

The speaker explores the implications of autonomous robotic weapons, and related military weaponry, for the individual and collective moral responsibility of human beings engaged in war. Do such weapons necessarily compromise the moral responsibility of human combatants and their leaders and, if so, in what manner and to what extent? In order to answer these questions we first need serviceable theoretical descriptions of the key notions of war and military necessity, and individual and collective moral responsibility. The speaker will then turn directly to the questions arising for individual and collective moral responsibility in respect of autonomous robotic weaponry. Importantly, he provides what he refers to as the moral ramification argument. The conclusion of this argument is that it is highly improbable that moral jus in bello principles of military necessity, discrimination and proportionality could ever be programmed into robots.

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Seumas Miller is a professorial research fellow at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (an Australian Research Council Special Research Centre) at Charles Sturt University (Canberra) and 3TU Centre for Ethics and Technology at Delft University of Technology (The Hague). He is the author or coauthor of fifteen academic books, including *Terrorism and Counter-terrorism* (Blackwell, 2009), *The Moral Foundations of Social Institutions* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) and *Investigative Ethics* (Blackwell, 2014), and over 200 academic articles.

Date: 13 October, 2014 (Monday)

Time: 4:30 pm

**Venue: Room 966, The Jockey Club Tower
Centennial Campus, HKU**

Registration: <http://ppa.hku.hk/registration/33108>

(Tea & coffee will be served at 4:15 pm)

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