

Christchurch NZIIA is delighted to welcome

Amy Fletcher, PhD

Lethal Autonomous Weapons and Future Warfare



Date: 28 April 2022

Time: 3pm NZT

Zoom link:

<https://canterbury.zoom.us/j/99591180507>

Lethal autonomous weapons (LAWs) are disrupting warfare in a complex era characterised by an unsure America, an assertive China, a rising India, and an aggressive Russia. Thirty countries have called for a global ban on LAWs, citing both the humanitarian consequences of ‘robot warfare’ and the need to have a human ‘in the loop’ of any decision to use lethal force. However, the four countries noted above see autonomous weapons as crucial to geopolitical power in the 21st century. This presentation surveys the global debate on LAWs and considers the future of the 21st century warfare, in which highly sophisticated “smart” weapons are merging with a resurgence of early 20th century ways of thinking about state power

Amy Fletcher is a freelance writer and independent scholar based in the United States. Prior to returning to the USA, she achieved the rank of Associate Professor at The University of Canterbury in the Department of Political Science and International Relations. She is currently an Adjunct Research Fellow at UC and a co-investigator on a Marsden grant (RSNZ) awarded to evaluate the global debate regarding the ethics and use of lethal autonomous weapons. Her research interests include space 2.0, artificial intelligence, and disruptive technologies and their social impact. She is also pleased to be a member of the UC Artificial Intelligence Research Group