



Edited by
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**AUTONOMOUS
WEAPONS
SYSTEMS**

LAW, ETHICS, POLICY

CAMBRIDGE

Over the last four years, an intense and polemical debate has unfolded about the legality and morality of autonomous weapons systems (AWS), reaching the agenda of the States Parties to Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Should such weapons be banned or should their development and use be regulated to ensure compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law? How to do so? Who bears responsibility for their use?

This event, co-organized with the *Département de droit international public et organisation internationale* of the University of Geneva Law Faculty will discuss these questions in light of a new edited collection published by Cambridge University Press in 2016 ‘Autonomous Weapons Systems: Law, Ethics, Policy’. The volume combines contributions from roboticists, legal scholars, philosophers and sociologists of science in order to recast the debate in a manner that clarifies key areas and articulates questions for future research. Panelists will address some of the arguments raised in this book.

MODERATOR

- **Laurence Boisson de Chazournes**, Professor of International Law, University of Geneva

PANELISTS

- **Marco Sassoli**, Professor of International Law, University of Geneva and Geneva Academy
- **Nehal Bhuta**, Professor of Public International Law, European University Institute, co-editor of *Autonomous Weapons: Law, Ethics, Policy*
- **Kerstin Vignard**, Deputy to the Director and Chief of Operations, UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

ABOUT AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS (AWS)

AWS, also called ‘killer robots’, are weapons in which critical functions – such as selecting and firing at targets – are delegated to a computer system with limited human control. But even the definition of such weapons is heavily contested. Several States, including the United States, are actively exploring the creation of such weapons systems.