Call for Papers
Ethical and Legal Aspects of Autonomous Security Systems

An international conference to be held at the University of Zurich in Switzerland on May 2nd-3rd, 2019, aims to explore the ethical and legal aspects of autonomous systems in the security sector. The conference is organized by Thomas Burri (University of St. Gallen), Markus Christen, and Markus Kneer (both at the University of Zurich).

The following speakers have agreed to give keynotes at the conference: Philip Alston, New York University; Joanna Bryson, Bath University; Mary Manjikian, Robertson School of Government at Regent University; Patrick Lin, California Polytechnic State University; Robert Sparrow, Monash University; and Shannon Vallor, Santa Clara University.

We would like to invite contributions regarding the following topics:

- Ethical and legal aspects of autonomous systems in cybersecurity (both defensive and offensive) with a view to extending the scope of the above White Paper to non-embodied systems;
- The ethical and legal aspects of autonomous systems in the security sector more generally, including applications in the civil sector such as law enforcement, disaster management, humanitarian response etc.


The organizers intend to publish a selection of contributions in an edited volume with a major international publisher.

Cost: No conference fee is charged. A limited amount of travel support is available (please indicate need when submitting a paper abstract).

Contact: When submitting your paper to thomas.burri@unisg.ch please indicate “Law and ethics of autonomous systems” in the email subject line. Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you have any questions. This call is also available at the following websites: https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/activities/secsys.html and https://www.unisg.ch/en/universitaet/schools/law/aktuelles

The conference is supported by the University of St. Gallen, the Digital Society initiative of the University of Zurich, the EU Horizon 2020 project CANVAS and armasuisse Science & Technology, the technology center of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport DDPS.