

**Asser Institute Doctoral Seminar Series on
International Arms Control Law**

**Seminar Four
Arms Control and Emerging Disruptive Technologies
29-30 June 2023**

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Asser Institute Doctoral Seminar Series on International Arms Control Law provides a select number of early career researchers with insights into the current and future issues raised by arms control with perspectives from international law and related disciplines. At each seminar, academics and practitioners deliver several expert lectures on international arms control regimes, institutional and procedural frameworks for control and disarmament, international political perspectives, as well as emerging issues and trends. Additionally, the seminar provides an opportunity for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to discuss their research in the field of Arms Control to foster interdisciplinary exchange among peers in a low-stakes environment.

Topic of the Seminar

The first 2023 arms control seminar features the topic of 'Arms Control and Emerging Disruptive Technologies'. Over the last half century, states gradually developed an effective system of agreements, organizations and processes to regulate chemical, biological, nuclear and certain conventional weapons. Yet many of these existing arms control regimes are ill-equipped to deal with twentieth-first century challenges. In particular, arms control is struggling to adapt to emerging disruptive technologies. Three challenges stand out: firstly, the acceleration of innovation by industrially advanced nations and the private sector; secondly, the digitization of novel and existing weapons, platforms and systems; and thirdly, the risk of diffusion of dual-use technologies, including to non-state actors. Traditional modernization and augmentation processes cannot keep up with the rapid pace of technological change, requiring new approaches to counter future threats while still permitting technological innovation.

Seminar Programme

Location: Asser Institute (Grotius Room, Zeestraat 100)
Date: Thursday 29 June to Friday 30 June 2023
Organizers: Professor Thilo Marauhn; Thea Coventry

The seminar is structured around four lectures. The first lecture will provide an overview of how emerging disruptive technologies are undermining existing arms control regimes. Followed by three further lectures on the topics of: 1) managing risk from dual use biotechnologies; 2) autonomous weapons systems and international humanitarian law; and 3) export controls and the digitization of dual use technologies. After the lectures, the participants will engage in a roundtable discussion about their research topics, guided by Asser Institute researchers. During the roundtable session, the participating doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers have the option to give individual 15-minute formal presentations on their research.

Participation in the workshop is extended to approximately 10 doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers who are currently conducting research in arms control, whether from legal, historical, political or theoretical perspectives. Please email Thea Coventry (t.coventry@asser.nl) to apply for the event by Friday 16 June 2023, including your position, university affiliation and area of research. Participants wishing to present their research should additionally submit a short abstract on their presentation topic by email to Thea Coventry by Friday 23 June 2022. Acceptance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendance is in-person.

Timeline

16 June 2023	Deadline for registration
23 June 2022	Submission of abstracts for roundtable
29-30 June 2022	Emerging Disruptive Technologies Doctoral Seminar

Programme Schedule

Day 1: Thursday 29 June
9:30-10:00 Words of Welcome
Opening and round of introductions

Morning Session 10.00 to 12.30

10.00-11.00 Researcher Roundtable
 Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researcher Presentations
11.00-11.30 Coffee/Tea Break
11.30-12.30 Researcher Roundtable
 Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researcher Presentations
12:30-13:30 Lunch

Afternoon Session 13:30 to 17:00

13:30-15:00 Arms Control and Emerging Disruptive Technologies
 Discussion
 Michal Onderco (*Professor of International Relations, Erasmus University Rotterdam*)
15:00-15:30 Coffee/Tea Break
15.30-17:00 Managing Risk from Dual Use Biotechnologies
 Discussion
 Brett Edwards (*Senior Lecturer, University of Bath*)

Evening Drinks 17.00 to 18.30

Day 2: Friday 30 June 2023

Morning Session 9.30 to 13.00

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| 9.30-11.00 | Export Controls and the Digitization of Dual Use Technologies
Discussion
Machiko Kanetake (<i>Associate Professor of Public International Law, Utrecht University</i>) |
| 11.00-11.30 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 11.30-13.00 | International Humanitarian Law and the Use of AI in Military Operations
Discussion
Henning Lahmann (<i>Assistant Professor in International Law and Digital Technologies, Leiden University</i>) |
| 13.00-14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00-15.00 | Researcher Roundtable
Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researcher Presentations |