International Centre for Counter-Terrorism

ASSER INSTITUTE
Centre for International & European Law

[Short course] Countering hybrid threats - Enhancing (Inter)national security and resilience

Wednesday 2 December 2026 – Countering Hybrid Threats

10:00 – 10:15 **Opening and Introductions**
Dr Rumyana van Ark (Senior Researcher, Asser Institute/University of Amsterdam)

10:15 – 11:30 **The (Inter)national Security Landscape: Understanding and Responding to Hybrid Threats**
Dr Kacper Rekawek (Senior Research Fellow, International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT))
Moderation: *Dr Rumyana van Ark*

11:30 – 11:45 *Coffee and tea break*

11:45 – 13:00 **Session 1A – Cybersecurity Governance in Practice: International Law and Malicious Cyber Activities**
Maria Tolppa (NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence)
Moderation: *D. Rumyana van Ark*

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 15:15 **Session 1B – Preventing and Mitigating (Non-)Military Threats**
Markus Iven (HCSS Research Fellow; Major (reserve), German Military Delegation to NATO)
Moderation: Dr Taylor Woodcock

15:15 – 15:30 *Coffee and tea break*

15:30 – 16:45 **Session 1C – Countering Hybrid Threats: Enhancing Defences and Building Long-term Resilience** (interactive roundtable discussion and participant reflection)
Pyke Polderman (Team Lead for hybrid threats and economic security in the Digital and Hybrid Threats Division of the Security Policy Department at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Moderation: *D. Rumyana van Ark*

Thursday 3 December 2026 – Enhancing Resilience

10:00 – 10:15 **Recap of Day 1**
Dr Rumyana van Ark (Senior Researcher, Asser Institute/University of Amsterdam)

10:15– 11:30 **Enhancing the Resilience of Critical Infrastructure: Border Security Management**
Dr Pierre Thévenin (Associate Research Fellow, SIPRI)
Dr Rumyana van Ark
Moderation: Dr Carl Lewis

11:30– 11:45 *Coffee and tea break*

11:45 – 13:00 **Session 2A – National Cybersecurity Governance: Strengthening Resilience against Malicious Cyber Activities by Design**
Dr Cristina del Real (Assistant Professor, Leiden University)
Moderation: Dr Carl Lewis

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 15:15 **Session 2B – Anticipating Innovation: Industry Influence and State Resilience**
Dr Taylor Woodcock (Researcher, Asser Institute/University of Amsterdam)
Moderation: *Dr Rumyana van Ark*

15:15 – 15:30 *Coffee and tea break*

15:30 – 16:45 **Session 2C – Multilateral Responses to Hybrid Threats: The Role of NATO**
Prof. Machiko Kanetake (University of Amsterdam)
Moderation: Dr Rumyana van Ark & Dr Carl Lewis

16:45 – 17:00 *Programme evaluation*

17:00 – 18:00 **Reception**

Enrol now

* *Please note that this programme is subject to change.*