

T.M.C Asser Institute Early Career Conference
on
Emerging Disruptive Technology and Arms Control
17-18 November 2025

Background

The Asser Institute Early Career Conference Series provides doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers in international law, political science and security studies with the opportunity to present their research on selected topics related to international arms control and receive feedback from experts and peers. The Conference Series additionally provides early career researchers with the opportunity to build networks within their field thereby strengthening the academic arms control community within the Netherlands and Europe.

Topic of the Conference

The second 2025 conference features the topic of 'Emerging Disruptive Technology and Arms Control'. Emerging disruptive technologies have the potential to fundamentally transform warfare and reshape strategic stability. These include novel weapon systems, such as hypersonic missiles, armed drones and autonomous weapons. They also encompass general-purpose technologies that facilitate the development or enhancement of weapons and delivery systems, such as AI, quantum computing and computer-aided design. While these technologies offer significant military advantages, existing arms control and export regimes are poorly equipped to address the security, proliferation and humanitarian risks posed by such technologies. At the same time, emerging technologies can provide tools for improving arms control verification and monitoring. The conference will explore the challenges and opportunities of emerging disruptive technologies for international arms control and international humanitarian law.

Conference Programme

Location: Asser Institute
Date: Monday 17 November to Tuesday 18 November 2025
Organizers: Professor Thilo Marauhn; Thea Coventry

At each conference, nine doctoral candidates or postdoctoral researchers will be selected to present their submitted papers and receive feedback from an expert

discussant. The conference will be divided into three separate panels with three speakers and one discussant per panel.

Participants wishing to present their research should submit a 200-word abstract on their presentation topic by email to Thea Coventry (t.coventry@asser.nl) by Monday 29 September 2025. Please include your position and university affiliation with your application. The full short conference paper (approx. 1500 words) is due by Friday 24 October 2025. The papers will be shared with the expert discussants in advance. A limited number of bursaries are available for speakers to assist with travel and accommodation, which will be awarded on a rolling basis according to the order of abstract submission. The conference is open for attendance to other early career academics and advanced master-level students.

Timeline

29 September 2025	Deadline for Abstract Submission
24 October 2025	Deadline for Submission of Papers (Speakers) Deadline for Registration (Attendees)
17-18 November 2025	Emerging Disruptive Technology and Arms Control Conference

Programme Schedule

Monday 17 November 2025

Afternoon Session 13:30 to 16:30	
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13.30-14.00	Words of Welcome <i>Opening and round of introductions</i>
14.00-16:30	Panel One

Tuesday 18 November 2025

Morning Session 10.00 to 13.30	
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10.00-12.30	Panel Two
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>

Afternoon Session 13:30 to 16.00	
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13.30-16:00	Panel Three
16.00-17.30	<i>Closing Reception</i>