



Prof. Dr. Thilo Marauhn, M. Phil.

Sommersemester 2019

## Blockseminar “Letale Autonome Waffensysteme” (LAWS)

“Autonomous Weapon Systems... are unmanned weapon systems (‘UMS’) that do not depend on human input immediately prior to or during their use. This includes two corollary elements: AWS are not specifically programmed to engage an individual object or person and have discretionary decision-making capabilities... The introduction of AWS into future combat operations, a change that is likely to be incremental, signals a development that is of a qualitatively different nature than previous technological changes... considerable discussion is warranted given the autonomous nature of such systems. Under IHL, questions concerning the ability to implement the principle of distinction or the principle of proportionality require affirmative answers before AWS can be deployed in combat operations. Similarly, deployment without sufficiently establishing responsibility mechanisms contravenes rules of IHL as well as international criminal law. Analogous questions arise in the IHRL context. Beyond these legal questions, AWS raise conceptual questions that concern neighbouring and interconnected disciplines such as ethical and political considerations.“ (Markus Wagner, Autonomous Weapon Systems, in: R. Wolfrum (ed), Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law (Heidelberg/Oxford 2016), available at [www.mpepil.com](http://www.mpepil.com))

### Topics:

1. Definition LAWS
2. Applicable legal regime
3. Arguments against LAWS
4. Requirements before deployment
5. Martens Clause and LAWS
6. Possibility of a treaty on LAWS
7. Meaningful human control
8. Development of the debate

Active participants are expected to draft an academic piece equivalent to a „Schwerpunktbereichshausarbeit“, and to present their conclusions during the seminar. All participants are required to actively engage in seminar discussions. The seminar itself will take place at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (Leibniz Institut Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung, HSFK) from 17 July until 18 July.

*Students are required to send suggestions for seminar topics, which they would like to have offered until 15 June 2019 via email to [sekretariat.marauhn@recht.uni-giessen.de](mailto:sekretariat.marauhn@recht.uni-giessen.de)*