



Australian
National
University

Coral Bell
School of Asia
Pacific Affairs

Military and Public Attitudes for Emerging Technologies on the Battlefield



Discussing AI, Automated Systems, and the Future of War Seminar Series

Do the military and public support the use of emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones, during war? Drawing from operational experience and empirical research, Dr. Paul Lushenko examines this question through four concepts – trust, bias, dehumanization, and political control – that shape how capabilities are adopted by the military, understood by the public, and integrated into decision-making. He shows that support for emerging battlefield technologies is context dependent, varying according to how and why they are used. An AI “trust paradox” reveals that individuals often endorse AI-enabled systems despite limited trust, driven by perceived benefits and expectations of human oversight. Among servicemembers, trust is conditional, shaped by mission type, precision, and control. The research also complicates claims about bias, highlighting how perceptions of targets’ identities shape attitudes, while dehumanization can either heighten or erode support. As AI-enabled warfare expands, these findings underscore the enduring importance of human judgment for perceptions of the legitimate use of force.

Speaker

Paul Lushenko, U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel & Assistant Professor at the U.S. Army War College

Chair

Professor Toni Erskine, ANU Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs

Details

12-1pm, Tue 2 June 2026, Lecture Theatre 2, Hedley Bull Building, 130 Garran Road, Acton

Register here



Project website



This seminar series is part of a research project on *Anticipating the Future of War: AI, Automated Systems, and Resort-to-Force Decision Making*, generously funded by the Australian Department of Defence, and led by Professor Toni Erskine from the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs.