**(Re-)Imagining Security: Between Science, Technology and Fiction**

Call for Papers

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Conveners:

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Abstract:

Technology, in its multiple forms, influences the shape of (in)security, violence and global politics. From ‘smart’ border systems to machine-learning algorithms for predictive policing or counterterrorism efforts, and from satellite technology for the monitoring of human rights violations, conflict or climate change, to the automated technologies that underpin targeting decisions, technology plays a key role in enacting security and war. How are expert and collective visions of technologies negotiated, (re-)imagined, and enacted? How are their technoscientific representations normalized or contested in security-making?

In recent years, the study of technology and its entanglements with science and security have become increasingly prominent within the discipline of International Relations (IR), giving rise to research on the materiality of security technology, technological agency and the relationship between humans and machines, and the performative and political effects of security devices. As many IR scholars are borrowing from insights from Science and Technology Studies (STS), the focus on technology within IR has also generated a productive research encounter between IR and STS. As part of this encounter, IR scholars have mobilized a variety of theoretical approaches and methodologies from STS, but also asked what it means to translate these insights for our study of international politics. This workshop builds on and extends this line of research by explicitly foregrounding the study of technoscientific imaginaries in relation to war and security. The concept of the imaginary has been advanced within STS to understand the discourses that frame specific, but durable understandings of science and technology, and underpin technological development or technoscientific projects, both within specific collectives of ‘experts’ and among wider publics. A focus on the technoscientific imaginaries that shape, and are shaped by, contemporary security technologies directs our focus of attention to the international politics of (non-)knowledge, which we think is a particularly productive avenue for further research at the intersection of IR and STS. It draws our attention to the violence and controversies involved in developing, testing, and *making* technologies, and in making them *circulate*. Such an approach would, finally, then, contribute to a better understanding of the coproduction of material and social dimensions of security, war and global politics, but also open a space for alternative imaginaries and knowledges, or for (re)imagining security.

We invite contributions from across the social sciences, bringing together different theoretical perspectives, backgrounds, and case studies to lay the foundations for a deeper analytical and conceptual dialogue concerning the technoscientific imaginaries of contemporary security technologies. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

* Technoscientific imaginaries and realities of designing, developing and deploying technology in security and war
* Technoscientific imaginaries and the making of expertise in international security
* The role of private actors, such as defence companies, tech companies and non-traditional defence R&D communities in the making of technoscientific imaginaries
* ‘Laboratories of security’ and the circulation of technoscientific knowledge, expertise and technology
* Technology and the politics of secrecy and obfuscation