

## **A Transatlantic Divide? Strangeness and Familiarity in European Approaches to Remote Warfare**

Following the costly counterinsurgency campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, Western states have become increasingly reluctant to deploy large numbers of their own troops as part of their military interventions abroad. They have instead focused on working 'by, with, and through' local and regional forces. We refer to this approach as Remote Warfare. Our understanding of this concept is wider than just the use of drones. It also includes the use of intelligence sharing, Private Military Security Contractors, Special Operation Forces, and Security Force Assistance to increase the strategic distance between Western militaries and the sites of their overseas military interventions.

Remote Warfare is a subject of growing academic and policy orientated debate. Considerable gaps still exist in its study, however. Existing studies of Remote Warfare remain dominated by Anglo-American perspectives. Whilst there have been some efforts to broaden this focus by examining European practices of Remote Warfare, these studies have largely focused on the use of drones. This is an oversight given the EU's role in training missions around the world - and the fact that changes in the European Defence Fund and the European Peace Facility raises serious questions about future programming. In this sense, European approaches to Remote Warfare remain 'strange' and 'unfamiliar' despite the depth of the existing study of Europe's defence and security policy.

This interdisciplinary workshop aims to address some of these gaps within this debate. It has two primary aims: (1) to further the development of Remote Warfare as a framework for studying contemporary practices of Western military intervention; and (2) to examine the 'strangeness and familiarity' of European approaches to Remote Warfare. Paper proposals no longer than **250 words** are invited around the themes listed below. Proposals are also welcomed on specific practices of Remote Warfare within the context of European states.

- **How can Remote Warfare be developed as a concept?** What is the relationship between Remote Warfare and Hybrid Warfare, Liquid Warfare, Proxy Warfare, and Surrogate Warfare? Are the debates on Remote Warfare merely 'old wine in new bottles'? If not, what is the unique scholarly and policy contribution of the debates on Remote Warfare to academics, policymakers and practitioners?
- **Are there different approaches to Remote Warfare within the transatlantic security community?** If so, what explains these differences? Is there such a thing as a European/British/American/French approach to Remote Warfare? How do these differ? How can we theorise and explain these differences?
- **How do European practices of Remote Warfare effect the experiences and practices of contemporary warfare?** Do European practices of Remote Warfare effect human security in the areas of the world where such operations are conducted? What are the consequences of Remote Warfare for communities on the ground? How does Remote Warfare shape the experiences of Western military personnel? What does the uneven experience of 'remoteness' tell us about the geographies and temporalities of warfare today, and the relationship between the military, politicians and the public?

**Proposals should be submitted electronically via the ConfTool submission system by 13/01/2020.** Questions should be sent to both of the workshop organisers Megan Karlshoej-Pedersen (Oxford Research Group) at [megan@oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk](mailto:megan@oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk) and Tom Watts (Royal Holloway, University of London) at [Thomas.Watts@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Thomas.Watts@rhul.ac.uk)

