

Imagining future war: New perspectives on military technology in an era of great power competition

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The resumption of great power competition (GPC) constitutes an important departure in global geopolitics since the end of the Cold War. It has overlapped with another important trend in world politics: an increased focus on emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs) which are widely perceived as being capable of changing the character and even nature of war. EDTs are a fertile area of study for understanding how various actors imagine, anticipate, and plan for tomorrow's wars in the context of intensifying GPC between the US, China, and Russia. As Science and Technology scholarship has demonstrated, such visions can reshape our present in profound and sometimes unexpected ways.

Sitting at the intersection of these debates, this workshop aims to map out new theoretical and empirical perspectives on military technology and imaginaries of future war. The workshop seeks contributions relating to the broad themes listed below. We welcome submissions from scholars working on a wide range of "violent" emerging and disruptive technologies including artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, robotics, nuclear weapons, bio- and neuro-technological warfare.

1. **What can the study of imaginaries contribute to the study of great power competition and military technology?** What are the strengths and weaknesses of the sociotechnical imaginaries framework for analyzing visions of EDTs and future warfare? How can we, methodologically speaking, study imaginaries, visions, and expectations of military technology? How do imaginaries or visions of EDTs manifest in discourses and practices? How do imaginaries and narratives of EDTs reinforce prevalent interests and present socio-technical power relations? How do they co-shape social order, identities, military affairs, and the governance of EDT?
2. **What can the study of military technology tell us about great power competition?** To what extent can the study of military technology provide new insights into the conceptualisation of "great powers" and how, why, and where they are "competing" amongst each other for technological leadership? How, if at all, are states using new military technologies to extend their global influence and/or contest the US led international order? Can the study of military technologies provide new insights into the changing character of GPC over time?
3. **What can the study of great power competition tell us about military technology?** Does the resumption of GPC require a rethinking of the theoretical, conceptual, and methodological assumptions which guided the study of military technology after the Cold War? Does the development of military technologies in support of GPC have different logics than the use of military technologies to support the counterterrorism and stabilisation operations which dominated IR scholarship during the 2000s? Can the study of GPC tell us anything new about the ethics, legality, human costs, and "hype" associated with various military technologies including EDTs? How may this relate to imaginaries of future war?