

Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems and Responsibility Gaps

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Abstract

Weaponized autonomous technologies are entering the scene of warfare apace, and all though the capabilities of warfare systems already by now allow for autonomous actions within restricted contexts, we have not yet witnessed these systems initiating lethal action. But this may very well change in a near future. This talk sets out to clarify issues of responsibility in human-technology relations in general as a springboard for a discussion of the implications of responsibility gaps in relation to weaponized autonomous technologies. Finally, I conclude that a warfare context requires a strong interpretation of responsibility, incompatible with the acceptance of responsibility gaps. Therefore, I argue that we ought not to delegate lethal decisions to autonomous weapon systems.