German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)  

[together with]  

Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin  

Invitation to a Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Informal Expert Meeting  

**SIDE EVENT**  

*How to define autonomy? A discussion of broad and narrow concepts*  

Tuesday, 12 April 2016  

13h15 – 14h45  

Conference Room **XXV**  

*Please join us for a sandwich and refreshments at 13h00 in front of the meeting room*  

Panelists:  

Lucy Suchman (ICRAC / Lancaster University)  
Marcel Dickow (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)  
Kelley Sayler (Center for a New American Security)  
Stephen Goose (Human Rights Watch)  

Moderator:  

Frank Sauer (ICRAC / Bundeswehr University Munich)  

The definition of autonomy is shaping up to be a decisive factor in the deliberations about a possible ban on autonomous weapon systems. Numerous concepts have been proposed so far. Academia, civil society and policy-makers have all made valuable contributions. This side event takes stock of the current state of the discussion and provides an overview over the current spectrum of proposals, from the simple and straight-forward to the detailed and complex.
Marcel Dickow, Ph.D. is head of the “International Security” division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and member of the cluster “Armament and Technology”. He is a physicist by training and also holds a master’s degree in Peace and Security Studies from the University of Hamburg. Since 2009 Dickow has been working on topics such as defense technology, military robotics, space policy, European defense cooperation and cyber security. He is one of the authors of the December 2015 MARA (Multi-dimensional Autonomy Risk Assessment) instrument working paper.

Stephen Goose is the Executive Director of Human Rights Watch’s Arms Division. He was instrumental in bringing about the 2008 convention banning cluster munitions, the 1997 treaty banning antipersonnel mines, the 1995 protocol banning blinding lasers, and the 2003 protocol requiring clean-up of explosive remnants of war. He and Human Rights Watch co-founded the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which received the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2013, he and Human Rights Watch co-founded the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

Frank Sauer, Ph.D. is a Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer at Bundeswehr University in Munich. His background is in International Relations and his work focuses on international security, including nuclear issues, terrorism, cybersecurity and the role of technology in the modern military, especially regarding unmanned and autonomous weapon systems. He is a member of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC) and one of the authors of the December 2015 MARA (Multi-dimensional Autonomy Risk Assessment) instrument working paper.

Kelley Sayler is an Associate Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), where she works with the Defense Strategies and Assessments Program and the 20YY Future of Warfare Initiative. She is a contributor to CNAS’ Ethical Autonomy Project, which examines the legal, moral, ethical, policy, and strategic implications of increased autonomy in future weapon systems. Ms. Sayler holds an M.A. in International Relations from Baylor University and a B.A. in Letters and Sociology-Criminology from the University of Oklahoma.

Lucy Suchman, Ph.D. is a full Professor of Anthropology of Science and Technology in the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University, in the United Kingdom. Before coming to Lancaster, she worked for 22 years at Xerox’s Palo Alto Research Center, where she held the positions of Principal Scientist and Manager of the Work Practice and Technology research area. Prof. Suchman is a founding member of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility and a member of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC).