

DIGITAL RISKS IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT

CODENODE LONDON, UK
11-12 DECEMBER 2018

PROGRAM

Tuesday 11.12.18

SESSION 1: Taking Stock of a Rapidly Shifting Digital Threat Landscape

Increasingly sophisticated actors of violence, new tools and forms of conflict leading to new risks for vulnerable populations compel us to reconsider matters of humanitarian protection in the digital age. But as yet, there is little shared clarity on the scope and nature of emerging digital threats, their associated humanitarian consequences for conflict-affected populations, and the implications for those humanitarian organizations and actors who serve them.

The objective of this first session of the day is to develop a holistic view of the nature and range of the challenges and risks presented by the digitalization of both conflict and humanitarian protection. Through a combination of introductory talks, illustrative scenarios, and hands-on activities, participants will gain a better view of the digital vulnerability landscape and its consequences for affected people and other actors.

Ignite Talks *(Plenary)*

Time: 09:50 - 10:45

Room: {Ctrl}

What are some of the most pressing threats in the digital context today, and what is their impact in conflict situations? With these Ignite Talks, our invited experts introduce the three thematic tracks of the symposium, and discuss their special import for matters of conflict dynamics and human security.

Surveillance, Monitoring, & Intrusion

- Ron Deibert, Director, Citizen Lab, University of Toronto

Weaponisation of Information

- Brittan Heller, Affiliate, Berkman Klein Center, Harvard University

Cyber Operations

- Laurent Gisel, Senior Legal Adviser on Cyber Warfare, ICRC

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11-12 DECEMBER 2018

Scenarios (Break-out Groups)

Time: 11:15 - 11:45

**Please join the thematic track indicated on your badge.*

What happens in instances of surveillance, monitoring and intrusion? How can information be weaponised? What would a cyber-attack look like if it were to escalate to conflict? In this activity, presenters will take participants through specific threat scenarios to illustrate how each of the three digital threats play out in conflict contexts, and how they impact affected populations and those who serve them.

Track A: Surveillance, Monitoring, & Intrusion

Room: {Alt/}

- **Scenario 1:** Bill Marczak, *Citizen Lab* "Targeting Civil Society Groups with Commercial Spyware"
- **Scenario 2:** Rakesh Bharania, *Tarian Innovation* "Syrian Refugee Migration: Digital Connectivity, Digital Risks"

Chair: Matt Mitchell, *Global Journalist Security & Tactical Tech*

Track B: Weaponisation of Information

Room: {/Tab}

- **Scenario 1:** Christopher Tuckwood, *Sentinel Project*, "Anti-Muslim Disinformation Campaigns in Myanmar"
- **Scenario 2:** Tom Wilson, *University of Washington*, "Online information operations in the context of the Syrian Civil War" (remote presentation with help from Sarah Yee and Lukas Andriukaitis, *Digital Forensics Research Lab*)

Chair: Brittan Heller, *Berkman Klein Center, Harvard University*

Track C: Cyber Operations

Room: {Shift}

- **Scenario 1:** Gary Brown, *National Defense University* "Fictionland Invaded: Cyber-attack on Humanitarian Information Systems and Critical Infrastructure" (with help from Marina Krotofil, *Admerita* Eireann Leverett, *Cambridge University* and Chris Kubecka, *HypaSec*)

Chair: Laurent Gisel, *Cyber Warfare, ICRC*

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Facilitated “Deep Dives” (Break-out Groups)

Time: 11:45 - 13:00

**Please join the thematic track indicated on your badge.*

In this activity, participants will form multidisciplinary break-out groups and work together to unpack scenarios in more depth. Facilitators will bring participants through an interactive group exercise to explore the potential humanitarian consequences, vulnerabilities, and other concerns these threats create as they play out for affected populations—and those who serve them—in the context of armed conflict.

Track A: Surveillance, Monitoring, & Intrusion

Room: {Alt/}

Chair: Matt Mitchell, *Global Journalist Security & Tactical Tech*

Track B: Weaponisation of Information

Room: {/Tab}

Chair: Brittan Heller, *Berkman Klein Center, Harvard University*

Track C: Cyber Operations

Room: {Shift}

Chair: Laurent Gisel, *Cyber Warfare, ICRC*

SESSION 2: Implications for Humanitarian Protection

As the incidence of the use and misuse of digital technologies in conflict dynamics is growing, and protection work becomes increasingly reliant on information systems, computer networks, and communications infrastructure, humanitarian practice must evolve to include knowledge, skills, and practices for identifying and mitigating digitally-borne risks in this arena.

The objective of this session is to use our new understanding of the digital threat landscape to identify gaps and opportunities in our abilities to adequately respond to protection needs in the digital age. Through a framing presentation and hands-on activities, participants will explore the needs identified in Session One to consider whether and how these pose challenges to effective response.

Humanitarian Protection in Armed Conflicts (Plenary)

Time: 14:00 - 14:20

Room: {Ctrl}

- Pierre Gentile, Protection Division, ICRC
- Lisa Rudnick, *The Policy Lab*

DIGITAL RISKS IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT

CODENODE LONDON, UK
11-12 DECEMBER 2018

Gaps, Misalignments, & Blind Spots (Break-out Groups)

Time: 14:20 – 15:45

**Please join the thematic track indicated on your badge.*

In this facilitated activity, participants will return to their break-out groups. We'll take stock of skills, knowledge, resources, and tools which are needed to address the challenges and concerns surfaced during Session 1.

Track A: Surveillance, Monitoring, & Intrusion

Room: {Alt/}

Chair: Matt Mitchell, *Global Journalist Security & Tactical Tech*

Track B: Weaponisation of Information

Room: {/Tab}

Chair: Brittan Heller, *Berkman Klein Center, Harvard University*

Track C: Cyber Operations

Room: {Shift}

Chair: Laurent Gisel, *Cyber Warfare, ICRC*

Report Back (Plenary)

Time: 15:45 - 16:15

Room: {Ctrl}

Sharing insights and findings from breakout sessions with the wider plenary.

SESSION 3: Examining the Digital Transformation & Innovation Agendas

Time: 16:45 - 17:45

Room: {Ctrl}

The so-called Humanitarian Innovation and Digital Transformation agendas, among others, are efforts within the sector to respond to a rapidly changing and challenging world by encouraging information-based and digitally-derived solutions, stemming from new ways of working and innovative public-private partnerships. While promising, however, are such efforts—as currently framed and carried out—doing more harm than good?

In this session we aim to foster an informed debate about the utility of the emerging agendas around digital technology and innovation when it comes to matters of humanitarian protection. This round-table discussion invites a group of experts working at the nexus of protection, digital transformation, and innovation to examine the risks of innovation, ethics of experimentation, and unintended data harm that accompany digital technologies and innovation in conflict contexts.

DIGITAL RISKS IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT

CODENODE LONDON, UK
11-12 DECEMBER 2018

Roundtable Discussion

- Charlotte Lindsey-Curtet, *Director for Digital Transformation and Data, ICRC*
- Androulla Kaminara, *Director for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific, ECHO*
- Kyla Reid, *Head of Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation & Digital Identity, GSMA*
- Heather Leson, *Data Literacy Lead, IFRC*
- Meg Sattler, *Global Advisor, Community Engagement, UN OCHA*

Moderator: Joseph Guay, *Director of Research, The Do No Digital Harm initiative (moderator)*

Reception, Networking, & Showcase

Time: 18:00 - 21:00

Room: **{SpaceBar}** + **{Esc}**

Please join us for an opportunity to connect and unwind over food and drinks at a cocktail reception, and to explore Showcase exhibits. Each of the exhibits creates an opportunity to engage with the issues of the day in a new and different way—through an interactive art installation, or a conversation with authors of a new report.

The Glass Room Experience: An eye-catching, self-learning installation on data and privacy presented by Mozilla and Tactical Tech.

Based on the widely acclaimed *The Glass Room: Looking into your Online Life*, the Experience has replicas of some of the key exhibits from *The Glass Room*. It “explores the companies and mechanisms that make our everyday technologies as well as connect the Internet of Things (IoT). Play *Fake or Real* to see how smart you are in the world of smart devices. Find out more about what's really happening behind the screen in *The Internet You Don't See*. Pick up a free *Data Detox Kit*, our easy, 8-day digital privacy guide that gives you simple steps to take control of your online life, not to mention your smart devices”

The Humanitarian Metadata Problem: Launching a report published by the ICRC and Privacy International.

The ICRC and Privacy International are proud to launch the latest piece of research on the nature and implications of “humanitarian metadata”. The report explores the issues and potential negative consequences that arise from the use of digital and analog tools (e.g. social media, SMS, mobile money etc.) by humanitarian organizations. In particular, it focuses on how the metadata (data about data) generated by the interactions between affected people and humanitarian organizations through these tools can be misused and bring harm to both parties.

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CODENODE LONDON, UK
11-12 DECEMBER 2018

Wednesday 12.12.18

SESSION 4: Toward a Shared Agenda

Protection actors across the sector share some common needs in tackling the challenges posed by digital risks in conflict contexts. The previous sessions have helped us explore some of these in-depth. But, can we translate our new insights into tangible resources for moving forward?

The objective of this final session of the symposium is to use the learning from Day One to take the first steps towards creating a shared agenda for action for improving protection outcomes in the face of digital threats. This session frames the challenge for protection in the digital age, and engages participants in activities to share new insights, discover new opportunities, and may be new partnerships for carrying them out.

After a presentation and round-table discussion with thought-leaders from the academic, humanitarian, and private sectors, participants will work together to share insights and ideas. By re-examining the roles and responsibilities of different actors toward mitigating and responding to digital risks in situations of armed conflict; prioritizing consequential gaps in knowledge, policy, or practice; and identifying opportunities for collective action and continued engagement, participants will take the first steps towards an agenda for action.

Framing the Challenge: Protecting Civilians in the Digital Age

Time: 09:15 - 10:15

Room: {Ctrl}

This discussion invites three influential thinkers, each from a different sector, to kick off the second day, as the symposium changes gears from thinking about what we ought to be concerned with, to what we need to do about it.

Speakers will share their reflections on the priority issues raised during Day 1, what's at stake, and how they—in their respective organizations and industries—are responding. A moderated discussion will provide the opportunity to identify areas of alignment, or divergence, between the private industry, academia, and the humanitarian sector, in terms of potential ways forward.

- Nathaniel Raymond, *Lecturer at the Jackson Institute of International Affairs, Yale University*
- Nathaniel Gleicher, *Head of Cybersecurity Policy, Facebook*
- Jenny McAvoy, *Director of Protection, InterAction*

Moderator: Joseph Guay, *Director of Research, The Do No Digital Harm initiative (moderator)*

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CODENODE LONDON, UK
11-12 DECEMBER 2018

Taking Stock & Creating Opportunities *(Break-out groups)*

Time: 10:45 – 12:15

Room: {Alt} + {Tab} + {Ctrl}

Taking inspiration from the previous round-table, this session provides participants with a chance to work in smaller break-out groups to reflect together about new insights questions that may have emerged through the symposium, and prioritize those areas that warrant immediate attention. With priorities in hand, participants will work together to translate their priority concerns into action steps to address them, through a series of facilitated exercises.

Report Back *(Plenary)*

Time: 12:15 – 12:45

Room: {Ctrl}

Sharing insights and findings from breakout sessions with the wider plenary.

Concluding Remarks *(Plenary)*

Time: 12:45 – 13:00

Room: {Ctrl}

- Helen Alderson Reat Noch, *Head of Regional Delegation for the UK & Ireland, ICRC*

