



International Workshop: “Hybrid Warfare – a challenge for security and peace, legality and ethics

Jointly organized by the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg, the Institute for Theology and Peace and the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats

Date: 23th - 24th September 2019

Venue: Katholische Akademie Hamburg, Herrengraben 4, 20459 Hamburg

Inspiration: Hybrid ways of warfare seem to offer political gain by smart recourse to a limited, deniable and supposed manageable use of force. The assumption that in hybrid warfare the risk of military escalation and political damage could be kept within limits may increase the likelihood of its offensive use. For this reason it is more than likely that hybrid warfare, with its variety of offensive options, will shape the “face of war” in the 21st century.

However, this assumption might turn out to be wrong, as uncertainties and frictions are an essential part of war’s nature. Therefore it is high time to improve our common understanding of hybrid warfare and related strategies while raising awareness regarding own vulnerabilities as a precondition for joint and comprehensive action in defence and response, as well as to deter and to prevent the offensive use of hybrid warfare in the first place. Special focus needs to be put on the potentially long priming phase of hybrid warfare, when hybrid attacks are silently prepared or covertly on the way. The open use of force might be reserved only to the last step in order to not reveal the aggressive intention too early.

With its ability to create ambiguity by silently operating in grey areas of interfaces and concealing or denying a role as a party to the conflict – combined with a limited use of force only as a last step – hybrid warfare’s potential for surprise and offensive action provides a particular challenge to the defender: To be beaten by surprise without even recognising to be under hybrid attack until it is too late (*fait accompli*)! Such surprise could also be carried out indirectly, by primarily civilian means and methods (disinformation, subversion, propaganda, disintegration) and in slow-motion (*salami tactics*). But fault lines within Western societies are a growing vulnerability that could be exploited by hybrid warfare actors (internal and external ones). Open, democratic societies that lack strategic vigilance

are particularly vulnerable to methods of hybrid warfare. Moreover, effectively countering hybrid warfare may violate the standards and norms of democratic societies.

Goal: To address hybrid warfare as a challenge for security and peace, as well as for law and ethics, and to discover ways to prevent, contain or peacefully end hybrid warfare is the overarching goal of this workshop.

Central questions: What are the specific challenges Hybrid Warfare poses for security, peace, law and ethics? What answers can be offered by security and peace policy, legal experts, ethical advisers and the academia?

Central questions will be further differentiated in the below programme. Panelists are kindly asked to give their input along these questions. Chairs: Up to 5 minutes, speakers: up to 10 minutes, comments: up to 10 minutes.

Detailed programme:

Monday, 23th September 2019

01:30 p.m.	Registration
02:00-02:30	Introduction: Johann Schmid, Hans-Georg Ehrhart, Philipp von Wussow
02:30-04:00	Panel 1: Chair: Hans-Georg Ehrhart (IFSH), Speakers: Anton Dengg (IFK, Wien), Bettina Renz (University of Nottingham), Comment: Andreas Herberg-Rothe (University of Fulda)
	<p>Hybrid Warfare: Conceptual understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explain own understanding - What is HW? What makes warfare hybrid? What makes hybrid threats warfare? - What is the explanatory power of the concept of HW? - How can the concept of HW be specified? - What are the characteristics of HW? - What are the specific challenges created by Hybrid Warfare?
04:00-04:30	Coffee break
04:30-06:00	Panel 2: Chair: Johann Schmid (Hybrid CoE), Speakers: Rob Johnson (University of Oxford), Bastian Giegerich (IISS), Victoria Toriser (BMLV, AUT), Comment: Jurate Novagrockiene (Military Academy of Lithuania)



Hybrid Warfare: a challenge for Security

- Who are the actors of HW and why do they apply hybrid strategies?
- How to cover/protect own vulnerabilities at different interfaces: internal-external security, attack from within, civil/military means, state/non-state actors?
- Which challenges does HW pose regarding the relation of internal and external security?
- The priming phase of Hybrid Warfare: a challenge for situational awareness and an in-time understanding of the threat? Risk to be taken by surprise?
- Are there ideological barriers to generating a realistic situational awareness? How to overcome them?
- Dividing lines within societies: a growing vulnerability for hybrid attack.
- Comprehensive approach: a necessity to defending against HW? How to implement a holistic approach to government and society to defend against HW?

06:00-07:30 **Panel 3:** Chair: Anna Geis (Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg), Speakers: Wolfgang Schreiber (University of Hamburg), Madeleine Myatt (University Bielefeld), Jan Pospisil (ASPR, AUT), Comment: Felix Wassermann (HU Berlin)

Hybrid Warfare: a challenge for Peace

- When does HW start and peace end?
- Hybrid attacks in the grey zone (between war and peace, friend and foe) and the problem of attribution: implications for peace policy?
- The import of causes of conflict (terrorism, Islamism, radicalisation, ethnical + cultural conflicts, violent organized crime, infiltration by foreign intelligence/secret services) and war via mass-migration: a challenge for peace policy?
- How can peace-policy / peace- research contribute to counter hybrid challenges?
- How can HW be prevented, contained, ended?
- Who has to do what in this context?

08:00	Dinner
	Dinner will take place in a restaurant nearby. If you are a vegetarian or in case you have any food allergies, please inform Ms Objartel via objartel@ifsh.de until 19 th September latest.

Tuesday, 24th September 2019

09:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Panel 4: Chair: Michael Brzoska (IFSH), Speakers: Aurel Sari (University of Exeter), Tiina Ferm (Finnish Ministry of Interior), Sean Moore (Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre, UK) Comment: Stefan Oeter (University of Hamburg)
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Hybrid Warfare: legal challenges

- What means HW in international law?
- How is “Lawfare” used as a weapon in Hybrid Warfare?
- How to create legal resilience?
- What kind of legal challenges derive from the fact that hybrid actors try to blur traditional lines of responsibility and order by operating against various distinctions: war/peace, friend/foe, internal/external, civil/military, state/non-state, national/international?
- How does HW and counter-measures to HW damage international and/or national law?
- Which kind of legal reforms (national, EU) are necessary to cope with the challenge of “Lawfare” and legal disintegration in the context of HW and to enable state authorities to operate at interfaces in order to defend against and counter hybrid opponents?
- What kind of boomerang effects may HW counterstrategies create by causing damage to the democratic fabric of society?

10:30-11:00	Coffee break
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11:00-12:30	Panel 5: Chair: Philipp von Wussow (Institute for Theology and Peace Hamburg), Speakers: Desiree Verweij (The Netherlands Defence Academy), Lina Tuschling (Kennesaw State University, USA), Bernhard Koch (Institute for Theology and Peace Hamburg), Comment: Thomas Flichy de la Neuville (Rennes School of Business)
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Hybrid Warfare: a challenge for Ethics and Morale

- Values, ideology, culture and religion as “battlefields” in the priming phase of Hybrid Warfare?



- Which kind of problems does HW pose with regard to the question of responsibility?
- Ethical challenges to counter Hybrid Warfare during its non-kinetic priming phase?
- Should the abuse of religion for political activities (e.g. mosques as political propaganda centres) be countered? How?
- Should the mass-abuse of the legal system (e.g. legislation on asylum) be countered or legislation be changed to prevent it from deepening the societal fault lines and increasing our vulnerabilities to hybrid attack?
- What kind of normative challenges are being caused by HW and counter measures?
- What could be the consequences of normative challenges?

12:30-13:00 Concluding Session

- What are the key findings?
- What are the policy recommendations?
- What are the future research questions?
- Way ahead for product development