

Society. Chapter Summary

The following three papers highlight the tension between the rapid development of human enhancement (HE) and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, the changes in civil society affected by them and the delayed development of international law.

The great expectations of society with regard to the positive improvements in everyday life through the use of trustworthy instruments of HE and AI are countered by equally relevant fears about possible encroachments on privacy and fundamental individual rights. Such negative expectations of certain social groups are fuelled by the barely comprehensible further developments in all areas of HE and AI technology, especially in the military sector.

However, the combination of an increased use of HE and autonomous weapon systems would also offer the potential of humanising the use of these weapon systems and thus safeguarding the principle of ultimate human responsibility.

Although international law has responded to these social and technological dynamics with countless attempts at regulation, the consensus among states does not include legally binding restrictions or prohibitions, perpetuating the dilemma between social progress and legal stagnation.