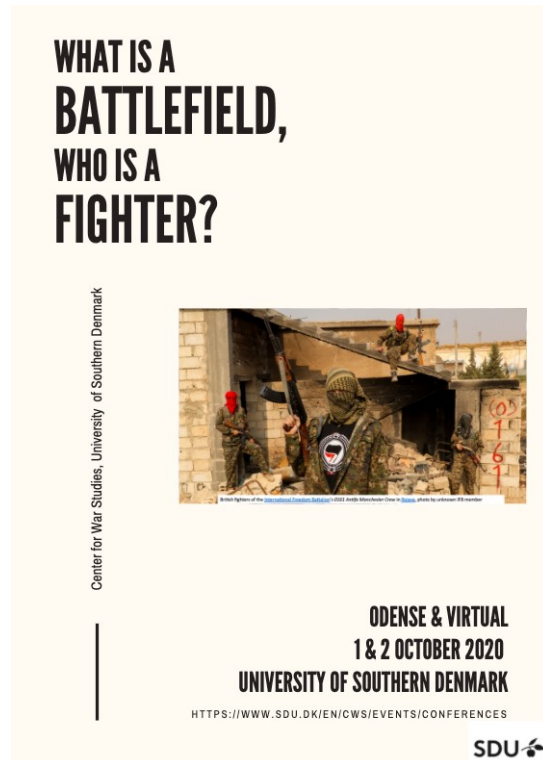


What is a battlefield, who is a fighter? Choice, control, war and the institutions that address them

CWS Annual Conference, University of Southern Denmark, 1-2 October 2020



The past several decades have seen significant changes in how, and by whom, war is waged. Paradigm-shifting books like Kaldor & Chinkin's *International Law and New Wars* (CUP 2017) have married ideas about the changing nature of war to the changing norms and practices institutionalized in international law and international humanitarian law. New technologies like expansive cyber communication networks and AI facial recognition software straddle the spheres of statecraft, business, and weaponry. Drone technology turns programmers into soldiers capable of wrecking devastation from 3000 meters at the touch of a button thousands of kilometers away. And from 2012 – 2016, ordinary citizens from around the globe, including 6000 Europeans, responded to ISIS' call to arms and joined the califate in armed struggle and repressive state-building.

This conference considers contemporary challenges in the changing face of war centered around two themes: what is a battlefield, and who is a fighter. In both fields, recent experience shows that traditional baselines have been shifted importantly; are our policies, definitions, and institutions keeping up? Where, and at whom and at what, should we be looking to understand today's wars, and tomorrow's? To consider these questions animatedly, we are engaging the interdisciplinary expertise of SDU's Center for War Studies and its friends to discuss how war is altering our understanding of what battlefields and fighters consist of, and what this means for the tools we currently apply.

In several panels over 1.5 days, academics and practitioners will consider contemporary questions of warfare viewed through interdisciplinary lenses based in law, politics, history, and culture.



Day One:

13:00 **Panel 1: War norms.** *Contemporary warfare challenges many of the established conventions regarding how war may be fought, and even what war is for. Papers on this panel consider how broadening practices and expectations of how “battle” occurs, by and against whom, may be changing the norms around waging war.*

[4 panelists, 10-12 minutes each; 25 minutes discussant & discussion]

14:15 break

14:30 **Panel 2: State violence, directed inward.** *War is usually imagined as an outward force, but of course, states can wage war internally, as well, thereby turning “citizens” into “fighters”. This panel considers and (re)classifies state administrative categorizations, looking at foreign fighters, French jihadists, and settler colonialists.*

[4 panelists, 10-12 minutes each; 25 minutes discussant & discussion]

15:45 break

16:00 **Panel 3: Child soldiers & other unlikely fighters.** *Soldiers are typically categorized as men, and this panel considers questions, problems, and possibilities for fighters who expand this category, including children, propogandists, and women.*

[4 panelists, 10-12 minutes each; 25 minutes discussant & discussion]

17:15 keynote & discussion questions: William Arkin

Day Two:

8:00 Meet & greet, online [byo breakfast]

9:00 **Panel 4: The feel of war** *Modern warfare is changing not just the means of waging war, but also war’s aesthetic, both for fighters and on battlefields. What evolutions in warfare change the feel of war, and how is this significant?*

[4 panelists, 10-12 minutes each; 25 minutes discussant & discussion]

10:15 coffee break

10:30 **Panel 5: Tactics, micro and macro.** *The changing landscapes of fighters and battlefields impact strategy and combat tactics in modern warfare. This panel considers some tactical questions that arise.*

[4 panelists, 10-12 minutes each; 25 minutes discussant & discussion]

11:45 Wrap up & goodbyes (next work? Conference volume?)

