

Fellowship in the fields of International Law/International Criminal Law

Fellowship position in the project “Meaningful Human Control – Autonomous Weapon Systems between Regulation and Reflection”

Duration: one month

Timeframe: end of April 2024 to end of May 2024

Deadline for applications: 15th May 2023

Framework

One of the most pressing issues of international security and peace is the development and application of Autonomous Weapon Systems. Actors from politics, civil society, the military and academia debate controversially whether and to what extent the expansion of AI-based machine autonomy threatens a loss of human control in the fields of war and law enforcement.

The interdisciplinary project “Meaningful Human Control – Autonomous Weapon Systems between Regulation and Reflection” (<https://meaningfulhumancontrol.de/en/home/>) connects five universities in Germany that aim to situate so far unconnected concepts of the controversy around Autonomous Weapon Systems in their historical and cultural context, to develop an appropriate concept of socio-material agency and to focus on translation of scientific results into public discourse in order to strengthen civil society debate.

As part of the project, each of the participating universities will invite a fellow from the Global South to spend one month in Germany with the idea to include non-Western positions more strongly in our discourse around Autonomous Weapon Systems.

Specifically, this fellowship position will be located in the subproject "Cooperative Decision-making vs. Individual Responsibility" which is led by Prof. Dr. Susanne Beck from the Leibniz University Hannover. The objective of this subproject focuses on the analysis of the significance of technical implementation, the illusion of one's own power to act with Meaningful Human Control, the concept of responsibility and related social functions from the perspective of (international) criminal law.

Requirements and benefits

The fellowship position requires a one-month stay in Germany from the end of April 2024 to the end of May 2024. The fellow will spend the first part of the stay in Hanover and work at Leibniz University. In doing so, the fellow will collaborate with the members of the subproject and participate in the academic exchanges.

During the second half of the stay, all fellows will reside at Paderborn University to enable an interdisciplinary and transnational exchange. From May 22 to 24, an international conference

on Autonomous Weapon Systems will be held in Paderborn, in which the fellows are to present their work.

The fellowship is remunerated with 5.000 € in total. In addition, travel expenses will be covered. We will provide administrative support in arranging accommodation as well as visa application and other bureaucratic processes.

Eligibility

Requirements for participation in the program are:

- An LL.M. or comparable degree in the field of international law or international criminal law from the respective country of origin or elsewhere
- English and/or German language skills
- Live and/or work in a country of the Global South (which the project consortium understands to include all countries not located in Europe or listed among the following: United States, Canada, Russia, Israel, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand)

Application process

The required documents for a complete application include:

- Letter of motivation
- CV
- A sample of published work
- At least one letter of recommendation by an individual who can provide information on the academic or personal background

The selection process consists of two steps. The most promising candidates are selected from all formally eligible applications based on the written documents. They will be invited to an online interview with the members of the subproject where the aspired academic and personal goals accompanying the fellowship will be discussed. Afterwards, all applicants will receive mail if their application has been successful or not.

Applications and/or questions regarding the fellowship should be submitted by mail to Simone Tiedau (simone.tiedau@jura.uni-hannover.de).