



# **Ethical Implications of Autonomous Weapons and Drones in Warfare**

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**01**

# **Problem Statement**



# Problem Statement

The purpose of the ethical research paper is to examine the ethical issues surrounding the deployment of autonomous weapons and drones in modern warfare, as well as the decision-making processes involved. Potential repercussions for civilian populations, international law, and the moral foundation of armed conflict will also be discussed.



**02**

# **Literature Review**



“...growing use of drones  
on today's battlefields  
raises important  
questions about targeting  
and the threshold for  
using military force”

“there is vast uncertainty  
about the state of the  
possible when it comes  
to artificial intelligence  
and its application to  
militaries”

— **Michael C. Horowitz, 2016**





# Review

- Targets idea that the technology must rely mainly on the given programming, and the overall uncertainty of autonomous robots to perform a task at a high level of risk on the battlefield
- I fully agree with the assessment, as introducing high-level technology in a field with severe repercussions can be dangerous, and leaving military tasks up to an unmanned system can be risky
- I believe that in the future, AI technology could make its entry into warfare, but if and only if proper accountability is taken by military officials.

“international community [to] promptly [address] a critical question: Should we be more afraid of killer robots run amok or the insecurity of giving them up?”

— **Zachary Kallenborn, 2021**







# Review

- Kallenborn discusses the development of autonomous weapons and robotics and the challenges they pose for governance.
- I agree with the contents of the article, as they mention how introducing the revolutionary technology may pose threats to its governance and oversight
- I believe that the this question posed by Kallenborn truly captures the idea that using the technology can be intimidating to regulate, but we should not stray away from the difficulty it may pose

**03**

# **Research Methodology**





# Research Question

"How do autonomous weapons and drones challenge established laws of war, and what legal and ethical frameworks can be developed to ensure their responsible use?"



# Research Methodologies

## Case Studies

Offer in-depth exploration of real-world situations, providing context-rich data crucial for understanding complex ethical dilemmas in autonomous warfare

## Interviews

Offer a dynamic and interactive platform that makes it possible for researchers to collect data, explore the viewpoints of participants, and obtain context-specific information



**1**

## **Case Studies**

Exploration and examination of existing case studies, policies, and academic documents about the overall ethical implications of autonomous technology to develop an understanding of research already conducted on the topic

**2**

## **Interviews**

Interviewing stakeholders and military experts will allow us to truly understand the overall view of autonomous technology, and the feasibility of its transition into military use



**04**

# **Analysis Plan**



# Comparative Analysis

- After conducting the initial research through the existing documents, a comparative analysis is required to compare old findings with more recent ones to identify certain patterns and consistent ethical challenges within the topic
- Allows for a comprehensive exploration of diverse perspectives and contextual differences, leveraging the strengths of insights from case studies and the depth provided by interviews



**05**

# **Conclusions**





# Conclusions

This method of research aligns with the field of informatics through its interdisciplinary approach, as it includes findings from informatics (artificial intelligence), military studies, and ethical implications

The detachment of human decision-makers and operators could desensitize warfare overall, making it easier and more apparent to engage in acts of violence without consequence. Addressing the ethical issues is crucial to preserving human rights, protecting civilians, and upholding principles of just warfare in the context of evolving technology and information systems.