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## Foreword

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## FORWORD

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In April 2019, the Penn State Center for Security Research and Education and the Penn State Journal of Law and International Affairs were proud to host a symposium entitled *Security and the Autonomous Future*. For two days, twenty-five experts from Penn State and the nation came together to discuss the future of conflict in the emerging era of autonomous weapons.

In addition to being robust and thought-provoking, the resulting dialogue was radically interdisciplinary. Panelists and moderators from aerospace engineering, cognitive science, computer engineering, electrical engineering, law, law enforcement, mathematics, national security, peace and conflict studies, philosophy, political science, public policy, and theology came together to share their perspectives across disciplines.

Because experts from such diverse backgrounds seldom have the opportunity to hear from each other, we thought it important to capture their conversation. We hope the proceedings of *Security and the Autonomous Future* will provide insights to both scholars and the public.

*James W. Houck*  
*Vice Admiral, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy (Ret.)*  
*Director, Penn State Center for Security Research and Education*

The *Penn State Journal of Law and International Affairs* (JLIA) is an interdisciplinary, peer reviewed journal jointly published by Penn State Law and the Penn State School of International Affairs. JLIA promotes academic and public discourse at the intersection of law and international affairs, featuring contributions in the area of public and private international law, international relations, comparative law and politics, geography, economics, history, and policy issues in the various sciences. It is available online and indexed by LEXIS and Westlaw. The online blog companion to the *Penn State Journal of Law and International Affairs* is available at <https://sites.psu.edu/jlia/>.

Following our feature article, authored by Richard Jordan, are transcripts from the Spring 2019 Symposium, "*Security and the Autonomous Future*." The transcripts have been edited for clarity, but largely maintain the conversational nature of the symposium.

*Emilia R. Janisch*  
*Editor-in-Chief*