IN-BETWEEN SPACES: UNCONVENTIONAL YET ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Date: September 19, 2024

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KEY EVENTS

On September 19th, 2024, Dr. Gitanjali Adlakha-Hutcheon, Principal Scientist at the Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), presented *In-between Spaces: Unconventional Yet Essential Considerations for Defence & Security*. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period with questions from the audience and CASIS Vancouver executives. The key points discussed were:

1. Are defence and security discrete subjects or a part of a continuum, what are the spaces that reside between the two?
2. How can emerging and emerged technologies be better understood in the context of security and defence?
3. The importance of looking at liminal spaces intentionally to expose less than obvious threats which may not be evident without closer examination.

NATURE OF DISCUSSION

Dr. Adlakha-Hutcheon discussed dualities between obvious pairs such as defence and security; science and technology; and the physical and virtual worlds and questioned at what point does one become the other? Whether these were truly distinct or continuums with messy middles. Furthermore, it is necessary to understand the middle/liminal spaces between pairs in order to more effectively identify and address security threats. This is apparent when one takes the example of established/emerged and emerging technologies (AI and emergence of generative AI like Chat GPT). Technologies have different impact and implications based on the context of their use, for instance the extent of positive

or negative disruption that ensues upon their use. Thus, to address complex problems, it is necessary to look for disruptors in "in-between" spaces.

BACKGROUND

Presentation

The lines between defence and security, as well as established and emerging technologies are blurred. Exploring these helps to contextualize and understand their role in an increasingly interconnected risk landscape, which feed polycrises.

Dr. Adlakha-Hutcheon gave the example of AI as an evolutionary (incrementally advancing) technology that in its generative form (ChatGPT) exemplifies a revolutionary advancement with the potential for disruptive impact for both civilians and militaries [1]. A technology like generative AI impacts civilians and security personnel differently. She further noted that there is no accepted definition of dual-use technologies. Typically, dual-use technologies are those that have both military and civilian purposes. If one uses a non-standard, broader, and somewhat more subjective form of benevolent/malevolent, then an exploration of a broader swath of consequences is possible. Dual-use technologies, that encompass both civilian and military uses, offer a wide range of consequences when viewed through an "in-between" lens. It is thus important to not only contextualize the use of emerging technologies, but to intentionally expose the in-between spaces of continuums of duality and thereby reveal invisible disruptors.

Question and Answer

What are some key challenges faced when crafting policies that address the dual-use nature of disruptive technologies in defence? How can policymakers strike a balance between innovation and ensuring security?

Look at the unintended consequences of policy. Hampering a technology such as AI, may unintentionally retard progress and/or innovations.

Dr. Adlakha-Hutcheon, I'd like to hear your thoughts on the necessity for a diversified intelligence analyst pool, especially in the cybersecurity field, when it comes to the notion of Invisible Insecurity. What comes to mind was and is the rapid leveraging of the Internet of things (IOT) as a tool of domestic violence (DV). Largely the conversation has centered around the act of DV via IOT as

opposed to what to do about it. Given that DV is one of the most prevalent precursors to acts of larger-scale or mass violence, it seems to be a worthy Invisible Insecurity concern for the national security community.

Domestic violence has existed for time immemorial, and has now crept into the virtual space via the internet, IOT etc. Thus, by extension policing it should and has to an extent been extended into the cyber world. Of course, more education and policing are needed in both the physical and virtual spaces to facilitate prevention of domestic violence.

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- Technologies often have dual-uses.
- To address complexities within the intertwined geopolitical-technological landscape one must intentionally look within liminal spaces.
- Applying foresight tools strategically at "in-between/liminal" spaces is essential for identifying invisible disruptors and exposing the less than obvious threats.

FURTHER READING

Momani, B. and Adlakha-Hutcheon, G. et al (2024). *The Duality of Technology in our Geopolitical Landscape* in (In)security: Identifying the Invisible Disruptors of Security, Springer Nature. ISBN 978-3-031-067607-9

Adlakha-Hutcheon, G. (2023). *Invisible insecurity.* J Intelligence, Conflict and Warfare, 6(1), 68–72. https://doi.org/10.21810/jicw.v6i1.5410

Forge, J. (2009) *A Note on the Definition of ''Dual Use''.* Sci Eng Ethics (2010). 16:111–118. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-009-9159-9

Adlakha-Hutcheon, G. (2023). *Do disruptions, ideation and innovation feed one another?* J Intelligence, Conflict and Warfare https://doi.org/10.21810/jicw.v5i3.5176

Adlakha-Hutcheon, G. (2022). MAD* Beyond Defence: *Methodology for Assessing Disruptions. *The Journal of Intelligence, Conflict, and Warfare*, 5(2), 154–172. https://doi.org/10.21810/jicw.v5i2.5046

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