



Fears of Trolls and Little Green Men

Does Hybrid Warfare Work, for Whom, and When?

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Organisers: Paul van Hooft (MW Fellow, SPS), Stefano Marcuzzi (MW Fellow, RSC), Akisato Suzuki (MW Fellow, SPS)

Abstract

Hybrid warfare has become a buzzword for scholars, policymakers, and journalists to describe Russian intervention in Ukraine. The use of online misinformation, cyberattacks on infrastructure, the covert insertion of forces, and so on, seemed highly successful tactics to accomplish Russian goals of destabilization. Given that new prominence, scholars and policy analysts have hotly debated how we can define hybrid warfare to establish the analytical leverage of the concept, or whether hybrid warfare is new after all (Giles 2016; Renz and Smith 2016).

However, little has been discussed so far regarding whether hybrid warfare, understood as the blend of multiple conventional and unconventional methods to fight, is in fact an effective strategy and, if so, for whom and at which level. Can states accomplish more than short-term gains, such as undermining the legitimacy and cohesion of adversaries, or conversely strengthening domestic support (Chiozza and Goemans 2011)? Or is possible to achieve long-term strategic goals? In short, how much should we fear online trolls and little green men?

Understanding what goals hybrid warfare can effectively achieve is therefore crucial.

This workshop brings expertise in warfare and security studies with multidisciplinary perspectives, including strategic studies, military history, and political science, thereby shedding new light on the hotly topic of hybrid warfare with analytical and empirical rigor.

Final program

- 10:00-10:30 Introduction – How to Understand Hybrid warfare.
Stefano Marcuzzi (MW Fellow, RSC).
- 10:30-11:00 Hybrid challenges to the American command of the commons.
Paul van Hooft (MW Fellow, SPS).
- 11:00-11:30 Hybrid warfare under nuclear deterrence: Lessons from India-Pakistan.
Akisato Suzuki (MW Fellow, SPS).
- 11:30-12:00 The information war: from misinformation to disinformation and proselytism.
Marco Lombardi (Associate Professor, Catholic University, Milan).
- 12:00-12:30 Q&A discussion.
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch break.
- 14:00-14:30 Hybrid threats from the South: EU-NATO responses.
Stefano Marcuzzi (MW Fellow, RSC).
- 14:30-15:00 The Hyper Immigration, a new aspect of Hybrid Warfare.
Giuseppe Morabito (Brigadier General (Rtd.), Member of the Board of Directors, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome).
- 15:00-15:30 Training the modern soldier in the era of hybrid warfare.
Giorgio Battisti (Lieutenant General (Rtd.), Former Commander Italian Army TRADOC - Italian Atlantic Committee)
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- 15:30-16:00 Q&A discussion.
- 16:00-16:30 Coffee break.
- 16:30-17:30 Keynote speech: Eastern Threats, Western Resilience, and the Cyber Domain.
Brandon Valeriano (Donald Bren Chair of Armed Politics, Marine Corps University).

Bio of keynote speaker

Brandon Valeriano, Ph.D

He currently serves as the Donald Bren Chair of Armed Politics at the Marine Corps University. His work also includes serving as a Cyber Security Senior Fellow at the Niskanen Center. His research is focused on cyber security, popular culture and conflict, race and ethnicity politics, and international conflict. He serves as the Area Editor for International Relations and Strategy for the Journal of Cybersecurity and General Editor for the Routledge Book Series on Conflict, Security and Technology

Major References

- Chiozza, Giacomo, and H. E. Goemans. 2011. *Leaders and International Conflict*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Giles, Keir. 2016. "Russia's 'New' Tools for Confronting the West: Continuity and Innovation in Moscow's Exercise of Power." London: Chatham House.
<https://www.chathamhouse.org/publication/russias-new-tools-confronting-west>.
- Renz, Bettina, and Hanna Smith. 2016. "Russia and Hybrid Warfare: Going beyond the Label." 1/2016. Aleksanteri Papers. Helsinki. <http://www.stratcomcoe.org/bettina-renz-and-hanna-smith-russia-and-hybrid-warfare-going-beyond-label>.