



Kristin Bergtora Sandvik

Drones for Humanitarian «Interventions»

Drones: From Technology to Policy, Security to Ethics. Friday, 30 January 2015. ETH Zurich

Independent • International • Interdisciplinary

Peace Research Institute Oslo

Drones as Humanitarian Weapons?



- The humanitarian drone as a war dividend- technology spinoffs from war on terror
- Uses:
 - Surveillance
 - Cargo
 - Targeting
- The problem of “the most discriminatingly humanitarian technology available”

The Moral Economy of Humanitarian Drones

Moral economy: normalizing prototypes, normalizing new uses, «making good» existing uses.

“The industry was uncomfortable with the word ‘drones’ and wanted to find new terminology. ‘If they’re brightly coloured, and people know why they’re there, it makes them a lot more comfortable,’ he said. ‘We want to be associated with safe, civil applications [of UAVs] that have a humanitarian, ecological and environmental benefit.’”

(UAVS, the Guardian 2012)



The Humanitarian Drone Bottom-Up

- Breakthrough: Typhoon Haiyan '13
- Activities
 - *Post-disaster surveillance*
 - *Infrastructure & population mapping*
 - *Needs assessments*
 - *Search and rescue*
 - *Relief distribution (food, medicine)*
- Typhoon Haiyan= easy case
- Hard cases: UN Peacekeeping drone saves drowning people.
Drones in hostile environments.



Entrepreneur Hour or Amateur Hour?



- *Mixed motifs for «doing good» in disaster zones*
- *Permissions to fly in urban airspace?*
- *What does local participation mean?*
- *Empowerment through community drones?*

«Game Changer» or «Nothing Special»?

The Relevance of Privacy and Data Protection?

With respect to European airspace, Finn et al (2014) note that in their study, many industry representatives held the belief that while their drones captured members of the public and recorded and stored the images, this did not generate any privacy or data protection issues. The authors observe that this lack of awareness about existing legal obligations indicates that they are not followed.

Safety & Insurance?

“UAVS is concerned that many UAV operations carried out whether legally or more often illegally have been performed without this appropriate third party liability insurance in place. Many companies or small operators appear to be relying on the Products and Public Liability clauses in their general Public Liability Insurance but UAVS recommends that the Exclusion clauses on this Section are studied carefully. Most policies only cover commercial activities on the ground at the registered premises and limited manual work away from these premises» (UAVS UK 2015)

The Ebola Drone: the Allure of Technological Fantasies

