

Securing the state: Securing the corporate nexus: The coming militarization of climate change

27 November 2009
Room 408, The Rose Bowl
9.30am -4.30pm

Programme

- 9.30am Registration
- 10:00am Introduction
- 10.05am Dr. Steve Wright, Leeds Met: Techno-fixing border controls: the new sub-lethal paradigm for mass exclusion.
- 10.45am Prof David Webb, Leeds Met: Redeploying space assets to “fix” climate change.
- 11.30am Coffee Break
- 11.45am Prof.Noel Sharkey, University of Sheffield: killer robots & future war: moving beyond the limits of the law
- 12.30pm Prof. Simon Marvin, University of Salford: Global urbanism in the anthropocene: eco-emergency, securitisation of ecology and premium ecological enclaves.
- 1.15pm Lunch
- 2.15pm Professor Stephen Graham, Durham University: Cities under siege: the new military urbanism.
- 3.00pm Tony Bunyan, Editor, Statewatch: State research activism: challenging the drift towards a more authoritarian & militarised Europe.
- 3.45pm Rachel Julian, Peaceforce & Leeds Met: What can civilians do when the impact of climate change threatens to provoke violence in their communities?
- 4:00pm Close

Details of conference presentations

TONY BUNYAN
EDITOR OF STATEWATCH

STATE RESEARCH ACTIVISM: CHALLENGING THE DRIFT TOWARDS A MORE AUTHORITARIAN & MILITARISED EUROPE.

Statewatch monitors security, civil liberties, justice policies and developments in Europe including matters such as immigration and border controls related to future climate change. It is a primary source for documentation for researchers, journalists and academics but is run independently with a tiny staff and a shoestring budget and yet has been responsible for some key policy challenges on detention, surveillance and migration. These trends were in evidence before 2001 but since the attacks of September 11, 2001 substantial new budgets have been made available for police, military and security innovations across Europe, with very little debate or discussion about democratic accountability.

The newly published Statewatch/Transnational Institute report "NeoConopticon" shows the extent to which the security agenda has been captured by the European Security Industrial Complex and this is a trend that will increase as the human fall out from climate change, such as increased numbers of refugees accelerates. The presentation will explore how research activist organisations such as Statewatch can hold powerful bureaucracies to account, even with relatively tiny numbers of staff. In future these capacities will need to be expanded by networks of people prepared to share documentation. Tony Bunyan will show how this has been accomplished very successfully by Statewatch, despite an intensifying and complex set of changes in the European security agenda..

PROF STEPHEN GRAHAM
PROFESSOR OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY, DURHAM UNIVERSITY.

CITIES UNDER SIEGE: THE NEW MILITARY URBANISM

This presentation, which draws on a forthcoming Verso book of the same title (January, 2010), explores the ways in which a new generation of state military and security doctrine is targeting the everyday systems, spaces and circulations of cities - as well as their civilian populations. This 'new military urbanism' is characterised, it will be argued, by new theories of boundless, 'low intensity,' and permanent war; by the blurring and interpenetration of policing, intelligence and military functions within and beyond nation states; by the construction of a wide variety of anticipatory surveillance systems; by a dramatic securitisation of urban landscapes based on the generalisation of ideas of what I call 'passage-point urbanism'; by the deepening militarization of material, electronic and automobile culture; and by a scramble of militarised 'resource grabs' to secure increasingly scarce energy, food and water resources over trans-global distances.

RACHAEL JULIAN
PEACE FORCE & SCHOOL OF APPLIED GLOBAL ETHICS, LEEDSMET

**WHAT CAN CIVILIANS DO WHEN THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE
THREATENS TO PROVOKE VIOLENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES?**

The effects of climate change will provoke direct violence in communities, but how will we respond? What can civilians do to reduce threats and attacks? How should we be preparing? Conflict is inevitable, when resources become scarce or livelihoods are forced to change, but the early warning initiatives and methods developed over the years could be used to help communities tackle the issues before the violence has ripped communities apart, broken down any trust and stifled any peace constituencies that were working. But, how do we get these early warning methods into the most vulnerable communities? How do we build a conflict analysis model that can include the root causes of existing conflicts, layered with additional conflicts provoked by climate change? And how do we protect civilians without sending in military forces?

The thousands of conflict transformation and peace-building projects across the world give us a starting point for how violence can be prevented and peace built up, but there need to be more people, more projects and more awareness. The need for conflict transformation training, specialised trained Civilians to live and work in vulnerable communities, and deeper understanding of how violence occurs will be needed by all communities and by international staff working in affected communities. But we also need to ensure that the richer, more developed countries do not leave the poorer vulnerable communities to bear the brunt of changes, without accepting responsibility and implementing policies that tackle the crisis. It is not inevitable that violence will mean huge numbers of civilian casualties, beyond the unacceptable levels of today. But without some major strides by rich developed nations and those living in vulnerable communities, we will see communities, countries and regions plagued by spiralling violence.

PROF SIMON MARVIN
CO-DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN & REGIONAL FUTURES,
UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

**GLOBAL URBANISM IN THE ANTHROPOCENE: ECO-EMERGENCY,
SECURITISATION OF ECOLOGY & PREMIUM ECOLOGICAL ENCLAVES**

Earth scientists now argue that the current geological era should be re-named the anthropocene, to better reflect the impact of humans in reshaping planetary ecology. Global urbanism is the social, economic and political processes most closely linked to the rapid transformation of habitats, destruction of ecologies, over use of materials and resources, and the production of pollutants and carbon emissions that threaten planetary terracide. The key question for 21st century global urbanism is critically understand the wider societal and material implications of strategic responses to the pressures of climate change, resource constraint and their interrelationships with the global economic crisis. If such transformations are underway what do they mean for new styles of urbanism? Do eco-cities, eco-towns, floating cities represent ecologically secure premium enclaves that by-pass existing infrastructure and build internalised ecological resource flows that attempt to guarantee strategic protection and further economic reproduction? What alternatives could be developed as an alternative to such bounded and divisible ecological security zones that instead contribute towards the building of more inclusive collective planetary security?

PROF. NOEL SHARKEY
PROF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ROBOTICS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT,
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

KILLER ROBOTS & FUTURE WAR: MOVING BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE LAW.

Robots are increasingly being used to wage modern warfare. Military robot controllers are slowly moving away from the idea of “man in the loop” towards man on the loop, and eventually to full algorithmic self control and patrol. Such capacities might become inevitably deployed where long border perimeters need to be controlled to prevent refugees crossing. This may entail a fudging of legal reservations beyond the current limits of the law especially if armed robots are deployed in circumstances where combatant and civilian can not be differentiated. What changes in military and humanitarian law need to be addressed if we are to ensure that future control of climate induced migration remains in human hands?

PROF. DAVID WEBB
PRAXIS CENTRE, LEEDSMET

REDEPLOYING SPACE ASSETS TO “FIX” CLIMATE CHANGE

There are a variety of ways in which existing space technologies (both military and civilian) could be deployed by governments and corporations wishing to manipulate the effects of future climate change. These include measures both to change the climate and to control the fall out from any failure to do. The presentation will examine how space warfare architecture; its related communication and control systems and the paraphernalia of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), surveillance satellites and geo-engineering schemes might be harnessed for new climate fixing options. The presentation will conclude that none of these techno-fixing approaches will serve any meaningful purpose apart from increasing the coffers of their corporate supporters.

DR STEVE WRIGHT
READER, SCHOOL OF APPLIED GLOBAL ETHICS, LEEDSMET

TECHNO-FIXING BORDER CONTROLS: THE NEW SUB-LETHAL PARADIGM FOR MASS EXCLUSION

The Military Industrial Media Entertainment Complex has been rapidly refocusing on the lucrative new markets of Homeland Security since the events of 11 September 2001 and a new generation of funding has spawned a wide array of new technologies of political control. These include semi-intelligent border control systems as well as a arsenal of advanced paralysing and disabling weapons. The deployment of these systems is already speeding up, accompanied by a new doctrine of so called non-lethal warfare. This presentation explores the fallacies of this doctrine and how what we are witnessing is a re-orientation of a whole military mindset towards mass exclusion and area denial tactics and technologies.