



Australian  
National  
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Coral Bell  
School of Asia  
Pacific Affairs

## The Double Black Box: National Security, Artificial Intelligence, and the Struggle for Democratic Accountability



### AI, Automated Systems, and the Future of War Public Lecture Series

AI may weaken democratic accountability for national security decisions, including the resort to force. Many already decry the “black box” nature of national security decision-making. The rise of opaque AI systems to enable national security decisions –or make autonomous decisions –will deepen this critique, creating a “double black box.” AI will render national security choices inside democracies even more opaque –to the public, foreign allies, legislative overseers, and even government decision-makers themselves. How can we ensure that executive actors adhere to public law values such as legality, competence, and accountability when using these tools?

The talk will explore the “double black box” phenomenon, analyse its costs, and identify ways that military, intelligence, and legal officials in democratic states such as the United States and Australia can reap the advantages of AI without surrendering their rule of law values.

#### Speaker

**Ashley Deeks** is the Class of 1948 Scholarly Research Professor at the University of Virginia Law School. She writes about the use of force, executive power, government secrecy, and the intersection of national security and AI. Professor Deeks recently served as Special Assistant to the President, Associate White House Counsel, and Deputy Legal Advisor to the National Security Council.

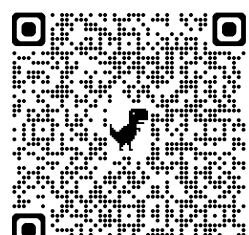
#### Details

5-6pm, Mon 22 July 2024, Lecture Theatre 1 ANU Hedley Bull Building, 130 Garran Road

#### Register here



#### Project website



This Public Lecture Series, ‘AI, Automated Systems, and the Future of War’, is part of the two-year (2023-2025) research project on *Anticipating the Future of War: AI, Automated Systems, and Resort-to-Force Decision Making*, generously funded by the Australian Department of Defence, and led by Professor Toni Erskine from the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs.