

Short-term fellowship (Global South perspectives) April/May 2024 in Bonn and Paderborn, Germany – MEHUCO research network investigating autonomous weapons

The interdisciplinary project “Meaningful Human Control – Autonomous Weapon Systems between Regulation and Reflection” (MEHUCO) (<https://meaningfulhumancontrol.de/en/home/>) connects five universities in Germany that aim to situate so far unconnected concepts of the controversy around Autonomous Weapon Systems (AWS) in their historical and cultural context. The main goals are to develop an appropriate concept of socio-material agency and to translate scientific results into public discourse in order to strengthen civil society debates.

As part of the project, we are inviting fellows from the Global South to work with us on achieving the goals of the project. The idea of the fellowship is to strongly include a broad range of voices and positions in the discourse on autonomous weapons and to expand the scope of reflection on AWS.

Time frame and funding

The 4-week fellowship is compensated with 5.000 Euros. In addition, travel expenses will be covered. We will provide support in arranging accommodation and assist with the visa application and other bureaucratic processes. Fellows spend 4 weeks in Germany from the **end of April 2024 to the end of May 2024**. Fellows are expected to be on location for the whole duration of their stay.

Goals of the fellowship and key research topics

The first two weeks of the fellowship will be spent at Bonn University. Planned activities include knowledge transfer (participation in university seminars & a public event) and the joint development of a blueprint for future research collaborations bridging different global regions.

During the second half of their stay in Germany, all fellows of the research network will reside at Paderborn University to enable an interdisciplinary and transnational exchange. From May 22 to 24, 2024, an international conference on autonomous weapon systems will be held in Paderborn. Fellows are invited to present their work.

We consider applicants who pursue topics that address current global security issues with a particular focus on nations of the Global South. Our key research topics include

- regulation of weapons technologies
- socio-political consequences of the military AI race in on a global scale
- developments in military technology and artificial intelligence and their histories
- human-machine interaction in autonomous weapon systems.

Requirements and application

Fellowships are awarded to applicants who work on these issues in academic, policy-making, journalistic or NGO contexts.

Applications should be submitted in English via Karoline Kozlowski (k.kozlowski@uni-bonn.de) no later than **May 18, 2023** and include the following elements:

- Up-to-date curriculum vitae
- Motivation letter explaining your interest in the fellowship, your research background and your expectations (1 page)
- Short summary (max. 2 pages) including
 - the focus of your work (in academia, policy-making or related), outlining how it responds to the key research areas listed above;
 - suggestions and ideas on deliverables, products or outcomes you aim to produce during or after the fellowship
- two relevant publications (optional, PDF, total max. 5 MB)

If you have any questions, please send an email to Christoph Ernst (cernst@uni-bonn.de) and Thomas Christian Bächle (thomas.baechle@uni-bonn.de).