

26TH ANNIVERSARY SERIES



UM INSTITUTE FOR BIOETHICS AND HEALTH POLICY PRESENTS

DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

DIALOGUE 179

Autonomous Weapon Systems: Research, Risk and Responsibility

Duncan Purves, PhD
University of Florida

Noon, Friday, November 10, 2017
Don Soffer Clinical Research Building, Room 975
Lunch provided — first come, first served.

Participation in the research, development, deployment of a new weapons technology is more than an engineering challenge. It is a morally fraught endeavor. Should we welcome or be horrified by the prospect of autonomous killing machines, which can choose whom to kill without human oversight? Answering this first question requires addressing a number of others, including: Is it possible to program autonomous weapons to make sound moral decisions? Who should be held responsible when an autonomous weapon kills in error? More broadly: Do scientists have responsibility for uses and misuses of their inventions or discoveries?

Dr. Purves is an Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department at the University of Florida. His research explores ethical theory, bioethics and environmental ethics, focusing especially on emerging technologies, and the normative significance of harm, death and our obligations to future generations.

Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly seminars. For more information, phone UM Ethics Programs at 305-243-5723 or E-mail ethics@miami.edu.

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