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Security Lancaster Newsletter December 2020

Meet a Colleague

Professor James Sweeney

James Sweeney is a professor of international law at Lancaster University Law School. He is the Research Lead for the Security Institute's stream on 'Law, Policy, and Ethics'. James's research is about the role of law in, and after, conflict: principally human rights in 'transitional' democracies, international criminal justice, and the rights of refugees. He is also interested in technology and the law of armed conflict, including 'cyber warfare' and automaticity. His most recent publication was the product of a British Academy grant, and examined the role of the news media in setting and challenging the historical record regarding the armed conflict in Kosovo in the 1990s, in the absence of a formal truth commission.

James has acted as an expert advisor to the Council of Europe in relation to freedom of assembly projects in the former Yugoslavia and former USSR. He has delivered human rights legal training to the judges of the Ukrainian Supreme Court and the Constitutional and Supreme Courts of Kosovo, on behalf of the FCO. With the UN he has delivered training in Kosovo on media reporting of conflict-related sex and gender-based violence. He was the project rapporteur for the first edition of the NATO-backed 'Tallinn Manual on the International Law Applicable to Cyber Warfare.'

His work has received much attention through his regular appearances in print and broadcast news media, including writing for The Conversation. His work has been quoted by judges at the highest levels in the UK and, most recently, by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions in a report calling for greater protection of mass graves. The report was submitted to the UN General Assembly by the UN Secretary General in October this year. His written evidence on the draft Overseas Operations Bill was discussed by the UK parliament earlier this month.

James took up his Chair at Lancaster in 2013. He previously lectured at Newcastle University and then Durham University, where he was the founding Deputy Director of Durham Global Security Institute.

SL Seminar Series

The SL seminar series is starting!

The inaugural SL Institute seminar will take place on 11th December and will be presented by Distinguished Professor, Laurie Williams from North Carolina State University. Full details and joining instructions can be found here.

The full seminar calendar is available here. As the current seminars are presented via Teams, please feel free to disseminate internally and externally. We look forward to your active participation in the seminars - including your suggestions for future invitees.

Recent Grants

EPSRC's call on Trustworthy Autonomous Systems was nicely successful for Security Lancaster. Security Lancaster leads the Security node as the [Principal Investigator](#) and is involved in a second node on [Resilience](#) with [Mark Levine](#) (Sociology) as co-investigator.

Attributing Projects to Security Lancaster

One of the productivity yardsticks used by the university administration is the funding success of the institute. However, given some admin complexities, an attribution of an activity to SL can be done **only** at the time a proposal is submitted and **not** after it has been awarded…or at least not without a super-tedious process. Such are the joys of administrative complexities. The screenshot of the proposal application process highlights the fields where SL can be mentioned. Please note that one can always attribute multiple institutes as needed.

In addition, we attach the proposal processes [here](#) in case this information is helpful.

Call for Mini Projects

As in the past years, SL is delighted to be able to sponsor mini-projects! These are designed to provide seed funding to build bigger multi-disciplinary, multi-department collaborative projects for research and proposals. We especially encourage early career faculty to make use of this opportunity.

Full details can be found [here.](#)

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