GUEST EDITORIAL PREFACE

Special Issue on Military Technoethics Beyond

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What better way to introduce 2014 than with a packed issue focusing on key ethical considerations connected to new technologies. This guest edited issue is divided into three sections: (1) a section with three special issue articles dedicated to military technologies and technoethics, (2) a regular section with three articles on diverse research topics pursued within technoethics, and (3) a short section on practice with a focus on a real life technoethical cases arising from industry. These three issue sections are discussed below.

New military technologies and new techniques for employing those technologies pose enormous challenges for technoethics – challenges that we must strive to resolve as these technologies transform modern warfare. The articles in the first section deal with military technologies and covers some of the most controversial and ethically significant emerging problems in this field of research, in each case providing strong accounts not only of the ethical challenges new military technologies pose but also of their broader political and social significance. In "Military Robots and the Question of Responsibility" Lambèr Royakkers and Peter Olsthoorn analyze the increasing use of lethal military robots and how responsibility for non-autonomous and autonomous lethal military robots can be attributed to human actors. They argue that the developers who create military robots and the military commanders who employ them can bear responsibility for the use of military robots, while also emphasizing that the human operators who control the robots directly are immediately responsible for how robots are used. This makes it imperative for those operators to be acutely aware of the ethical implications of their mediated actions on the battlefield. Lambèr Royakkers and Sjef Orbons discuss the political and ethical significance of the development of non-lethal weapons in "Designing for Values of Non-Lethal Weapons." The authors provide an exhaustive review of how these weapons have come into more widespread use and of the weapons programs currently in development, with some helpful case study illustrations, as well as a useful typology for categorizing different types of non-lethal weapons. With this theoretical framework in

place, the authors go on to explore the potential political and societal effects of non-lethal weapons. In "A Moral Analysis of Effective Prediction Markets on Terrorism" Dan Wiejers and Jennifer Richardson analyze the controversy surrounding prediction markets on terrorism (PMsoT). They argue that although PMsoT are widely considered to be immoral, they are effective and morally justifiable instruments for predicting terrorist attacks. To substantiate this claim, the authors raise three of the most influential arguments against using markets to predict acts of terror and show these arguments' respective flaws. When taken together, the three articles demonstrate the range of different military technologies that are raising new challenges for technoethics, and how technological innovation for war is disruptive to existing normative categories. Moreover, the articles show how ethical theorists can restore normative clarity with stronger theoretical accounts of new military technologies and technoethics.

The second section deals with diverse topic areas typically covered in the regular issues of the International Journal of Technoethics. In "Are Persuasive Technologies Really Able to Communicate? Some Remarks to the Application of Discourse Ethics", Christian Linder explores the limits of applying discourse of assessment of persuasive technology (PT). The author does an excellent job of illustrating how the preconditions of an ethical discourse are often unfulfilled in the context of persuasive technology design and development. This article contributes to research knowledge and practice by proposing guidelines needed in the design of persuasive technology that meets the basic requirements of discourse ethics. Next, "New Existential Challenges In the Context of E-Culture", by Liudmila Baeva, takes a look at the influence of e-culture on human life. The author explores the existential problem of personhood in the context of virtualization and human transforming technologies. This article provides an insightful perspective on how developing e-culture has nurtured in new freedoms, new dependences and new risks for humans. Both of these articles demonstrate the need to closely monitor and guide new developments in persuasive technology and e-culture to meet human needs and limitations.

Finally, the third section on Technoethical Practice attempts to showcase the insider perspectives of practitioners and technology experts from the field. In "Preventing Online Bullying: What Companies and Others Can Do", Jacqueline F. Beauchere, the Chief Online Safety Officer at Microsoft Corporation, explores the troubling issue of cyberbullying based on findings from a 2012 Microsoft study of young people worldwide ages eight to 17. This article takes the stance that the Internet is a shared responsibility among many stakeholders which involving youth, parents, educators, law enforcement, government, civil society, and community organizations. The article contributes to the field of technoethics by providing practical recommendations on how to prevent online bullying.

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