

The Kill Cloud: Networked Warfare, Drones & AI

Conference at Kunstquartier Bethanien (Studio 1) · 25 – 27 March 2022

„The smartphone has been hi-jacked by war and converted into a surveillance tool.” - Lisa Ling -

The dramatic situation in Ukraine and the power takeover of the Taliban in Afghanistan demonstrate that war and global humanitarian crises are burning issues at the top of our political and media agendas. But in the meantime, a gigantic data driven, global military infrastructure is being put up – mostly unnoticed by people and uncommented by the media. What is the future of war? Which political and technological strategies are already in use? What can whistleblowing and other acts of civil disobedience achieve in this power game? The conference „The Kill Cloud“ debates these questions and brings together, apart from the most well-known whistleblowers in the US drone war, military experts, AI researchers, investigative journalists, human rights lawyers and representatives of NGO such as Transparency International, Airwars, and Kabul Luftbrücke (air bridge). Some light will also be shed on the presence and role of the Ramstein US Military Base.

Highlights of the conference

- Keynote of whistleblowers Lisa Ling and Cian Westmoreland and Brandon Bryant
- Panels discussing the connections between AI, satellite tech, and the drone war
- Presentation of the anthology “Whistleblowing for Change“ (transcript Verlag)
- Film screening of „National Bird“ and Q&A with Lisa Ling, Emily Tripp, Abdul Saboor Arghandiwal and Theresa Breuer on the impact of drone strikes on the lives of civilians in Afghanistan and the Middle East
- Workshop: Uncovering gamification techniques used on everyday devices

Top participants of the conference

- Lisa Ling, Cian Westmoreland, Brandon Bryant (Drone whistleblowers)
- Jack Poulson (Executive Director Tech Inquiry, and Google whistleblower)
- Emran Feroz (Journalist and Author)
- Laura Nolan (ICRAC – International Committee for Robot Arms Control)
- Taniel Yousef (Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom)
- Khalil Dewan (Stoke White Investigations)
- Theresa Breuer (Co-founder of Kabul Luftbrücke)
- Daniel Eriksson (CEO, Transparency International)

Important note for journalists:

- In the days before and during the conference, Lisa Ling und Cian Westmoreland as well as other conference speakers are available for interviews

Further information and tickets:

- Curator of the conference: Tatiana Bazzichelli (Artistic Director)
- Organiser/presenter: Disruption Network Lab (Berlin) / www.disruptionlab.org
- Full conference information: www.disruptionlab.org/the-kill-cloud
- tickets: <https://pretix.eu/disruptionlab/the-kill-cloud>

The organiser and presenter of the conference, Berlin-based Disruption Network Lab, firmly believes, that it is crucial to keep alive such debate in the city of Berlin and in Germany in general, considering the presence and role of the U.S. air force base in Ramstein.

„Modern drone warfare is vastly more complex, insidious, ubiquitous, inaccurate, than the public is aware, and its colonial scope continues to bring endless war to people of colour across the globe.” - Lisa Ling and Cian Westmoreland -

In a unique event format, the conference „The Kill Cloud“ (the 26th conference of Disruption Network Lab) offers deep insight into the highly problematic ethical issues on the use of AI and satellite technology to enable targeted killing via drones and unmanned aerial vehicles, as well as an investigation into how atrocities such as the collateral bombing of civilians without soldiers can happen, as we witnessed in Afghanistan in 2021. Furthermore, human rights violations, surveillance and data protection breaches, transparency issues, and the implication of private companies in modern war conflicts will be discussed.



Keynote speaker of the conference are drone whistleblowers and veteran data analysts Cian Westmoreland and Lisa Ling. The two of them are co-authors of *The Kill Cloud: Real World Implications of Network Centric Warfare*, a revealing book chapter of the Disruption Network Lab's anthology *Whistleblowing for Change* (transcript Verlag, November 2021), which gives the title to this conference.

Konferenzprogramm

Fri 25.03. at 17:30	Opening by Tatiana Bazzichelli (Artistic Director, Disruption Network Lab)
Fri 25.03. at 17:40	Keynote speech: Lisa Ling and Cian Westmoreland
Fri 25.03. at 19:00	Panel: „Artificial Intelligence for drone surveillance“
Sat 26.03. at 16:30	Insight by Brandon Bryant (Whistleblower)
Sat 26.03. at 16:45	Panel „The legal and political implications of drone strikes“
Sat 26.03. at 18:30	Film screening of „National Bird“ by Sonia Kennebeck
Sat 26.03. at 20:30	Q&A with Lisa Ling, Emily Tripp, Saboor Arghandiwal and Theresa Breuer on the impact of the drone war in Afghanistan
Sun 27.03. at 12:00	Workshop: Emily Tripp (Research Manager, Airwars)
Sun 27.03. at 15:30	Workshop: “To Play or Be Played: Uncovering Gamification Techniques“

More: [Schedule and Speakers](#) · [Press Images, texts, logos & information about earlier events](#) · Press images can be used free of charge in connection with editorial coverage of the event; the rights holder must be named in the credits.

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