



## Call for Papers Future of War Conference Amsterdam, 26-28 October 2026

Organised by the Strategy, Statecraft, and Technology - Changing Character of War Centre of the University of Oxford and the Faculty of Military Sciences of the Netherlands Defence Academy

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### Conference Theme: Multiple Futures of War

Envisioning the future remains a central line of enquiry in the study of war. It is extremely difficult to imagine the character of future warfare, as there is a temptation to depend on existing concepts and cognitive expectations. Even more tempting is to indulge a form of technological determinism based on contemporary technologies. Nevertheless, both scholars and practitioners continue to conceptualise and model the future of war through a range of techniques and methodologies, such as wargaming and simulation, net assessment, cliodynamics, and strategic foresight and direction.

It is widely acknowledged that frontlines in contemporary conflicts have shown us glimpses of what future war might entail. For instance, the Russian invasion of Ukraine suggests that hyper-modern drone warfare will likely be a dominant area of contestation, while the war of Israel against Hamas illustrates the far-reaching impact of artificial intelligence on military decision-making. Yet, there are many other conflicts across the globe that receive far less attention in the study of future war, such as the jihadist expansion in Africa, border wars in Asia, or organised crime in Latin America.

The point of departure for this conference is the idea that the future of war is not universal. Warfare across the globe is moving in unforeseen directions, a process that is being driven by, for example, the complexities of regional dynamics, human decision making, and disruptive innovation. This conference explores to what extent multiple futures – all with their idiosyncrasies - can be identified over time. By questioning the singular interpretation of the future, this conference seeks to move beyond a Western-dominated interpretation of war. Through comparing and contrasting a broader spectrum of approaches, this conference will examine to what extent these envisioned futures of war can co-exist, compete, or clash.

The Future of War Conference is a joint initiative of the Strategy, Statecraft, and Technology – Changing Character of War Centre of the University of Oxford and the Faculty of Military Sciences of the Netherlands Defence Academy. The key aim is to bring together scholars and practitioners from different academic disciplines, areas of expertise, and geographical backgrounds, to push the boundaries of the study of war. The organising committee invites proposals for panels and

individual submissions for the next iteration of the conference, which will be held between 26-28 October 2026 at the 'Marine Etablissement Amsterdam' (MEA), in the bustling capital city of the Netherlands. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Immediate futures, such as climate security, artificial intelligence in decision-making, medical innovations for future battle place casualties, aging populations, and the rise of great power competition;
- Near futures, which includes resource scarcity, nuclear proliferation, migration flows, and the fighting abilities of democracies, the era of robotics, and the role of international institutions and international law in constraining war;
- Far futures, such as space exploration and mining, strategic conceptions of space warfare, and the end of nation states, as well as the emergence of AI and the end of the Anthropocene.

Panel proposals should consist of:

- 3 papers and 1 chair
- 300 words abstract for each paper
- 150 words bio for each contributor

Individual paper submissions should consist of:

- 300 words abstract
- 150 words bio

This conference seeks to host a diverse range of disciplinary and analytical approaches. We therefore extend the invitation to a wide range of academic disciplines, including historians, technologists, engineers, anthropologists, (military) strategists, psychologists, mathematicians, political scientists, legal scholars, data scientists, economists, and philosophers, as well as practitioners.

The submission deadline for panels and papers is 1 April 2026. Please submit your proposal via the online form at [www.futureofwarconference.com](http://www.futureofwarconference.com). The organising committee will inform potential participants on the acceptance of their proposal by 1 May 2026. The deadline for the full conference paper, which is envisioned as an extended abstract of approximately 4000 words, is scheduled for 1 October 2026. We aim to publish a collection of papers as an edited volume with a high-ranking university press. For questions regarding the conference, kindly contact the organising committee at [contact@futureofwarconference.com](mailto:contact@futureofwarconference.com).