

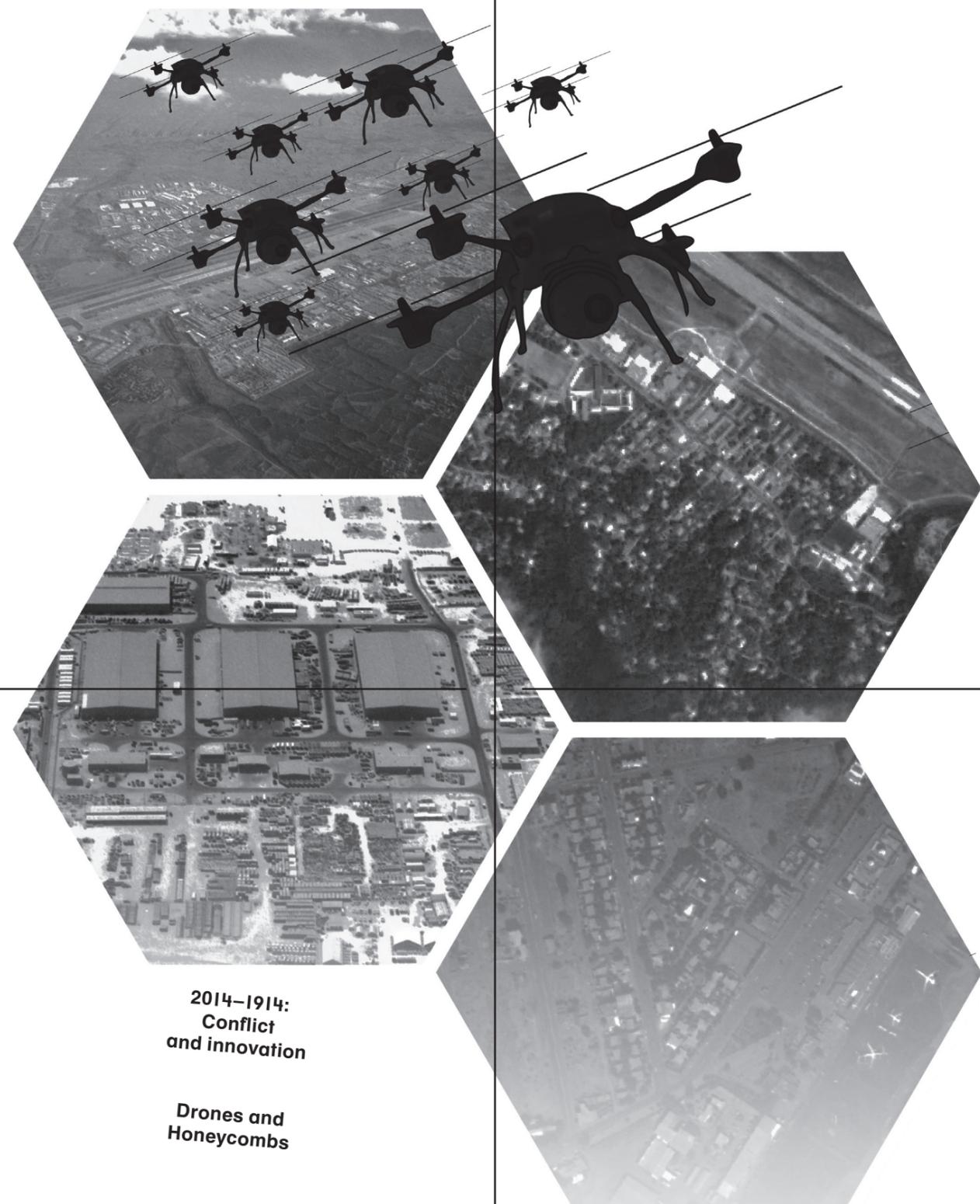
2014-1914:  
Conflict  
and innovation

Drones and  
Honeycombs

# Het Nieuwe Instituut

~~Seminar~~

# Drone Salon



2014-1914:  
Conflict  
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Drones and  
Honeycombs

## Drones move from the battlefield to smart cities and adhocacy

Drones are unmanned aircrafts. They are either controlled by 'pilots' from the ground or, increasingly, autonomously following a pre-programmed mission. Over time, drones have become smaller, faster, and better accessorized. They can fly alone or in swarms. They are not as expensive and big as airplanes. They are easily adaptable and can be used for different purposes – from surveillance to monitoring agricultural fields and wild-life poaching; from carrying bombs, to delivering books and pizza; from targeting and killing individuals to providing medical and first aid assistance.

The intuitive movement of the drone, its sensors and the way it's controlled from afar, allows us to see things not just from above, but from all directions; vertically, horizontally, and in any angle in between. Both outside spaces and the indoors are visible. We can see heat prints and sounds. The analytical capacity of data reads and visualizes not only objects and their movement in space, but also recognises social connections and relationships between one person and another.

The drone and its technology are changing our relations with our living environment.

The *Drone Salon* aims to provide a multidisciplinary overview of challenges, opportunities and speculations on future transitions caused by the use of drone technology both in the battlefield and in the civic realm. This seminar is punctuated by short presentations and longer conversations between Malkit Shoshan, Ethel Baraona Pohl and experts in the field: lawyers, activists, civic and military drone operators, artists, writers and designers.

Amongst the participants are Quirine Eijkman (Targeted Killing reports, Amnesty International and expert in international law), Catherine Harwood (expert in international law), Lt. Col Pieter Mink (senior advisor Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Royal Netherlands Army Command), Matthew Stadler (writer), Liam Young (futurist, critic and curator), Eyal Weizman (Forensic Architecture), Ruben Pater (artist) and Yael Messer (art curator).

The seminar is part of Drones and Honeycombs, a long-term research project by Malkit Shoshan for Het Nieuwe Instituut. It focuses on the architecture and landscape of war and international relations. It is also part of a series of public events and a publishing project titled *Unmanned. On the spatial and ethical implications of drones*. The latter is a collaboration of Columbia University, dpr-barcelona, Studio- X, FAST, Het Nieuwe Instituut, and The Center for The Study of The Drone.

## Programme

10:00 Welcome by Guus Beumer

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### 10:10 First Part

Introduction by Malkit Shoshan

The military use of drones on land and in the sea by Lieutenant-colonel Pieter Mink, senior advisor Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Royal Netherlands Army Command.

Targeted Killing Reports, presented by Amnesty International's representative Dr. Quirine Eijkman and by Human Rights Watch representative Belkis Wille (who is based in Yemen) via Skype.

Drones and International Law by Catherine Harwood, Leiden University

In conversation with Ethel Baraona Pohl, Karim Benammar, Malkit Shoshan and Eyal Weizman (Skype)

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### 12:00 Second part

*From the Battlefield to smart cities and adhocacy*  
Introduction by Ethel Baraona Pohl

Short presentations and conversations with:

Liam Young, Yael Messer, Ruben Pater and Matthew Stadler

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### 13:00 Third part

*The Drone Salon*  
Conversation with the different experts and the audience.

The event is moderated by Karin Benammar

## Participants

Ethel Baraona Pohl is a critic, blogger and curator. She is Co-founder of dpr-barcelona and editor of Quaderns, as well as a contributing editor for different blogs and magazines. She has written articles for Domus, Volume, The New City Reader [Istanbul edition] and MAS Context, among others. Pohl has been invited to present her work in events like Postópolis! DF, and the international architecture festival Eme3. She is Associate Curator for 'Adhocacy', which has been shown at the Istanbul Design Biennial in 2012 and at The New Museum in 2013. Pohl is Curator, alongside César Reyes Nájera, of the third Think Space programme.

Quirine Eijkman is a Senior Researcher and Lecturer at the Centre for Terrorism and Counterterrorism, Leiden University. Additionally, she is a consultant for Justice Q&A. Previously she worked for the Police and Human Rights Programme of Amnesty International, the Human Rights Committee of the Dutch Advisory Council on International Affairs, the Roosevelt Academy of Utrecht University, the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) and at the International Humanitarian Law Department of the Netherlands Red Cross. Currently, she is a Member of the Board of UPEACE, the Hague, and a Member of the Board of Advisors of the Dutch Platform on Civil Rights and the Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists (NJCM), where she was the (vice) President between 2005 and 2011. She has published on the side-effects of security measures for human rights, police reform, and human rights mobilization. Her areas of interest include security and human rights, counter-terrorism, transitional justice and the sociology of law.

Catherine Harwood is a PhD candidate at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at Leiden University. Her research explores how international fact-finding investigations in (post)conflict situations may be coordinated and harmonized to strengthen international justice and accountability. Harwood graduated cum laude from Leiden University in 2012 with a Masters of Law in Advanced Studies of Public International Law, with the assistance of a Rotary Vocational Scholarship. Harwood worked for two years as a Judges Clerk at the New Zealand Court of Appeal and was a teaching fellow and researcher at Victoria University. She has also interned at the International Criminal Court and the International Bar Association's Programme on the ICC.

Yael Messer is an independent curator. She has participated in the De Appel Curatorial Programme, Amsterdam. Messer has collaborated internationally with museums, institutions and independent art spaces. Messer is the recipient of the 2013 Artist grant for her curatorial collaboration with the 13th Istanbul Biennial. She will present a recent lecture 'Decolonized Skies: George Clooney, Drones and the democratization of the view from above'.

Lieutenant-colonel Pieter Mink is the senior advisor UAS at the Army Staff at Utrecht. In this position he is also responsible for flight safety, quality and airworthiness of UAS. Lt.Col Pieter Mink served in three missions. UNPROFOR as a UN Military Observer in Bosnia from July 1993 – February 1994. In the SFIR mission, from July 2004 – March 2005, he served in the MN Division CS at Al Hillah, Iraq. In this division he was as staff officer G7 responsible for all training of the Iraqi National Guard. During his final mission from July 2009 – February 2010 he served in HQ ISAF, Kabul, as a planning staff officer Information Operations.

Ruben Pater is a Dutch artist and the designer of the Drone Survival Guide.

Malkit Shoshan is an architect. She is the founder and director of the Amsterdam based architectural think tank FAST, the Foundation for Achieving Seamless Territory. Her work explores and highlights the relations between architecture, politics and human rights. Shoshan is the author of the award-winning book *Atlas of the Conflict, Israel-Palestine*. She is a PhD candidate at the architecture faculty at TU Delft and she is developing the project *Drones and Honeycombs* as a fellow-researcher at Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam.

Matthew Stadler is a writer. He has written five novels and received several awards and fellowships in recognition of his work. More recently, he wrote the book *Deventer*, a story about hope and power in architecture. In addition, he gave last year's 9th Benno Premsele lecture, in which he speculated on the role of drone technologies in a surveillance state, among many other things. The English publication of the lecture can be downloaded for free via: [www.hetnieuweinstituut.nl/bpl2013](http://www.hetnieuweinstituut.nl/bpl2013). A Dutch translation of this text, 'Interior Decorating in War-Time', was recently published in De Gids.

Eyal Weizman is an architect, Professor of Visual Cultures and director of the Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London. Since 2011 he is also Director of the European Research Council funded project, 'Forensic Architecture – on the place of architecture in international humanitarian law'. Since 2007 he has been a founding member of the architectural collective DAAR in Beit Sahour/Palestine.

Liam Young is an architect who operates in the spaces between design, fiction and futures. He is founder of the urban futures think tank Tomorrows Thoughts Today, a group whose work explores the possibilities of fantastic, perverse and imaginary urbanisms. With TTT he has consulted and conducted workshops on speculation, emerging technologies and future forecasting for firms including Arup – Drivers for Change, Phillips Technologies, BBC, the film industry and various arts and science organizations. His projects include 'Under Tomorrows Sky', a science fiction movie set for a fictional future city developed through collaborations with scientists and technologists, and 'Electronic Countermeasures', a swarm of quad copter drones that drift through the city broadcasting a pirate internet and file sharing hub.