The modern international arena is characterized by a number of “hybrid threats” posed by activities in what is known as the “grey zone.” United States Special Operations Command defines this zone as “a conceptual space between peace and war, occurring when actors purposefully use single or multiple elements of power to achieve political-security objectives with activities that are typically ambiguous or cloud attribution and exceed the threshold of ordinary competition, yet intentionally fall below the level of large-scale direct military conflict.”

While such forms of competition have always occurred, advances in communications and information technology amplify their potential effect, and make possible the simultaneous use of multiple tactics in coordinated campaigns. Such campaigns may result in sudden acquisition of advantage, or they may be gradual and long-term, seeking incremental changes to avoid provocation whose cumulative effect may be to change balances of power.

These operations pose particular challenges because they typically fall between legally accepted forms of competition and legally prohibited armed attacks. The resulting ambiguity creates instability in the international arena because states are uncertain about behavior that will be considered acceptable and responses that will be regarded as justified. The absence of clear legal guidance reflects a deeper failure to determine ethical norms that should govern activity in the grey zone.

This workshop will bring together thinkers from various disciplines to map the terrain characterized by hybrid threats in the grey zone. This will involve discussion of the specific types of threats and the issues that they raise, how these threats may be connected to one another, the responses that may be effective in response to them, and the potential for legal and ethical principles to provide greater clarity and structure about what is and is not acceptable behavior.

This conference is invitation only and closed to the public.
HYBRID THREATS IN THE GREY ZONE: MAPPING THE TERRAIN
December 6-7, 2019

Schedule

Friday, December 6

Location: University of Pennsylvania Law School, 3501 Sansom Street, Philadelphia PA, 19104

8:45 am – 9:15 am
Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:15 am – 9:30 am
Welcoming Remarks

9:30 am – 11:00 am
Session 1: Conceptual Foundations
Moderator: Aurel Sari
The Grey Zone and Hybrid Conflict: A Conceptual Introduction

Christopher Marsh
We Have Met the Grey Zone and It is Us

Duncan MacIntosh
The Divide between War and Peace

Tobias Vestner

11:00 am – 11:30 am
Break

11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Session 2: Making Sense of the Hybrid Threats in the Greyzone

https://www.law.upenn.edu/institutes/cerl/conferences/hybridgreyzone/schedule.html
Gray Zone

Moderator: Mitt Regan

The Grey Zone: An Analytic Framework for Military Overt, Covert, and Paramilitary Lines of Effort

Maegen Nix & Welton Chang

Legal Aspects of Grey Zone and Hybrid Conflict: A Primer

Hitoshi Nasu

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

Lunch

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

Session 3: Tactics in the Gray Zone (1)

Moderator: Aurel Sari

Neuroscience and Technology in Grey Zone Operations

James Giordano

The Ethics of Acting Covertly

Mitt Regan

Lying in the Grey Zone

Steven Wheatley

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Break
Saturday, December 7

8:45 am – 9:00 am  Registration and Continental Breakfast

Session 5: Domains

Moderator: Aurel Sari

Information Operations

Beba Cibralic

The Maritime Domain

David Letts

Hybrid Warfare in Outer Space

Melissa de Zwart & Dale Stephens

Measured Self-Help in the Disinformation Age

Steven J. Barela & Samuli Haataja
10:30 am – 10:45 am Break

Session 6: Responses
Moderator: Mitt Regan

An Ethical Framework for Assessing Grey Zone Responses
Ed Barrett

Winning at the Seams
Michael A. Newton

Competing in the Legal Domain: Legal Operations
Borja Montes-Toscano

Legal Resilience
Aurel Sari

12:15 pm – 12:30 pm Concluding remarks: Aurel Sari & Mitt Regan