International relations in the digital age

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Abstract
How have and will advanced technologies, digital and otherwise, affect international relations in the future? Modern advancements in information communications technology have added new dimensions to the way nations interact both peacefully and belligerently. Entering the digital age has allowed governments to connect with one another like never before to solve international issues. At the same time digital tech has also opened wider the door to an ongoing risk of cyber warfare and espionage. Advanced weaponry has increased lethality while decreasing the risk of harm to the possessors. In this micro-seminar we will examine the impact these and other technologies are having on the current state of international relations. From advanced weapons that can operate autonomously using artificial intelligence to Twitter diplomacy to “deep fakes” and attempts by governments to influence elections in other countries, digital technology has the potential to be both a boon to diplomacy but also violently disruptive and destabilizing.

Faculty Biography
Jeffrey Fields is associate professor of the practice of international relations and director of USC’s Dornsife Washington, DC Program. His research focuses on American foreign policy, diplomacy, and international security particularly the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Prior to coming to USC, Professor Fields served as a senior adviser and political-military analyst with the Department of Defense and as a foreign affairs officer with the U.S. State Department, where he helped advise the president’s special representative for nonproliferation. Dr. Fields has also been a research associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and researcher at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. His most recent book is State Behavior and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime and his article on negotiating with adversaries appears in the July 2015 of Diplomacy and Statecraft. Dr. Fields is the recent recipient of grants from the MacArthur Foundation for a project on state behavior and the nuclear nonproliferation regime and the Carnegie Corporation of New York for a project to facilitate interaction between policymakers and scholars. He received his PhD in politics and international relations from the University of Southern California. He lives in Los Angeles and Washington, DC with his dog Pebbles. Follow him on Twitter: @jeffreyfields.