Call for contributions

Issue 6: AI and Cognitive Operations

The concept of cognitive warfare is not new, but it is experiencing a resurgence of interest in the Western world, particularly in cognitive sciences and neuroscience, to describe conflicts that rely on operations aimed at influencing perceptions, emotions, reasoning, and imagining of individuals and groups. Beyond traditional approaches of disinformation and propaganda, cognitive operations use advanced technological tools, notably artificial intelligence, which allows for targeting the cognitive vulnerabilities of each specific profile and manipulating on a large scale. This unprecedented combination opens a new field of influence, alongside psychological operations (PsyOpS) and civil-military cooperation (CIMIC), whose hybrid complexity requires theoretical and methodological reinvestment that this issue aims to open.

Contributions can explore the strategies, methods, and technologies used in cognitive warfare, as well as their implications for intelligence and cyber defense. Works on the current and future uses of cognitive AI in cognitive warfare strategies, whether for defensive applications (threat detection, strengthening informational resilience) or offensive applications (automated propaganda, targeted disinformation) are welcome. Cognitive AI can simulate human cognitive processes such as perception, learning, reasoning, and decision-making. In the context of cognitive warfare, these systems are likely to become major strategic players, both for their ability to influence, anticipate, and manipulate behaviors and their vulnerability to diversion and intoxication. Their presence in command chains can also be questioned. Critical reflections on the concept of cognitive warfare or cognitive AI are welcome, as well as any effort of theoretical and disciplinary reinvestment of the phenomenon. The issue can accommodate prospective proposals and empirical case studies, on themes ranging from operational applications (algorithmic propaganda, deepfakes, behavioral micro-targeting) to ethical and legal challenges, including countermeasures, the reorganization of human-machine systems, and regulatory perspectives.

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