

Sustainability Innovation Seminar 47

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2015, 16:30 - 18:00

Venue: Meeting Room 610, Sixth Floor, Administration Bureau Building 2,
Hongo Campus, University of Tokyo

Title: Altering the Playing Field: The United States' Redefinition of the
Use-of-Force

Speaker: Dr. Ingvild Bode, JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for
the Advanced Study of Sustainability (IAS), United Nations University, and
the University of Tokyo

Abstract: The article will interrogate the degree to which the Obama administration has continued, even at times inadvertently, the Bush administration's challenge on international law. Notwithstanding the Obama administration's bold pronouncements pertaining to reversing its predecessor's policies, little has actually changed when it comes to how the United States considers using military force. As a means to unpack this transition and apparent gap, the article will firstly, consider the apparent continuum of US use-of-force policies from the Bush to the Obama administration, specifically: the conflation in the line between pre-emptive and preventive self-defense options; the sustained post-9/11 legacies that continue to lower thresholds towards using military force; and how this ultimately contributes to the erosion of international law. Secondly, the article presents a critical contextualization of Obama's drone program and its legal arguments in relation to his administration's overall use-of-force policy, focusing on jus ad bellum standards. In light of the centrality of targeted killing under Obama, our article will pay particular attention to the apparent contradiction this poses with regard to his reluctance to use military force in relation to ongoing conflicts in Libya and Syria, while also looking at recent adjustments pertaining to use-of-force pronouncements against the Islamic State (IS). The article lastly considers what this will mean for international use-of-force thresholds and the future of the general prohibition on the use-of-force in the context of new and emerging technologies and theaters should the United States continue to skew and adjust its use-of-force policies on when, how, against who and where to use such force.

Bio: Ingvild Bode is a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) International Research Fellow (postdoc) with joined affiliation at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, United Nations University, Tokyo and the University of Tokyo. Her research interests include the human element in international relations, UN peacekeeping, state recourse to the use-of force and conflict narratives. At UNU, Ingvild works primarily on a research project (2 years) funded through a JSPS grant-in-aid for scientific research (kakenhi), which is entitled 'Individual Agency and Policy Change in the Area of Peace and Security'. Ingvild's work has been published in journals such as *Global Governance* and she is also the author of two research monographs, *Individual Agency and Policy Change: The People of the United Nations* (Routledge, March 2015), *Governing the Use-of-Force in International Relations: The Post-9/11 US Challenge on International Law* (with Aiden Warren, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), and the textbook *Key Concepts in International Relations* (with Thomas Diez and Aleksandra Fernandes da Costa, Sage, 2011). Previously, Ingvild was a PhD fellow and lecturer at Eberhard Karls University Tübingen, Germany where she taught on a range of subjects including International Relations theories, the United Nations system, humanitarian assistance and political science methods. She also served as the Tübingen delegations' faculty advisor to the National Model United Nations New York from 2009 to 2012. Before this position, Ingvild was employed at Friends of Europe in Brussels, Belgium, and worked for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at the UN Office in Geneva, Switzerland as well as for the Goethe-Institute Ottawa, Canada. Ingvild holds a PhD in Political Science/International Relations from Eberhard Karls University Tuebingen. Her thesis entitled 'The People of the United Nations: Individual Agency and Policy Change in the United Nations' was recognized with the "Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award" by the Faculty of Social Sciences in 2012. Previously, she graduated with a M.A. in Political Science and English Literature from Leibniz University Hannover, Germany.

http://isp.unu.edu/people/fellows/Ingvild_Bode.html

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