

HYBRID WARFARE STUDENT COMPETITION



Event Program

6 - 8

November

2023

SFU's Harbour Centre

Founded by Dr. Elis Villasi, the Hybrid Warfare Student Competition is both an interactive learning experience and a competitive scenario exercise. It aims to provide students with a deeper understanding of the policy challenges associated with hybrid warfare.

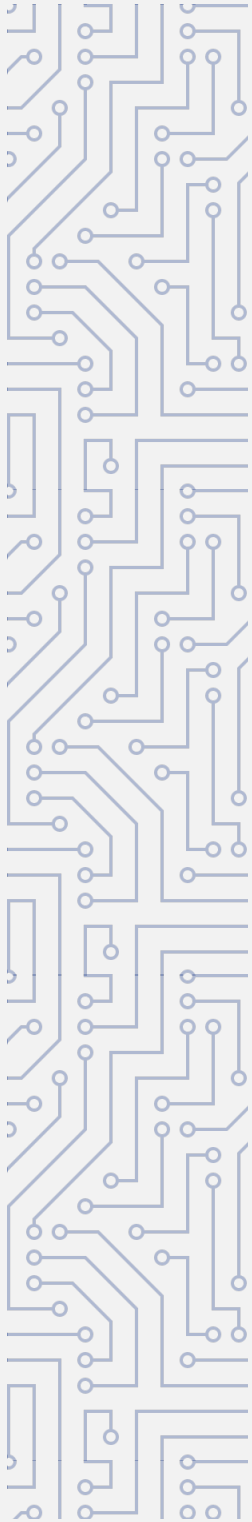
This event offers a platform for students passionate about international security to engage with peers, mentors, judges, and experts, while honing their skills in policy analysis and presentation.



Défense nationale
National Defence



Competition Summary



The rapidly deteriorating global security architecture finds great powers like Russia and China, smaller states like Iran and North Korea, and non-state actors such as terrorists employ hybrid warfare tactics that range from cyber-attacks to propaganda and subversion, economic blackmail, sponsorship of proxy forces and military expansionism. Such powers rely on ambiguity, strategic surprise, and deception to accomplish their objectives including the weakening or replacement of the rules-based liberal international order.

There is a demand among Canadian students for experiential and engagement-based teaching, enhanced by contributions from the governmental and private sectors, that prepares future leaders for careers in national security and defence. Further, there is a need in the government to foster novel approaches to hybrid challenges facing Canada and its allies. Such a competition would not only generate innovation in strategic thinking but would also serve as training for future security experts.

The inaugural Hybrid Warfare Student Competition is designed to offer undergraduate and graduate students from Canadian universities across a wide range of academic disciplines a better understanding of the policy challenges associated with hybrid warfare. A part interactive learning experience and part competitive scenario exercise, the competition allows students interested in national security and defence to interact with fellow students, mentors, judges, and experts while developing valuable skills in policy analysis and presentation.

Hybrid Warfare Student Competition will benefit university students, the Government of Canada, and the private industry in the following ways: Talent identification; Fostering a new generation of strategists and analysts by reinforcing connections across technical, policy, and security disciplines; Understand multidimensional threats that influence Canadian security; Build awareness of international security and strategic stability challenges facing Canada; Promote novel thinking about current strategies regarding security threats; Provide an opportunity for students to build networks with security experts in government and the private sector.

This event is made possible through the generous support of the Department of National Defence MINDS Program, Simon Fraser University (SFU) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, SFU Department of Political Science, SFU NATO Field School, The University of Tennessee Center for National Security and Foreign Affairs.

Day 1

AM	08:30 - 09:00	Meet and Greet with the Judges (Segal Centre 1400-1410)
	09:00 - 9:45	Coffee and Chat
	09:45 - 10:00	Move to presentation rooms
	10:00 - 10:20	Team 1 (Room 1315 Scotiabank) and Team 2 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	10:30 - 10:50	Team 3 (Room 1315 Scotiabank) and Team 4 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	11:00 - 11:20	Team 5 (Room 1315 Scotiabank) and Team 6 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	11:30 - 11:50	Team 7 (Room 1315 Scotiabank) and Team 8 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	11:50 - 12:00	Break
PM	12:00 - 2:00	Lunch and Opening Ceremony (Segal Centre 1400-1410)
	12:00 - 12:10	Welcome Remarks: Elis Vllasi
	12:10 - 12:30	Welcome Remarks: SFU FASS Dean Laurel Weldon
	12:30 - 12:40	Welcome Remarks: SFU NATO Field School Direct Hannah Christiensen
	12:40 - 1:30	Keynote Address: Public Safety Canada
	2:10 - 2:20	Guest Talk (in-person): CASIS Sam David
	2:30 - 3:30	Coffee and Chat
	3:30 - 4:30	Guest Talk (in-person): Calvin Chrustie, Critical Risk Team

Speakers / Judges

Dr. Alexander Moens is professor of Political Science and the Director of the NATO Field School and Simulation Program at Simon Fraser University, in Vancouver, Canada. He served as Chair of the Department of Political Science at SFU from 2017-2022. Moens has held the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Marcel Cadieux Fellowship in Ottawa in 1992, the NDU Hemispheric Defence Fellowship in Washington, D.C. in 1999, and the NATO Defense College Eisenhower Fellowship in Rome in 2015. In 2022-23 he was invited to be a Senior Fellow for Curriculum Policy and Planning for the Senior Course at the NATO Defense College in Rome. He has authored and edited books and journal articles on the foreign policy of Presidents Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush, and on American foreign policy, NATO and transatlantic security, and Canadian and American security issues.

Calvin Chrustie LLM is a senior partner at Critical Risk Team. He combines a background in resolving critical risk for governments, corporations, families, and individuals. He has managed crises, security operations and complex investigations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Americas, and Asia over the last three decades. Calvin is a former Royal Canadian Mounted Police senior operations officer and United Nations veteran. As a former Senior Ops Officer for Transnational Organized Crime within the RCMP, Calvin led complex international investigations and intelligence operations throughout the world. Calvin was also the Team Leader of Canada's 'International Negotiators Team', which specialized in negotiating with terrorist and transnational organized crime networks relative to kidnaps and extortions. As a founder of the Critical Risk Team, he has been working with clients and enhancing their awareness of the world's most acute and contemporary threat actors and activities. This includes building solutions and resilience through integrating expertise, technology, and global networks to support clients' needs. This includes focusing on threats and the changing threat activities clients face currently and in the coming years.

Candyce Kelshall is the President of the Canadian Association for Security and Intelligence Studies (CASIS) Vancouver, which promotes and encourages the study and practice of intelligence and national security, and the Founder and Director of the Canadian Centre for Identity-Based Conflict (CCIBC). Through CASIS Vancouver and the CCIBC, Candyce Kelshall has developed and led research teams, founded events such as the monthly CASIS roundtables and the annual CASIS West Coast Security Conference, published intelligence and national security textbooks, and launched the Journal of Intelligence, Conflict, and Warfare where she serves as Editor-in-Chief. Kelshall has over 30 years' experience in diplomacy, law enforcement and military professional training and ten years as a military and police advisor in the UK. She has previously served as a diplomat, naval officer, specialist advisor and consultant in disaster response, critical incident and terrorist response, national emergency management and multi-agency joint operations architecture, as well as training design for intelligence fusion centers, special forces units and national operations centers.

Day 2

AM	08:45 - 09:45	Coffee and Chat (Segal Centre 1400-1410)
	09:45 - 10:00	Move to presentation rooms
	10:00 - 10:20	Semi 1 (Room 1315 Scotiabank) and Semi 2 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	10:30 - 10:50	Semi 3 (Room 1315 Scotiabank) and Semi 4 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	11:00 - 11:20	Semi 5 (Room 1315 Scotiabank) and Semi 6 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	11:30 - 11:50	Semi 7 (Room 1315 Scotiabank) and Semi 8 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
PM	11:50 - 1:20	Lunch (Segal Centre 1400-1410)
	1:30 - 2:25	Guest Talk (virtual): Anne Leslie , IBM Cloud for Financial Services
	2:30 - 3:25	Guest Talk (virtual): Rupinder (Tina) Mangat , Defence Research and Development Canada
	3:30 - 4:25	Guest Talk (in-person): Matthew Housser , Convergence Concepts
	4:30 - 5:25	Guest Talk (in-person): NATO Field School Director Alex Moens

Speakers / Judges

Anne Leslie is Cloud Risk & Controls Leader EMEA at IBM Cloud for Financial Services in France. Having spent two and a half years in the Threat Management practice of IBM Security, today her focus is on accompanying Europe's banks as they harness the power of IBM Cloud for Financial Services to securely accelerate their business transformation. A recognized trusted advisor inside IBM and within external stakeholder groups, Anne is known for cultivating positive relationships at executive level and she regularly contributes her thought leadership to industry conferences and working groups. She is also a Design Thinking practitioner, experienced in leading human-centered approaches to overcoming the security and operational resiliency challenges faced by our customers and identifying untapped business value in the process. Prior to joining IBM, Anne's career spanned the intersection of financial services, European regulatory policy, blockchain and IT in leadership roles in both sales and advisory. Bilingual in French and English, she holds an Executive MBA from HEC Business School in Paris and the CCSP in Cloud Security from (ISC)² in addition to multiple technical security platform certifications.

Dr. Rupinder Mangat is a Defence Scientist with Defence Research and Development Canada. Her research is focused on the role communication plays in defence and security issues. Her current research interests include the information environment, adversarial information operations, and resilience and deterrence in the information environment. She has previously conducted research on strategic communication, diversity and inclusion in the military, the military's increasing role in domestic disaster relief, and climate change communication.

Matthew Housser is the co-founder and CEO of Convergence, a software agency focused on AI R&D, digital product implementation, User Experience design, and cloud infrastructure. Convergence serves clients in both the public and private sectors, across a wide range of industry verticals. Since completing his B.Sc. in Computing Science at SFU, Matthew has spent the past 15 years working in software engineering, including positions at Fortune 500 companies such as Kodak, Western Union and SAP. He has co-founded 6 businesses in the past 10 years - including Convergence, Giant Leap AI and the boutique UX studio Pixel Ramen - and is an Associate of the Digital Supercluster, a member of the VANTEC Angel Forum, a member of BC Tech, and co-chairs the Technology Committee at the Vancouver Club.

Drita Perezic is the External Security Sector Development Advisor to the President of the Republic of Kosovo. She holds a Master's Degree in International Relations with a specialization in International Security and Human Rights from the City College of the City University of New York (2006) and a Bachelor of Science in International Trade from the State University of New York (1998). Perezic has 25 years of security sector experience in the Balkans, Europe and the US. From 1999 - 2009 she served in a range of capacities in Support of the U.S. Contribution to the NATO Led Kosovo Force (KFOR) spanning an appointment as a Department of the Army International Relations Specialist, Defense Department contracted US KFOR Political Advisor (2007-2009), Deputy Political Advisor (2006-2007), Special Assistant and Cultural Advisor to the Commander (2001-2005) and Senior Linguist (1999-2000). From 2011 to 2021 she was contracted to U.S. Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) as the embedded Leadership and Executive Management Program Senior Advisor to the Kosovo Minister of Internal Affairs.

Day 3

AM	08:45 - 09:45	Coffee and Chat
	09:45 - 10:00	Move to presentation rooms
	10:00 - 10:20	Finalist 1 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	10:30 - 10:50	Finalist 2 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	11:00 - 11:20	Finalist 3 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
	11:30 - 11:50	Finalist 4 (Room 1520 Barrick Gold)
PM	12:00 - 2:00	Lunch and Closing Ceremony (Segal Centre rooms)
	2:00	Keynote Address: Lt. Commander Diane Larose , Royal Canadian Navy
		Presentation of Awards
		Closing Rewards Elis Villasi
		End of program

Speakers / Judges

Lt. Commander Diane Larose, is a Senior Public Affairs Officer, at Maritime Forces Pacific, Joint Task Force Pacific, with the Royal Canadian Navy.

Major Steve McNally, CD, joined the Army Reserves in 1984. Major McNally attended Lakehead University and graduated with a BA Psychology in 1990, Honours BA Political Studies 1991. In 1999 he transferred to 39 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters and moved to Vancouver to work in the individual training standards cell. In 2005 he commissioned from the ranks and was promoted to Captain from Master Warrant Officer. He held staff positions at the Brigade Headquarters in the areas of individual training and sustainment planning. In 2014, he assumed the position of Operations Officer of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and in 2015 assumed command of A Company. In 2017 he was promoted to the rank of Major and assumed the position of G3, the responsibilities of planning operations and training of 39 Canadian Brigade Group (39 CBG). In 2018 he was appointed to be the Deputy Commanding Officer of the Seaforths. In June 2023 he graduated from the two-year Joint Command and Staff Programme (JCSP) at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto On. The aim of JCSP is to prepare selected senior officers of the Defence Team for command and staff appointments.

LCol Jesse van Eijk, CD, joined the Canadian Army as an Infantry Officer in 2001 and attended the Royal Military College of Canada, graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering in 2005. Following the completion of phase training in the fall of 2005 he was badged into Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and posted briefly to the 2nd Battalion in Shilo, Manitoba before moving to Edmonton, Alberta and the 1st Battalion in early 2006. At 1 PPCLI he had the privilege of leading 5 Platoon for three years, culminating in a deployment on Op ATHENA to Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2008. Following extra-regimental employment which included completion of the Land Force Technical Staff Program and a posting to the Infantry School he returned to 1 PPCLI in 2012. This commenced a period of regimental employment where he served as Second in Command of Administration Company, Operations Officer, Officer Commanding Charlie Company, Officer Commanding Administration Company, and Deputy Commanding Officer. In 2017 he deployed to Poland as commander of the Op REASSURANCE Land Task Force. On return to Canada LCol van Eijk was posted to Toronto, Ontario to attend the Joint Command and Staff Program. LCol van Eijk returned to Regimental duty as CO 2 PPCLI in 2021 and was appointed CO of the Op REASSURANCE eFP Latvia Battle Group in 2022.

Major J.A.E. (Jürgen) Miranda, CD, joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 2005 as a Private with the 75th Mississauga Company, Toronto Scottish Regiment (Reserve). He later transferred to Buron Company, Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada (Reserve) in 2007 before pursuing a Component Transfer to the Regular Forces under the Regular Officer Training Program. Major Miranda attended the University of Waterloo from 2007-11 graduating with an Honours Degree in Geography and Environmental Management, with a Minor in French Studies. Upon completion of his officer training in 2011 he was posted to 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). Posted to Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean, Quebec in 2015, he served as a Training Instructor and Platoon Commander, before assuming the role of Training Division 2nd-in-Command until he was posted to 2nd Battalion PPCLI in 2018. Major Miranda initially served as 2nd-in-Command of Alpha Company before deploying to Latvia on the NATO deterrence mission, Operation REASSURANCE, as the Battle Group S1 / Adjutant in 2019. Upon return from deployment Major Miranda served as the unit Adjutant then later as 2nd-in-Command Combat Service Support (CSS) Company.

Teams

Simon Fraser University

Her Majesty's Smurfs

Chris Merpaw
Chloe Arneson
Justin Fernandes
Zacharie St. Pierre

Research Raccoons

Arjun Shahi
Atena Abbaspourbenis
Anne Ibasco
Pranjali J Mann
Natasha Cusworth

Prometheus

Nathaniel Hunt
Antonia Angueira
Ahmed Khazi
Benjamin Djukestein
Yu-Xing Lim

The University of British Columbia

UBC Hybrid Warfare Center of Excellence

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Sophie Salas
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Michael Claassen

Team UBC

Sriya Srivastava
Nana Yamamoto
Fiorella Vargas
Nuray Omirbek
Varsha Gangadharan

University of Calgary

Lions of the Dessert

Siraaj Shah
Wajih Ahmed
Max Gardner
Mohammad Arhaam Mukati
Hessan Hanif

Defence Dinos

Parth Mehndiratta
Kyle Stevens
Jeff Krintila
Murad Iskandarov

Staff

Founder / Director

Elis Vllasi, Ph.D., is an expert in analyzing complex challenges in international security (influence operations, hybrid warfare, transnational ethnic conflict) and democratization by applying engineering principles and leading multidisciplinary teams toward integrated solutions. He is currently a Senior Research Associate and Lecturer at the Center for National Security and Foreign Affairs, Baker School, University of Tennessee. A civil and environmental engineer with a Ph.D. in political science from Purdue University, Vllasi bridges social sciences and STEM to tackle problems using tailored approaches combining quantitative and qualitative analyses. An experienced project manager, with a record of interfacing with government officials, he has led projects and managed research teams in industry and academia.

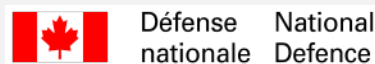
Program Coordinator

Fiona Wu is a recent International Studies graduate from Simon Fraser University and an enthusiast for ethical Artificial Intelligence regulations. During her degree, she worked as a Junior Trade Policy Analyst for Global Affairs Canada where she provided research and data analysis on industry growth in relation to trade remedies. Prior to Global Affairs, her time at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada allowed her to develop her interests in data privacy after completing an internship at the U.S. Consulate General Vancouver.

Social Media Manager

Chell Li is a skilled user experience designer and a proud alumnus of Simon Fraser University, where she specialized in Interactive Art and Technology. Since 2015, she has dedicated herself to demystifying technology through intuitive design, making apps and websites accessible and enjoyable. Chell excels in aligning cross-disciplinary teams to craft innovative digital solutions. Her tech-savviness and computer science foundation enable fluid collaboration with engineering teams. Currently, she is exploring new opportunities where she can contribute her expertise to meaningful projects.

Sponsors



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