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AI in the Fog of War:

Can AI Really Support Resilience in Wartime?

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Projet RRADEW
Resilience to
Radiological Events
in Wartime



Imagine.

A radiological alert.
In the middle of a war.

Sensors are down.
Networks are fragmented.
Experts are scattered.
Drone cause unexpected
damage

And yet —

AI in the fog of war

The promise: enable collective action.
Decide fast.
Stay effective when everything fails.

***But what really happens in practice ?
Does AI live up to that promise or
does it produce new forms of
blindness?***

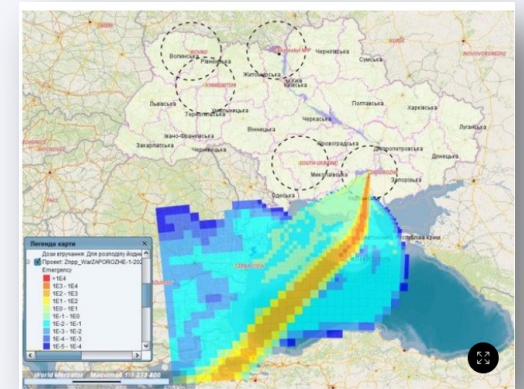
01 AI hides how it frames risk

1 out of 1000

scenarios where the plume reaches France

IRSN — Le Monde, Aug. 2022

Across one thousand meteorological sequences, one case where part of France could be affected by radioactivity levels justifying iodine tablets. IRSN (Le Monde, 28 August 2022)



Negligible? Urgent? Should tablets be distributed?

01 Algorithmic & Decision

Give an idea of the risk

But doesn't make the decision

Algorithmic model reorganize the choice

What goes into the model?

- | Meteorology forecast
- | Type of accident
- | Thresholds
- | Time for modelling

AI shows the risks

But hide how it frames it → Cithara's Project

02

AI blurs the boundaries of danger

Hybrid war
(Hoffman, 2007)

AI war

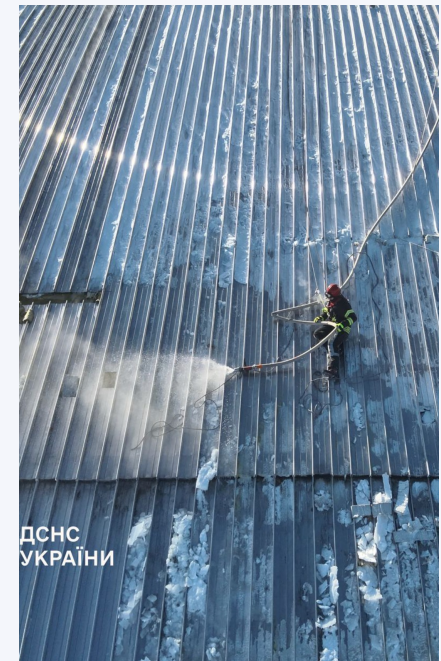
- Faster targeting
- Automated coordination
- Remote violence

Classical war

- Deaths, injuries, hostages
- Technicians under fire
- Workers taking risks



5



02

Socio-Technik dependence

AI, through invisible delegation — such as drones — diffuses danger in unexpected ways beyond the walls of nuclear installations.

The resilience in wartime is not only about building walls and defence-in-depth barriers — it's also about sustaining the interdependencies, human and non-human.

- 1 Sarcophagus → constant maintenance
- 2 Maintenance → Ukrainian workers
- 3 Workers' safety → Russian troops' behaviour
- 4 Troops → also exposed to radiation
- 5 Nuclear safety → power grid damaged

Gisquet, Shavanova, Torianik, Ruban, Pareniuk (in press), "Ethical Challenges of Radiological Threats in wartime", in Ethics of Environmental Health

The need for an ethic of maintenance

Map the socio-technical assemblages needed to face the unexpected.

➔ Rotating teams, access to material and equipment

03

AI hides the political nature of measurement.

Poland, September 2025

Who was responsible?
38% blamed Ukraine
34% blamed Russia
15% blamed Poland

Res Futura, 2025

A coordinated disinformation campaign

Russian drones crossed into Polish airspace. Immediately after, Social networks flooded with an industrial production of post

A deliberate operation supported by AI to obscure who was responsible.

But RRADEW research shows that public opinion is not easily manipulated..

The University of Antwerp studied solidarity networks on social media — and found that people are not passive.

People cross-check, compare, alert, contest.

The power toward information is not only algorithmic. It is also linked to the ability to assess and measure.

This is where citizen data matters

03

Measuring radiation is political.

It structures action

It prevents from misinformation

We gave dosimeters to Ukrainians Civilians

Extended what could be seen and measured — beyond official networks, beyond European borders.

But we quickly realized this could be dangerous: publishing citizens' locations online, showing clusters of measurements, could expose people to real risks.

Measuring radiation is not only a technical act ; it is also a question of governance

•**Infrastructure** : shared protocols and sensor networks across borders.

•**Trust** : define the conditions under which citizen data and institutional data can coexist, be verified and share

Support the relationship between expertise and citizen data.

Conclusion

AI has a role to play in the fog of war

But RRADEW project reveals three things AI cannot do for us

AI cannot explain itself.

→ **Open the black box : account for the social construction of algorithms.**

AI cannot hold the system together.

→ **Map the human chains : identify the interdependencies required to manage diffuse risks with blurred boundaries.**

AI cannot decide what counts.

→ **Govern the politics of measurement : question how data, evidence, and truth are produced how data, evidence, and truth are produced and secure the conditions that make their governance possible.**