



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

# Master of Arts Intelligence & Security Studies

## Information Warfare Conference 2024

Location: Augusta University's Summerville Campus  
JSAC Coffeehouse  
Date: August 22, 2024  
Time: 0930-1530 (ish)

### Schedule of Events

0930 – 0935: Welcome

Dr. Craig D. Albert

0935– 1030: Dr. Lance Y. Hunter Presentation and Q&A

**Artificial Intelligence and Information Warfare in Major Power States: How the US, China, and Russia are using Artificial Intelligence in their Information Warfare and Influence Operations**

**And**

**The military application of artificial intelligence technology in the United States, China, and Russia and the implications for global security**

1030 – 1035: 5-minute break

1035-1130: Dr. Jay Heslen Presentation and Q&A

**Neurocognitive Hacking as Information Warfare**

1130 - 1230: 1-hour lunch

1230 - 1310: Abdullah Melhem, PhD Student, Computer and Cyber Sciences Presentation and Q&A

**AI-based MultiModal to Identify State-linked Social Media Accounts in the Middle East: A Study on Twitter**

1310-1400: Dr. Yufan Yang Presentation and Q&A

**Twitter Propaganda Operations: Analyzing Sociopolitical Issues in Saudi Arabia**

1400-1405: 5-minute break

1405-1445: LTC (Retired) Bob Ross & Josh Rutland (MAISS Alumni) Presentation and Q&A

**A Military of Influencers: The US Army Social Media and Winning Narratives**

1445-1530: Dr. Craig Albert Presentation and Q&A

**Weaponizing Words: Using Technology to Proliferate Information Warfare**

1530: Closing Remarks

Dr. Craig D. Albert

## **Presenter Bios**

### **John J. Heslen, Ph.D.**

Dr. Heslen is an Assistant Professor at Augusta University. He often teaches classes with a focus on intel and cyber issues; recent courses include Intelligence Collection, Cyber Intel and Security, Cyber Conflict: History of Cyber War, and Intro to Intelligence Studies. His research interests include information warfare, cyber security issues, and neurocognitive hacking.

### **Lance Y. Hunter, Ph.D.**

Lance Y. Hunter, Ph.D., is a Professor of International Relations in the Department of Social Sciences at Augusta University. His expertise is in security studies and democratization. Dr. Hunter publishes on a variety of topics, most recently focusing on Covid's effects on democratic and authoritarian regimes, social media's effects on civil conflict, as well as research on social media's effects on domestic terrorism. His recent instruction for MAISS includes Space and Security, Homeland Security, and WMDs and Security.

### **Abdullah Melhem**

Abdullah Melhem is a Graduate Research Assistant at Augusta University's School of Computer and Cyber Sciences. His research includes adversarial attacks on security systems as well as AI and social media data engineering and analysis, leveraging his strong background in advanced data analytics. His work has been published in journals such as IEEE Transactions. Previously, he worked as an AI Developer at the Jordan Design and Development Bureau (JODDB).

### **Robert Ross, Ph.D.**

Robert Ross, Ph.D., is an Instructor for the Master of Arts in Intelligence and Security Studies program at Augusta University where he teaches classes on information warfare. He previously served as the Strategic Initiatives Group Chief for the Commanding General of U.S. Army Cyber Command, Fort Eisenhower, Ga and was an assistant professor at the United States Military academy at West Point, NY, where his focus was information technology courses. His research interests are organizational science, strategic foresight, information warfare, 21st century conflict, big data, and cloud computing infrastructure.

### **Josh Rutland, MA**

Josh Rutland is a graduate of Augusta University's Masters in Intelligence and Security Studies program. His research focuses on information warfare, cybersecurity, terrorism, and biosecurity. His work has appeared in journals such as: *Politics and the Life Sciences*, *Politics & Policy*, *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*, *Journal of Cyber Policy*, *The Cyber Defense Review*, and *PLOS Global Public Health*.

### **Yufan Yang, Ph.D.**

Dr. Yufan Yang is an Assistant Professor of Political Science. Her research interest includes international security, information technology, propaganda, civil conflict, political violence, and political regimes. She uses quantitative and machine learning methods in her studies. Her research has been published in *Journal of Peace Research*, *SocialMedia & Society*, *International Interactions*, and many other journals

### **Craig D. Albert, Ph.D.**

Craig D. Albert, Ph.D., is a Professor of Political Science and the Graduate Director of the Master of Arts in Intelligence a Security Studies at Augusta University. His areas of concentration include international relations and security studies, ethnic conflict, cyberterrorism, cyberwar, information operations, and epidemic intelligence. He is widely published, including articles in *Defense and Security Analysis*, *Cyber Defense Review*, *Journal of Cyber Policy*, and *Intelligence and National Security*. Dr. Albert has also testified before Congress' joint sub-committee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.



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