

Call for Presentations

King's Doctoral Workshop on Military Innovation and Defence Reform

The workshop

Change in military organisations is a complex phenomenon. Armed forces face the recurrent dilemma of anticipating future threats and deployment challenges whilst preserving effectiveness, efficiency, values, and hierarchy. Innovation—defined as a major change in military strategies, doctrines, tactics, technologies, and organisational practices—bears profound consequences going beyond organisational change. History shows that military innovations, or combinations of them, can disrupt balances of power, alter civil-military relations, support civilian technological advances and trigger arms races among countries.

Contributions on the topic of military innovation are rich and wide-ranging. Scholarly contributions focus on key explanatory factors such as patterns of civil-military relations, technological advances, advocacy networks, security competition, cultural and ideational aspects, professional networks, and competition among military services. Additionally, changes in technology, society, economics, and politics can also trigger major military reform and thus affect the incubation, spread, and adoption of innovations. Yet, distinct and competing interpretations illustrate how plural, complex, and multidimensional the process of military innovation can be.

The contemporary world also brings in additional challenges. Technological advancements in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, hypersonic missiles, and the space realm in the context of rising great power competition move scholarly discussions of military innovation to the centre stage of international politics.

Given the complexity of the topic, this two-day Doctoral Workshop intends to discuss military innovation and military reform through a multidisciplinary, pluri-theoretical, and cross-national perspective.

Goals

- Enable doctoral students to advance the knowledge of military innovation studies;
- Connect doctoral students to ECRs and senior scholars on the field;
- Understand the key challenges and strategies officials are adopting to harness military innovations;
- Kickstart a network of young scholars on the subject of military innovation and defence reform;
- Incentivise cutting-edge research debate on defence and military innovation.

Dates and location

The event will be held on the *04 and 05 May 2023 at King's College London, Strand Campus.*

Submissions

We welcome submissions on the following areas affecting military innovation:

- Military diffusion and emulation
- Procurement and defence economics
- Defence sector reform and national security strategies
- International organisations and military alliances
- New technologies, emerging warfighting domains, and the future of warfare
- Decolonising military innovation

Authors should send an *extended abstract* (up to 1,000 words), an *entire article* (up to 8,000 words), or a *thesis chapter* (up to 8,000 words plus a 500-word thesis abstract) to:

militaryinnovationnetwork@kcl.ac.uk

Submissions should be made in a *Word document*, including the *author's name, institutional affiliation, and the stage of the PhD*. Footnotes and endnotes are considered in the final word count. The bibliography does not factor in the final word count.

Submission deadline: 02 April 2023, at 11.59 pm London time.

Selected proposals announcement: 10 April 2023

Programme announcement: 17 April 2023

The organising committee

- Raphael Lima (King's College London)
- Linus Terhost (King's College London)
- Aleix Nadal (King's College London)
- Tamiris Santos (Loughborough University)
- Lucie Pebay (University of Bath)
- Megghi Pengli (University of Leeds)
- Cristina Fontanelli (University of Genova)

Institutional Support

- Faculty of Science and Public Policy (SSPP), King's College London
- Department of War Studies, King's College London
- Department of Defence Studies, King's College London