



The ISMS Annual Conference 2019

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BUILDING MILITARY SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOCIETY

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Military science is made up of ancillary subjects, in which teachers acquire their basic academic qualification via civilian university courses/faculties (e.g. military technology, military history, military medicine), and of core subjects (e.g. strategy, operational-level command, logistics, theory of war), in which the basic academic qualification can only be attained at a military educational institution of university status.

However, the distinction between ancillary and core subjects does not aim at a division of researchers into “antagonistic” domains – it provides much rather the basis for the definition of the interfaces, needed to make them work together “synergetically”. Ancillary subjects’ influence on the core subjects is equally important as the core subjects’ input to the former, when long-term strategic development of military science is the goal.

Military science and thus the International Society of Military Sciences can be viewed in two fundamentally different ways:

(1) As a loose association of those researchers from all civilian and military tertiary/university educational institutions who, within the framework of their faculty’s research mandate, deal *inter alia* also with questions relevant to security, but who are not geared towards a common research purpose by a military-scientific steering body (*military science* in a wider sense – i.e. in the sense of a holistic perspective of the nuclear areas of the respective discipline, *military sciences*, plural).

(2) As the synergetic interaction of core and ancillary subjects as well as researchers from civilian disciplines working on topics relevant to security, geared towards a holistic societal benefit by a military-scientific steering body (*military science*, singular).

This is not a question of semantics, but of the *raison d’être* of military science, namely the question, **what unique added value it provides for the security of the state, a community of values and the people living in it** - and on the basis of which of these two definitions this goal can be more effectively met. This question therefore not only influences/impacts on the topic of the Annual Conference 2019, it concerns the innermost goal of the ISMS.

So, what added value, what kind of USP could military science furnish for society, what specific support not already covered by other scientific disciplines or organizations? If it were only the science of organising, structuring and commanding armed forces, it would not be necessary to define and establish an independent scientific discipline - the military itself could accomplish all that in the required quality by

itself. What would give legitimacy to an independent discipline called *Military Science*, is a comprehensive (i.e. not only military-strategic) organic collection of primarily intellectual capabilities, safeguarding the secure, long-term survival of the state and its people – thus contributing to the benefit of society - such as:

- Tackling the thematic link between political/strategic approaches to threats avoidance, via threat recognition/assessment, the employment of armed forces to meet inescapable threats, to peacebuilding and the handover to civilian organizations in order to maintain peace.
- A cross-disciplinary approach to research on the reasons/causes of war and its functional principles in order to prevent it (Polemology).
- Suggestions as to the political decision-making level concerning the definition of the state's strategic purpose (suggestions are to be understood here as a contribution to decision preparation only, thus following the primacy of politics).
- Support for the security-related and strategic decision making of other ministries and of private industry - based on abstract principles of military command which apply to all these domains with regard to security/strategy-related issues.
- Education and training of armed forces, providing the scientific basis for capability development, structuring, organizing, equipping, maintaining etc. and providing the qualification for the highest military level to act as strategic advisors at the interface with the political decision-making level.
- Providing knowledge (e.g. technology, methods and methodologies, techniques and processes) that afterwards can be used for the benefit of society).
- Providing the scientific insight into strategic, and security/security policy/value-related contexts (at least as a general overview) to young academics in civilian disciplines.

Faced with the *Janus*-faced term *military science*, and the added value (already described) an organic military science can provide for the security of the state and its citizens, the 2019 ISMS Annual Conference will deal with the following theme:

“Building Military Science for the Benefit of Society”

When preparing your paper - within the framework of this theme - choose one of the following three approaches and indicate in which of the Working Group Panels (1-10) you would like to present it with 1st or 2nd priority:

- (1) Approaches to a possible structure, working principles, cooperation, interfaces, research contents of military scientific disciplines (core and accompanying) which would facilitate the development of a strategically driven ‘organic body’ of military science for the benefit of society.

OR

- (2) Present the project, research results, theory, findings you have been working on in your respective discipline. Try to define from which neighboring discipline you would have needed/have received support in which phase of your research, which support you could have provided to other disciplines, which guidance you would have needed to make your results fit into a comprehensive overarching military scientific research goal that produces visible, well-recognized added value for the long-term security of society. If your domain or research topic is designed to be independent of other disciplines, also forward your paper – do explain why this specific research field does not require/allow for interaction with other disciplines.

OR

- (3) Present **any** projects, research results, theories, findings you have been working on and explain why the research results represent a unique feature of military science for the long-term security of society.

In this year's conference, a separate panel will also offer young researchers the opportunity to present their scientific work (e.g. PhD projects) 'risk free' and to an exclusive group of experienced experts from various fields of military science, and to be provided with an assessment of the novelty value, the methodology, and the chosen theoretical approach of their work as well as support for its continuation. If you are interested in such a presentation, please submit your paper under the heading of Working Group 11 (*Junior Researchers' Panel*).

Please note that pursuant to the remarks above, WG 6 (*Security and Defence Policy and Strategy*) has been split into WG 6 *Security and Defence Policy* and a new WG 10 *Strategy*.

Other working groups remain as described on the ISMS web site.