

technology & ethics

LECTURE SERIES AT CAL POLY, SLO

Who: **DR. NEIL C. ROWE**
When: **FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2009 @ 11-12:30 PM**
Where: **PHILIPS HALL (Building 06, Room 124)**

Ethics of Cyberweapons



This talk is about ethical issues related to warfare using cyberweapons: software weapons (e.g., viruses, hacking, etc.) that attack other software and data. While these *appear* to be relatively benign weapons—in contrast to bullets, bombs, or bioweapons that directly and horribly kill people—an objective analysis does not support this.

For instance, cyberweapons are so hard to control that they create serious risks of collateral (civilian) damage. They also usually involve perfidy, a war crime involving combatants masquerading as civilians. Thus, the use of cyberweapons will likely violate the laws of war.

Dr. Rowe also will discuss *mitigation* techniques for cyberweapons in the form of more precise targeting, reversibility, and self-attribution, as well as some methods for *prosecuting* and *punishing* cyberwar crimes, which include forensics, interventions, cyberblockades, revelation of secrets, and reparations.

Dr. Neil C. Rowe is Professor of Computer Science at the US Naval Postgraduate School, where he has been since 1983. He has a PhD in Computer Science from Stanford University (1983) and EE, SM, and SB degrees from MIT. His main research interest is the role of deception in information processing, and he has also done research on intelligent access to multimedia databases, surveillance systems, image processing, robotic path planning, and intelligent tutoring systems. He is the author of over 140 technical papers and a book.

*This talk is **free and open**
to the public!*

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