
Welcome to the Drone Age?

October 2015

[Andy Miah](#) , [Anna Frew](#) and [James Woudhuysen](#) introduced a discussion on the ethics of drone flight



Commercial drone use has dramatically expanded in recent years, with an increasingly inventive set of uses. Drones have been deployed in fields as diverse as aerial photography and humanitarian relief whilst retailers in Japan have even started to use them to deliver products (Amazon's much-vaunted Prime Air is still in prototype testing). While much attention has been focused on their military functions and use by law enforcement – Indian police have purchased ones which could be used to pepper spray protestors – yet their increasing affordability and commercial ubiquity poses numerous problems for regulators. Dutch feminist campaigners were able to fly abortion pills into Poland to circumvent its restrictions on reproductive healthcare, whilst there are increasing numbers of injuries created by their use: the singer Enrique Inglesias was one high profile casualty, with a drone nearly severing his fingers on stage. There have already been several near-misses with passenger aircraft.



Some background readings

[Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Unmanned Aerial Systems](#) , Big Brother Watch's briefing note on drones

[Drones: time to reach for the skies](#) , by James Woudhuysen, December 2014

[Islamic State conflict: UK 'would repeat Syria drone strike'](#) , BBC News 08-Sept-2015

Venue and Time



~~Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, SoundCloud, RSS, Email, and Google+ are available. Online Discussion Partners~~

This discussion, including audience comments, and will be recorded, hopefully filmed, to be made available shortly after the discussion online as a reference resource.



The Manchester Salon is joining the fabulous [Manchester Science Festival](#) for the sixth year running, itself celebrating its seventh year. With over 200 events for families and adults, you can expect an exciting nine days of cutting-edge research, the brightest minds and amazing events. You'll have the chance to delve into immersive experiences, explore the science of the city by foot, join in the debate, enjoy hands-on activities, see awe-inspiring films and much more. Watch out for trailblazers throughout the year and join us at events throughout Greater Manchester during 23 October - 2 November 2015.

BATTLE ^U IDEAS

This discussion is a satellite event of the prestigious [Battle of Ideas](#) 2015 weekend festival of ideas being held on 17 and 18 October 2015, hosted by the Barbican, London. Now in its

eleventh year, the Battle of Ideas festival comprises 350 speakers at 75 debates and satellite discussions confronting society's big issues and unresolved questions. It affords the opportunity for some clear thinking, rational debate and agenda-setting - above all, it's future-orientated, whilst retaining a healthy regard for the past achievements of humanity.

Sponsored by

If you would like to sponsor this discussion please look at the [Sponsor the Salon](#) page and email events@manchestersalon.org.uk.