

# **Call for presentations: Doctoral and Early Career Research Workshop on Military & Defence Innovation**

Change in military organisations is complex. Armed forces must anticipate future threats and deployment challenges while maintaining effectiveness, efficiency, values and hierarchy. Innovation – significant changes in strategies, doctrines, tactics, technologies, or practices – can have far-reaching effects, potentially disrupting power balances, altering civil-military relations and triggering arms races.

The study of military innovation and reform has yielded diverse scholarly contributions. Key factors influencing military innovation include civil-military relations, technological advances, advocacy networks, security competition and professional networks. Contemporary changes in technology, society and politics can also drive significant military reforms, highlighting innovation processes' complex and multidimensional nature.

Current challenges, such as advancements in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, hypersonic missiles and space technology amid rising great power competition, elevate military innovation discussions to the forefront of international politics.

**Considering this complex dynamic, we will host this research workshop focused on early career researchers and doctoral students to explore military innovation and reform from a multidisciplinary, multi-theoretical and cross-national perspective.**

# The workshop

## Goals

- Allow doctoral students and early career researchers (ECRs) to present their research and have their work discussed by senior scholars in military innovation and related fields.
- Provide a networking platform for doctoral students, senior scholars, ECRs and practitioners in military innovation and related fields.

## General information

- Date: 29 – 30 May 2025
- Time: 09.00 to 17.00 (with an evening networking session on day 1)
- Format: in-person
- Venue: King's College London, Strand Campus, King's Building
- Address: Strand, London, WC2R 2LS, London, United Kingdom

## Further details

- There is no participation fee, and we do not offer financial assistance.
- We allow participation without presentation. Information on how to participate without presenting will be released later.
- For any questions, please contact [militaryinnovationnetwork@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:militaryinnovationnetwork@kcl.ac.uk).

## Submissions

We welcome submissions on the following issue areas affecting military innovation:

- Military diffusion and emulation
- Procurement and Defence Economics
- Emerging technologies
- Future of warfare
- Defence reform and national security strategies
- International organisations and military alliances
- Theoretical and conceptual debates
- Decolonising the field of military innovation

Applicants should send one of the following to [militaryinnovationnetwork@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:militaryinnovationnetwork@kcl.ac.uk):

- an extended abstract (up to 1,000 words), or
- an entire article (up to 8,000 words), or
- a thesis chapter (up to 8,000 words plus a 500-word thesis abstract).

### **Key dates**

- **Submission deadline:** 23 March 2025
- **Selected proposals announcement:** 31 March 2025

## **Organising team**

This event is organised by the **Military Innovation Network (MIN)**, a research group within the Centre for Science & Security Studies. MIN is an international network devoted to high-impact multidisciplinary research on military innovation and related topics. We aim to understand change in military organisations from global, multi-theoretical, and diverse perspectives. We strive to offer a platform for academics worldwide to discuss and connect on the field.

## **Institutional support**

The workshop received support from both internal and external sources at King's College London. Internally, we counted on support from the **School of Security Studies** and the **Faculty of Social Sciences & Public Policy**. Our key international partner and supporter outside the United Kingdom is the **Swedish Defence University (FHS)**, which co-organised the event.