CONTENTS

vii

viii

1	Introduction 1
2	Legal Background 8 Development of Legal Principles and Rules 8 Regulatory Debate 21
3	Understanding Weapon Autonomy 28 The Technology of Autonomous Machines 29 Autonomous Control of Weapon Platforms 51
4	Identifying Legal Issues 57 Effects on Decision-Making Processes 57 Predictability and Failure 59 Legal Categorisation of AWS 66 Identifying Legal Concerns 79 Law Relating Specifically to AWS 84 Weapons Law versus Targeting Law 85
5	Weapons Law 88 Weapon-Specific Restrictions 89 Distinction 90 Superfluous Injury and Unnecessary Suffering 100 Martens Clause 101
6	Targeting Law Human Involvement 114 Targeting Processes 119

List of Figures and Tables

Acknowledgements

vi

7 Accountability 127

General Statement on Accountability for AWS Behaviour

State Responsibility 130

Individual Criminal Responsibility 137

Other Forms of Accountability 164

8 Recommendations 175

Defining AWS 176
Regulating AWS 177

Index 181