

2. Abstract (English version)

The use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft technologies is greatly controversial for various reasons. Probably the greatest concern regarding drones derives from the unregulation of their use. The international law and the law of war neither ban nor rule over the use of RPAs. However recently, military drone technologies are regularly employed by the United States in overseas operations against non-state actors. The number of drone strikes significantly increased under the two terms of the Obama Administration. Compared to the previous Administration far more drone attacks were conducted than in the Bush Era. As it follows, this period of time seems to be the most relevant to investigate. The American practice opens a couple of legitimate questions. Researchers and Scholars from the field of Science and Technology Studies have approached the issue from several perspectives, however a couple of questions remained unanswered so far. One of the open questions is how the drone program is managed to be politically and publicly accepted weapons within the American political context.

The aim of this Master Thesis is to answer this question: *How did the major speeches of politico-administrative actors during the Obama Administration participate in the construction of the sociotechnical imaginary of Remotely Piloted Aircraft technologies?* In order to be able to answer the Research Question, I used three political speeches for my analysis. The first is ex- Attorney General Eric Holder's speech on the legality of targeted strikes from March, 2012. The second one is ex- CIA Director John Brennan's speech on the ethics and efficacy of the drone and counterterrorism program from April, 2012. The last one is ex- U.S. President Barack Obama's speech from 2013 on the comprehensive counterterrorism-policy. I analyzed the speeches with the help of narrative analysis. On the first level of analysis I observed the speeches as forms of narratives, while on the second level I examined how they come together and contribute to a larger societal narrative.

As the Research Question also suggests, I approached my results with the lens of sociotechnical imaginaries. The concept of sociotechnical imaginaries draws attention to how the application of certain technologies is stabilized within the public discourse. Military drone technologies are not exception. The Thesis is especially focused on the making of the sociotechnical imaginary of drones. By examining the argumentative strategies of the analyzed speeches it became visible how an imaginary of drones as ethical and moral entities are constructed. The theoretical framework enabled me to draw my conclusions and to see how military drones are constituted as clearly wanted technologies of warfare.