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Security and defence: security sensitivity, publication and warfare

Questions to stimulate reflection

To what extent do you think international regulations regarding biological and chemical warfare are likely to be effective?

Do you think synthetic biology should be regulated by the state or by scientists or by some combination of the two?

What is a 'dual use dilemma'? How many dual use dilemmas can you think of?

Do you think that information of potential use to terrorists and other hostile people should not be openly published on the web or are the security implications outweighed by the benefits to science?

How might the activities of the 'lone-operator' or the 'garage biologist' be detected and prevented (or at least rendered harmless)?

Should scientific publication of sensitive information be subject to censorship? If so who should the censors be?

How can scientists get the public onside with respect to research that could have security implications?