



Centre for Research in Air and Space Law
Centre de recherche en droit aérien et spatial



*McGill University launches the Manual
on International Law Applicable to Military Uses of Outer Space (MILAMOS®) Project*

The McGill University Faculty of Law is proud to announce the commencement of an exciting and ground-breaking research project related to space security and the governance of outer space. The development of the McGill Manual on International Law Applicable to Military Uses of Outer Space (MILAMOS) will be spearheaded by Professor Ram S. Jakhu and conducted under the auspices of McGill Centre for Research in Air and Space Law (CRASL), in collaboration with the [University of Adelaide](#) (Australia) Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics. The McGill CRASL will host the Project's secretariat in Montreal, Canada.

From the provision of cellular phone signals to navigation, from banking to weather forecasting, disaster monitoring and agriculture, space technology and the utilisation of space-generated data have become intertwined with our daily lives. Devastating consequences would follow if access to outer space were to be interrupted or interfered with through actions undertaken during armed conflict. The MILAMOS Project aims to develop a widely-accepted manual that clarifies the fundamental rules applicable to the military use of outer space by both States and non-State actors, in times of peace, as well as in periods of tension and in outright armed conflict.

Can a State legitimately target a satellite that transmits signals for civilian communications and to aid navigation? Is the jamming of communications signals a sufficiently significant threat to the security or even survival of a population as to legally justify a military response? What is the legal position regarding the conduct of belligerent activities by non-State actors? These and other important questions will be addressed by a panel of international and independent experts from all over the world as they come together to draft the Manual. Input from recognised experts, academics, as well as representatives of the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#), will underpin the neutrality and authoritativeness of what will eventually be called the "McGill Manual". McGill University Faculty members and graduate students will also participate in this three year project.

Similar manuals in other domains, such as the [San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea](#), have been recognised by States and international tribunals, and are instrumental in acknowledging and reinforcing basic rules that are intended to minimise the impact of armed conflict on civilians. The importance of the MILAMOS Project as another authoritative document contributing to the promotion of international peace and security has been recognised and endorsed by the Government of Canada, which also includes funding from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council under the Partnership Development Grant.

McGill University, together with its partner the University of Adelaide, is honoured to be the lead institution, and is committed to provide additional significant funding to ensure the

success of the MILAMOS Project. It is our belief that this unique and innovative project will have a positive impact and influence on the future and sustainability of humankind's ventures in outer space.

For more information, please contact Kuan-Wei (David) Chen at kuan-wei.chen@mcgill.ca or visit www.mcgill.ca/milamos