

CONNECTIONS 2020

APPLYING AND REPRESENTING
A.I. / MACHINE LEARNING IN
WARGAMING

AUG. 10-14TH

connections-wargaming.com



CONNECTIONS 2020 IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY CNA (CNA.ORG)

WELCOME to CONNECTIONS 2020

On behalf of:

Our Co-Chairs: Matt Caffrey & Tim Wilkie

Our Host: CNA

The Connections Planning/Prep Committee

Welcome from CNA

- CNA's support for Connections 2020 has been exceptional
- Dr. Katherine McGrady, President and CEO of CNA, would like to welcome all conference participants

“Connections” Overview

- What is Connections?
 - History
 - Professionalism and expectations
- What is Connections Global?
- Connections 2020 Program
- First-time Connections attendees
- Mapping the wargaming field
- The Future of Connections (US)

What is “Connections (US)?”

A Meeting of Wargame Practitioners

Mission: advance and preserve the art, science and application of wargaming

- First held in 1993
- Brings together all elements of the wargaming community with the goal of learning from one another
- This year’s theme:

Applying and Representing AI/Machine Learning in Wargaming

History - Origins

Col John Warden, ACSC/CC, saw problems with wargaming

- National - Gulf War wargames predicted 30,000 casualties - Iraqis fight to last man
- Air Force - Wargame of Instant Thunder - airpower would have zero system effects
- Air University - wargames Cold War scenarios and “DOS” like interfaces
- ACSC - need for active learning - educate campaign planners

Perception that AF wargaming was behind sister services and civilian industry.

History - Evolution

- 1992 ACSC “Go” decision:
- 1993 Air University (AU) sponsors
- 1996 “First Timers” program
- 1997 Dual hosted CADRE/ACSC, Demo Night
- 1998 Game Night
- 2002 Working Groups, Last AU sponsored
- 2003 AFRL/IF, Rome, NY
- 2004 AFAMS, Orlando, FL
- 2005 Air Force Academy, CO
- 2006/8 Concurrent with Defense M&S Conference

History - Evolution

- 2010 AFRL Dayton, Ohio
- 2011 National Defense University, DC
- 2012 National Defense University, DC
- 2013 AFRL Dayton, Ohio
- 2014 MCB Quantico, VA
- 2015 National Defense University, DC
- 2016 LCWI, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2017 MCB Quantico, VA
- 2018 National Defense University, DC
- 2019 US Army War College, Carlisle Bks, PA

Connections

Interdisciplinary Wargaming
Conferences

Connections
North



4 6 4

Connections



3 5 8

Connections
UK



4 6 4

Connections
Netherlands



2 4 4

Serious Games
Forum (France)



4 6 4

Connections
Australia



1 4 6



Professionalism and Expectations

- This is a professional conference
- We expect participants to operate in a spirit of civility and mutual respect
- Treat everyone here as a colleague, because they are

**Connections Global supports the DERBY HOUSE PRINCIPLES
on diversity and inclusion in professional wargaming**

<https://paxsims.wordpress.com/derby-house-principles/>

Connections (US)
Connections UK
Connections North (Canada)
Connections Netherlands
Serious Games Network (France)



#NatSecGirlsSquad
Aleph Insights
Australian Defence Force Wargaming Group
Conflict Simulations LLC
Evocatus Consulting
Fort Circle Games
Georgetown University Wargaming Society
ICONS Project
Imaginetix
LBS Consultancy Ltd
Lessons Learned Simulations and Training
Nuts! Publishing
Stone Paper Scissors
UK Fight Club



What is “Connections Global?”

Online by necessity, global by choice

- Making lemonade
- Collaboration with other Connections conferences worldwide
- Hours chosen to facilitate participation from UK/ Europe and West Coast of US/Canada
- International keynotes, speakers, panelists
- Recruited international participants
- You. You are Connections Global

Connections 2020 Program (1)

- Core hours are 1000-1600 Eastern Daylight Time
- Two Zoom webinar rooms (you are in Room A)
 - New link for each room each day
- 4 Keynotes
 - Tuesday: Former DEPSECDEF Robert Work
 - Wednesday: Dr. Phil Sabin, Co-Founder Connections UK
 - Thursday: Col Brad Boyd, Joint Warfighting Operations
 - Friday: Maj Tom Mouat, UK Wargaming Expert
- 50 speakers and panelists – See the agenda on the website

Connections 2020 Program (2)

- 5 Working Groups – Thursday 1515-1600 Eastern Daylight Time
 - Zoom meeting rooms, separate links from the webinar rooms – see website
- Activities outside of core conference hours
 - Volunteers hosting events, some require preregistration with organizer
 - See the link on the website to the complete list
 - Launch of the Women's Wargaming Network
 - Social mixer today after the last session
 - Wargame demos and play-throughs

Connections 2020 Program (3)

- Most speakers and panels will have time for questions from the attendees after the presentations
- Use the Q&A function on Zoom to submit your questions, not the chat function – questions asked in the chat will not be seen by the speakers

Special Welcome to First-time Attendees

- We're glad you're here
- Ask questions – we love to talk about wargaming
- Seek clarification – we are sometimes prone to jargon
- Share your viewpoint – we all have much to learn from each other
- Look for what you can use – don't get hung up on terminology

Navigating the Archipelago of Excellence

- Wargames are used by a variety of organizations for research, analysis, education, and policy purposes
- Government agencies: military, intelligence, civilian agencies – traditional focus in defense applications, increasing interest in civilian agencies
- Private sector: contractors supporting other game sponsors, commercial hobbyist market, think tanks, FFRDCs, companies
- Academia: use of wargaming for both research and education
- Other organizations: volunteer groups, international organizations
- Many differences in purposes and approach, but we can learn from each other about tools and applications

Some routes to professional wargaming

- Finding a wargaming organization
 - Gaming centers, contractor wargaming teams, etc.
- Finding wargaming at your organization
 - FFRDCs, government agencies, contractors
- Bringing wargaming to your organization
 - Applying it to problems, showing value
- Building a wargame skillset and selling it to an organization
 - Similar to bringing wargaming to your organization, but selling yourself along with it

Thank you to all who made this possible

- The Connections planning team
- CNA (conference operations team, office of communications and public affairs, CNA leadership, wargamers, and researchers)
- Our speakers and panelists (our most ever)
- Our working group co-chairs and members
- Our moderators and the online production team
- Our volunteer hosts for events outside core conference hours
- Our guest hosts: Dr. Graham Longley-Brown (Connections UK), Dr. Rex Brynen (Connections North), Dr. Yuna Wong, Dr. Jeremy Sepinsky (CNA)
- Scott Chambers (NDU/CASL), the indispensable
- And you, our attendees... thank you for joining us!

The Future of Connections (US)

- Next year we plan to return to an in-person event
- In addition to the knowledgeable and accomplished speakers of the kind you will see this week, an in-person Connections conference includes many more interactive elements, such as game demonstrations, small group discussions, and workshops
- Making connections (so to speak) can happen online, and we encourage you to do so this week, but in person it is easier and we hope you will consider joining us

In Conclusion

If we wargame well, fewer will bleed

If we wargame really well maybe, just maybe no one bleeds

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