

Abstract

The thesis examines the use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for predicting and preventing terrorism and the resulting security risks. At the conceptual level, the thesis examines the approach of predicting threats with a focus on predictive policing and presents risks associated with the use of predictive machine learning systems, which are then discussed within the context of counterterrorism. The paper aims to answer the question to which extent we can rely on machine learning systems used to predict and prevent terrorism and what are the implications of their use for security in Israel. The thesis points out that although the predictive tools seem to be faster and more precise than human analysts, they cannot be trusted to a full extent. If the results of these systems are used to employ strict measures such as the restriction of a suspect's liberty, it may lead to the violation of human rights. Therefore, in the case of counterterrorism in Israel, which is sometimes presented as the only democracy in the Middle East, it is necessary to bear in mind the risks associated with the limits of predictive machine learning systems together with the up-to-date practice of Israeli security agencies and Israeli historical-social context, indicating that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, objectively and precisely predict terrorist activities and identify terrorists before they commit an attack.