**The George Washington University**

***University Seminar on Reflexive Systems***

**Tuesday, November 15, 2016 from 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Duques Hall, Room 451**

**2201 G Street NW**

**AUTONOMOUS CARS: OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS**

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Autonomous (driverless) vehicles (cars, trucks, and buses) will be commercially available within four or five years. They will be a disruptive and transformative technology that will alter their industry and society. We will provide an overview of the technology that makes autonomous intelligent vehicles possible, describe the opportunities they will provide to civilian society and the military; discuss the threats they will pose to the military, law enforcement, and national security; consider the issues posed by autonomous machines; and contemplate the future of autonomous intelligent robots.

The presentation will include the potential impact on: how we live and work; military doctrine, strategy, tactics, and order of battle; law enforcement operations; criminal and national security threats; potential countermeasures; robot ethics; human employment and unemployment; the national economy; machine consciousness and free will; and the evolution of autonomous robots.

The presentation will take about an hour, with an hour for a lively discussion.

**Dr. Robert Finkelstein** has more than 30 years of experience in technology and academia. He is experienced as a scientist, manager, and entrepreneur in government and industry, in fields such as military and civil systems analysis; operations research; technology assessment and forecasting, and intelligent systems and robotic vehicles. In addition to serving as President of Robotic Technology Inc. for more than 30 years, he is an adjunct Professor in Technology Management and Systems Engineering at the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) for 17 years and an adjunct Professor at Unmanned Vehicle University (UVU) for 4 years.

Dr. Finkelstein is the inventor of the Energetically Autonomous Tactical Robot (EATR), which was developed under sponsorship of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The December 2010 issue of “Scientific American” recognized EATR as one of ten “World Changing Ideas: Innovations for a Brighter Future,” and the December 2010 issue of “Esquire” magazine recognized EATR as one of the “Best Innovations of 2010.” Dr. Finkelstein also initiated and managed the Military Memetics Project and the Intelligent Vehicle Technology Transfer (IVTT) Project with DARPA sponsorship. He was the designer and Principle Investigator for the Integrated Intelligent System of Systems (IISOS) in a program for the Department of Homeland Security involving maritime security in the Arctic. He recently examined autonomous intelligent control systems in a DARPA project involving swarms of Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV).