

Risky Bots and Plastic Fuel

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Resilience Policing and Climate Change (ESI Member)

What capacities do traditional policing actors need to develop that would enable them to anticipate and respond to non-traditional security threats such as natural disaster events?

The authors of this book chapter examine a framework for 'resilience policing', and consider its potential utility and limitations in identifying, responding to and mitigating chronic and pervasive environmental risks.

Plastics to Replace Coal as Fuel?

The unstoppable spread of microplastics is a threat to global health, and recycling is only a temporary delay in that process. An effective way of dealing with the current and future load of 'fresh' plastic is therefore urgently needed. This article (including a link to the specialist science) discusses the development of technology for turning plastics into fuel, and outlines some of the technological and regulatory hurdles still to be crossed.

Orphan Risks and Tesla Bots

The built environment is built by humans for humans, and in this context it makes sense that advanced technologies should learn to navigate that environment as people do, and that such developments may bring benefits to a wide range of human beings.

However, Elon Musk's vision goes further, envisaging a 'liberation' of human beings from our biological roots and linking us to an increasingly complex network of transformative technologies. The author of this article notes a number of risks associated with the realisation of this vision, including biased algorithms, intensive and unaccountable surveillance and inequitable access.

Fossil Fuels Bite Back

Over the last 50 years, many treaties have been signed that protect foreign companies from government actions, including measures that phase out or otherwise disadvantage fossil fuels. This may involve substantial compensation to the very industries that have knowingly been fuelling global warming. Some countermeasures are possible.

BOOM or BUZZ: Drones on the Rise in Africa

Wealthy Nations are Carving Up Space and its Riches

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