As armed surveillance drones have become the iconic weapon of the early 21st Century warfare and symbol of technological and military power, their use has also become embedded in the multi-faceted conceptual, rhetorical and practical nexus that is radically transforming how we conceive and conduct armed conflict. This presentation will consider the material, political, economic and conceptual alignments that have led to the current state of drone warfare and the forces shaping the emergence of new autonomous military technologies. From the fraught development of interfaces for tele-operated flight control, to the rhetoric of risk and preemption, to the human impacts of unpredictable, unbounded, unmanned warfare, this presentation examines the emergence of drone technologies through multiple socio-technical processes of mediation. In particular, it considers the remediation of killing in armed conflict as digital media removes soldiers from battle via remote and automated systems, as well as provides powerful new means of generating and disseminating images of armed conflict. It also considers the ways in which these technologies enable militaries and governments to better control the rhetorical framing of armed violence, open up legal grey zones, and manage the civil public’s relationship to the killing that is conducted by their states.