Soldiers of Fortune in Cyberspace & the Governance of Security
The New Wild West?

Doctoral Research | Celien De Stercke | Celien.DeStercke@UGent.be

INTRODUCTION

- New actors emerge in the twilight zone of cybercrime and cyberwar: **cyber mercenaries.**
- There is a **lack of effective governance** models regarding this grey zone, as cyberspace blurs the lines between internal and external security.
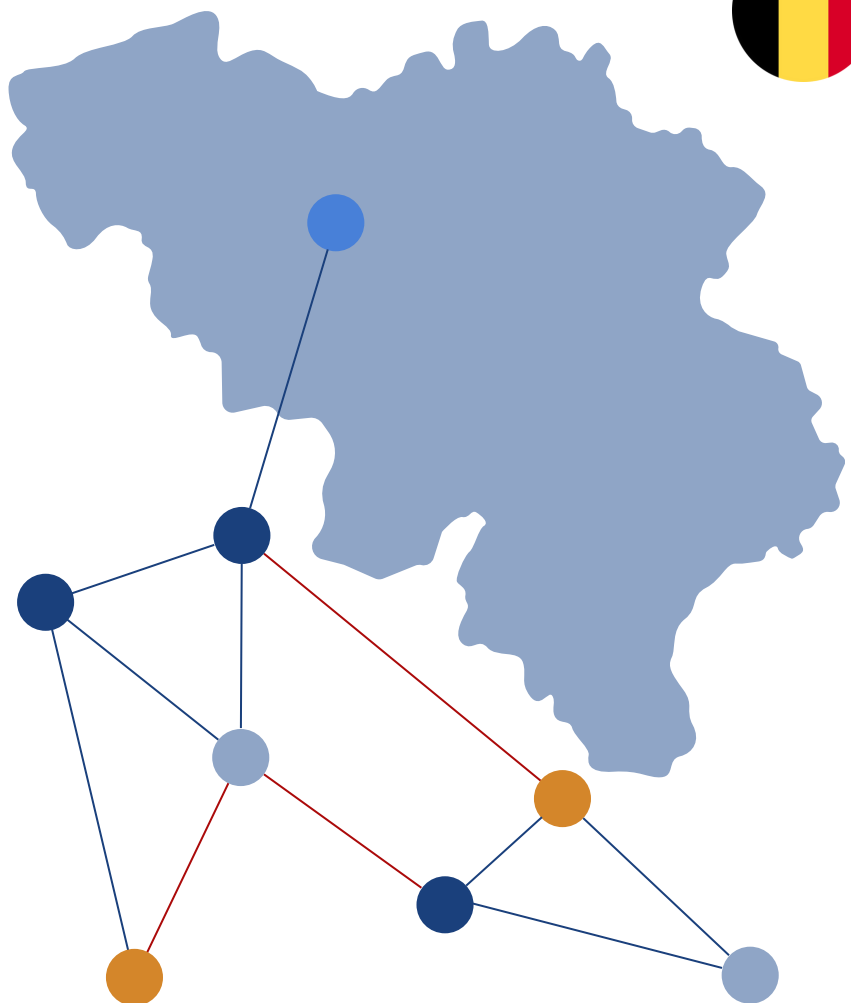- Cyber security companies illustrate **private potential** in governance architectures.

QUESTIONS

TO WHAT EXTENT DO CYBER MERCENARY ACTIVITIES CHALLENGE THEORIES ON THE GOVERNANCE OF SECURITY?

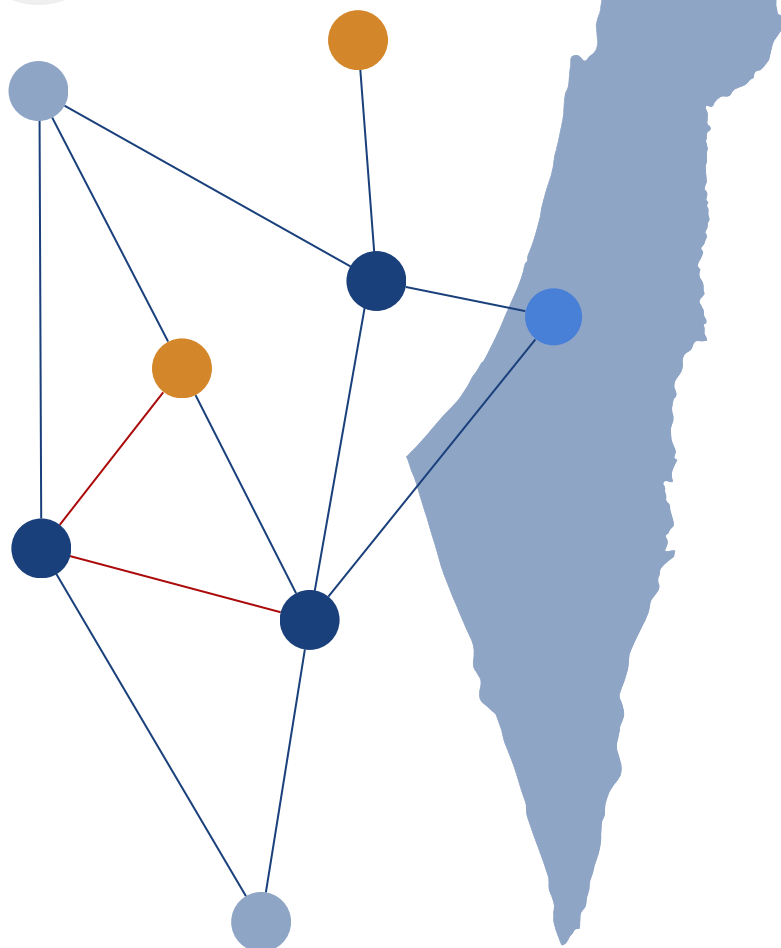**WHAT GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE CAN BE DEVELOPED IN ORDER TO COUNTER CYBER MERCENARIES?**

METHODOLOGY

CASE STUDIES
the two country case studies will serve as a foundation

QUALITATIVE CORE
literature reviews informed by interviews will be at the heart of the research

NETWORK ANALYSIS
governance architectures will be modeled

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Visual media: Canva (2023). https://www.canva.com/; Freepik (2023). *Flaticon.* https://www.flaticon.com/free-icons/;Smashicons (2023). Flaticon. https://www.flaticon.com/free-icons/

NEXT

I. cybercrime versus cyberwarfare
Develop a framework to distinguish cybercrime from cyberwarfare is necessary to analyze cyber mercenary activities.

II. cyber mercenaries
III. cybersecurity architectures
IV. governance of security

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