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The relevancy of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the South African National Defence Force: Adapt or be hacked

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The 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) has advanced various aspects of human life is rapidly altering the way individuals communicate with each other in the work place. This study focused on the qualitative exploration on how the advancement of cybersecurity may influence the behaviour of military officers and the manner in which they interact with changing technology in the workplace. Exploring the views and perceptions of cybersecurity and how threats are scrutinised among military officers is considered to be vital when producing knowledge in an emerging research area. The securitization framework was used to indicate how participants securitize an issue within the military context, particularly when viewing the 4IR as an agent that advances technological innovation in the workplace and demands social acceptance. Exploring the views and perceptions of military officers from an organizational psychology perspective necessitated that the researcher explore this emerging topic from a qualitative method of inquiry and highlighting a site of knowledge which has often been left unengaged in mainstream psychology. This study employed non-probability purposive sampling and selected 20 participants enrolled in a senior officers' course at one South African Military Tertiary Institution. Findings point towards the notion that securitizing an issue such as cyber-attacks has an impact on threat perception and behaviour when interacting with others through cyberspace.

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