Call for Papers

Workshop: Surveillance, Terrorism, Normality?

Tübingen, July 16-17, 2018

Post 9/11, the exceptional risk posed by terrorism was mobilised to legitimate a range of programs and technologies of surveillance, anticipation and pre-emption. Today, the phenomenon of terrorism is still with us, and so are attempts to secure against it by means of surveillance. However, the meaning of surveillance is not as stable as this apparent continuity may suggest; and neither are its relation to terrorism or its effects on society. Against the backdrop of developments in surveillance and surveillance technology (such as advances in machine learning), but also the impact these value-laden concepts and technologies have on societies and groups within them, this workshop aims to interrogate current and possible future interrelations between surveillance and society, technological change, exceptionality and normality. The workshop is intended as an opportunity to bring surveillance studies, security studies, ethics and terrorism studies together and to initiate a dialogue between junior and senior researchers in these fields.

We will approach the topic from two directions: The first part of the workshop will be dedicated to the theme of **Terrorism and Surveillance**. In this part, we inquire into the types of surveillance means developed and deployed in the name of counter-terrorism, questioning both the presuppositions embedded in different types of technology (concerning e.g. concepts of terrorism or values such as security, privacy, fairness and justice) and transformative effects associated with them. During the second part of the workshop, we will focus on **terrorism, (declared and undeclared) states of exception and their relation to normality**. While terrorism appears as a legitimising tool for developing surveillance technologies, examples of function creep emerge as such technologies enter the broader field of complex policing situations (e.g. riots, G 20 summits, long time observations). We are happy to announce **Prof Charlotte Heath-Kelly** (University of Warwick) and **Dr Matthias Leese** (ETH Zurich) as confirmed keynote speakers.

The workshop will be structured around participant submissions. We welcome contributions from various methodological and theoretical backgrounds and various disciplines including but not restricted to the fields of (critical) terrorism studies, surveillance studies, (critical) security studies, security ethics and security politics. Thereby, we actively encourage submissions from early career researchers.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- What technological and/or political developments have taken place in the fields of terrorism and surveillance?
- What is the relation between normality and exceptionality in counterterrorism policies?
- What are the ethical implications and societal effects of technological practices predominantly associated with counterterrorism?
- What conceptions of security and terrorism underlie systems promising to secure with the help of surveillance and how are they translated into technologies?
- What are the effects of new forms of authority that arise in the context of human-technology surveillance and security work?
- What might ethical security decision-making look like if performed by assemblages of humans and (algorithmic) security technology?

The deadline for the submission of abstracts (max. 250 words) is March 27, 2018. Please send your abstract to **anna-louise.tilling@uni-tuebingen.de.**

We will be able to offer some limited financial mobility support. If you would like to be considered for support (e.g. due to absence of institutional funding), please send a brief explanation of your situation along with your abstract.

About the project:

This workshop is part of the project Flexible, semi-automatic Analysis System for the Evaluation of Mass Video Data (FLORIDA), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) under the topic "Civil security – aspects and measures in fighting terrorism". The aim of this project is the development of tools to increase effectiveness in analysing mass video data, using measures including geo-spatial crime scene reconstruction, interactive exploration of extracted information (Visual Analytics), prioritisation of video data, generic object search and audio analysis. The IZEW focuses on ethical preconditions for deployment, based on a technology assessment and inquiries into societal states of exception as part of the operational scenarios.

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