Digitized Global Mobilities
The Role of New Media and Digitization in the Security approaches of the Refugee Crisis

3 & 4 JUNE 2019
UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

PROGRAMME
DIGITIZED GLOBAL MOBILITIES

Digitization and the use of social media have dramatically changed most aspects of our everyday practices, perceptions and cause severe changes in human mobility (Innes, 2016, Gray, 2018). While the importance and effects of technological innovations in social science research has been increasingly recognized, the role of new technologies and how these shapes the security of people on the move is still limited in scope.

This international event of UGlobe seeks to address questions on the digital features of forced mobility, how technology shapes the approaches of migrant’ security, particularly the unintended effects of digitization and social media use. This event aims to bring together multiple stakeholders: NGO representatives, social workers, media representatives, artists and academics.

The first day of our event is a seminar with invited speakers from different disciplines. The second day is organized in workshops to facilitate interactive knowledge exchange and inclusion of visual material. For the workshop sessions we invited papers, films and art works that rethink issues of the ‘digital’ in the study of human mobility and security.
Monday, 3 June

8:30 to 9:00  **Registration & Reception**  
*Cervantes Institute, Domplein 3, 3512 JC Utrecht*

**Seminar on Digitized Global Mobilities**  
*Cervantes Institute*

9:00 to 9:15  **Opening:** Prof. Dr Dina Siegel

9:15 to 11:45  **Plenary Session 1**  
*Prof. Dr. Huub Dijstelbloem*, University of Amsterdam  
*Prof. Dr. Myria Georgiou*, London School of Economics  
*Dr. Annalisa Pelizza*, University of Twente

12:00 to 1:00  **Lunch Break**

1:00 to 3:15  **Plenary Session 2**  
*Prof. Dr Sandra Ponzanesi*, Utrecht University  
*Dr. James Tangen*, De Montfort University  
*Prof. Dr. Katerina Linos*, UC Berkeley School of Law

3:15 to 3:30  **Discussion**

**Workshop Sessions**  
*Janskerkhof 3, 3512 BK, Utrecht*

3:45 to 6:15  **Workshop 1 & World Café**  
ROOM 109: **Workshop 1**  & World Café  
ROOM 110: **Workshop 2**  & World Café

4:15  **Film screening** and discussion  
ROOM 111: Robert Glas: [ID2020](#)

6:30  **Meet and greet in Hofman Café - Janskerkhof 17a**
Tuesday, 4 June

Workshop Sessions
Janskerkhof 3, 3512 BK, Utrecht

9:30 to 12:00
ROOM 217: Workshop 3 & World Café
ROOM 220: Workshop 4 & World Café

12:00 to 1:00
Lunch Break

1:00 to 3:45
ROOM 220: Workshop 5 & World Café
ROOM 217: Workshop 6 & World Café

2:00 to 3:30
ROOM 117: Film screening and discussion
Aurora Peters and Erwin van ’t Hof:
Dancing on a Razor’s Edge

Plenary Session
Cervantes Institute

4:15 to 5:15
Book Launch: The Sage Handbook of Media and Migration

Prof. Dr. Kevin Smets, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Dr. Koen Leurs, Utrecht University
Prof. Dr. Myria Georgiou, London School of Economics and Political Science
Dr. Saskia Witteborn, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Dr. Radhika Gajjala, Bowling Green State University

5:15 to 5:45
Closing remarks: Dr. Veronika Nagy

6:00
Evening Reception
## WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### WORKSHOP 1

**Security narratives and decision-making practices in Asylum trajectories**

**Room JK 2-3 – 109**  
Convenor: Linnet Taylor

1. **Lucy Boddington**  
*Digital evidence and assessments of credibility within UK asylum tribunals*

2. **Angelique van Dam**  
*Who Belongs Where? Research on the Selection Process during the Placement of Refugees by Screen-level Bureaucrats*

3. **Rianne Dekker, Godfried Engbersen, Jeanine Klaver**  
*Social media shaping migration decision-making: Comparing migrant groups with different levels of agency*

4. **Ilaria Aversa**  
*How do European regulations and domestic legislation, as implemented at the local level, affect refugees’ experiences and eventual traumas? A case study in Rome, Italy*

5. **Simon Goebel**  
*Migration-related communication processes of political players in digital media*

### WORKSHOP 2

**Digilantism, Digital solidarity and Social Justice**

**Room JK 2-3 – 110**  
Convenor: Vassilis Gerasopoulos

6. **Charles Martin-Shields, Mirko Eppler, Stella Gaetani, Francy Koellner, Jana Kuhnt, Nyat Mebrahtu, Antonia Peters, Carlotta Preiß**  
*Between the Benefits of Connectivity and the Risks of Surveillance: urban refugees’ experiences of digital technologies in Kenya*

7. **Ghadeer Udwan**  
*Online/offline resilience strategies of young Syrian refugees in the Netherlands*

8. **Qian Huang**  
*In Response to Digitized Global Mobilities*

9. **Anisha Debbarman**  
*Reassessing Social Media Coverage: Re-building Community through the Myriad Student Associations from North-Eastern India*

10. **Liam Turner-Murrell**  
*The Digital Evolution of Radical Right Movements*
WORKSHOP 3
Social Media representations - digital hostility or hospitality?
Room JK 2-3 – 217
Convenor: Rianne Dekker

11. Zhihe Bai
Nationalism and the construction of others in China: exploring social media in the shadow of the “refugee crisis”

12. Basma Elmahdy
Reflections on roles of the Arabic-language Newcomer. Media in Berlin: ‘News is important to feel at home.’

13. Simon Noori
Smartphones, transnational activism and via political in(ter)ventions in maritime borderzones.

14. Ilse van Liempt, Younes Younes, Richard Staring
Social media and homemaking processes of recently arrived Syrians in the Netherlands

15. Vassilis Gerasopoulos
Xenophobic narratives in virtual platforms: Particularities of articulation and validity

WORKSHOP 4
Fear, Expulsion and deterrence on-line
Room JK 2-3 – 220
Convenor: Koen Leurs

16. Michele Francis Ferris-Dobles
Central American Migration: using the mobile phone across national borders

17. Sanja Milivojevic
Rethinking ‘Stealing the fire, 2.0 style’: Furthering our engagement with counter-security technologies in 21st century

18. Raffaella Pagogna
Disciplining migration aspirations: Looking into the role of new media and information campaigns to prevent irregular migration in Ethiopia

19. Giray Sadik, Ceren Kaya
Securitization of Migration and the Role of Surveillance Technologies in European External Border Management

20. Lene Swetzer
See through me: securitising transgender identity through biometric authentication
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<td>ICT, Technology, accountability and trust</td>
<td>Securitized gender identities across the borders</td>
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Room JK 2-3 – 220  
Convenor: Veronika Nagy  

21. Nina Grønlykke Mollerup, Marie Sandberg  
*Perilous navigation: The creation of trust and knowledge through irregularised migrants’ digital practices in/of the European border regime*

22. Agathi Merdi  
*ICT Use by Refugees: The Role of Technology in Refugee Mobility*

23. Parisa Diba, Georgios A Antonopoulos, Georgios Papanicolaou  
*Digital routes of human smuggling: evidence from the UK*

24. Costanza Di Francesco Maesa  
*Digitisation of migration control and accountability. Algorithmic accountability or no accountability?*

25. Amira Paripurna Masitoh Indriani  
*Biometric Data Sharing in Addressing Irregular Migration and Security Issues within The Bali Process Framework for Indonesia and ASEAN State Members*

Room JK 2-3 – 217  
Convenor: Fiona-Katharina Seiger  

26. Vasiliki Makrygianni, Vasilis Galis  
*Migrants’ digital practices for gender and LGBTQ+ solidarity: narratives from Greece*

27. Koen Leurs, Jeffrey Patterson  
*We Live Here, and We Are Queer!: Young Gay Connected Migrants’ Transnational Ties and Integration in the Netherlands*

28. Georgia (Zeta) Lazarou  
*Social media and refugee smuggling in Greece*

29. Julia Sönhholz  
*Women on the Move’s Access and Use of Smartphones on the Balkan Route*
Biography

Huub Dijstelbloem is Lecturer in Philosophy of Science at the University of Amsterdam and Researcher and Project Leader at the Scientific Council for Government Policy in The Hague (WRR). He was Editor of the International Journal Krisis and is member of several Advisory Boards of Academic Schools (including WTMC and IIS). He was Program Coordinator Technology Assessment at the Rathenau Institute and evaluated Science and Technology projects at Sci-Quest.

He studied Philosophy (MA) and Science, Technology and Culture (MSc) at the University of Amsterdam and in Paris at the Ecole des Mines, supervised by Professor Bruno Latour. He wrote his PhD on the democratic deficits in the political and the scientific decision-making processes at the beginnings of the AIDS-epidemic, environmental problems and BSE. Next to academic and professional publications, Huub is involved as a speaker and opinion maker in public debates about science, technology and society. Some of his recent publications in English are Migration and the New Technological Borders of Europe (Palgrave, 2011) and Rethinking the Human Condition. Exploring Human Enhancement (Rathenau, 2008).

Abstract

The plasticity of border infrastructures

This lecture will investigate the plasticity of border infrastructures. The plasticity of borders means that borders are designable, malleable, changeable and movable. This plasticity is manifested in two recent initiatives in the EU, concerning border operations and interoperability. End of March 2019 the EU announced it will end the sea patrols that are part of operation Sophia, a maritime operation at the Mediterranean formally known as EUNAVFOR MED. Meanwhile, proposals to intensify the interoperability between the Schengen Information System (SIS), Eurodac and the Visa Information System (VIS) information and three systems proposed by the Commission, namely the Entry/Exit System (EES), the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and the European Criminal Record Information System (ECRIS-TCN system) are rapidly proceeding (preliminary agreement between the Presidency of the Council and representatives of the European Parliament, 5 February 2019).
The lecture will analyze the similarities and differences between the two by elaborating on the notion of border plasticity. ‘Operations’ are often regarded as ‘political missions’ whereas ‘interoperability’ tends to be presented as a mere technical digital matter. However, by emphasizing three elements of technological and digital borders, namely transformational friction, socio-technical compromises and infrastructural imagination, the lecture aims to show that they are strongly related. The result is the emergence of a particular ‘infrastructural maneuvering space’ that arises out of the interplay between operations and interoperability.

Prof. Dr. Myria Georgiou, *London School of Economics and Political Science*

*Biography*

Prof. Dr. Myria Georgiou is Professor in the Department of Media and Communications at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Her research examines how media and communications advance or restrict rights and recognition of refugees, migrants and other marginalized communities in transnational contexts, especially across urban societies. She is the author and editor of five books, including two monographs: *Diaspora, identity and the media* (Hampton Press, 2006) and *Media and the city* (Polity Press, 2013). She currently leads the project *Resilient communities, resilient cities? Digital makings of the city of refuge* (Rockefeller/LSE), which investigates communication dynamics in cities receiving migrants, especially after Europe’s “migration crisis”.

*Abstract*

**Infinite borders? The digital governmentality of migration in Europe’s cities**

This paper demonstrates how bordering power, which is established, shaped and legitimated at Europe’s borderlands, expands but also transforms within the continent’s territories, especially its cities. More particularly, evidence from across three European cities (Athens, Berlin, London) will show that the biopolitical order that ‘assorts’ migrants at Europe’s territorial borders – allowing, restricting, banning migrant mobility and rights – takes new forms when migrants settle in the city. As will be argued, bordering power becomes reinvented and reinforced in disciplinary regimes that aim to indefinitely regulate migrant lives as they enter the territory of the nation. What this means is that, migrants are expected to constantly prove their commitment to a new nation, to the market economy, and to a politics of diversity that
absorbs rather than embraces their experiences, histories and trajectories. Failure to do so brings them back to a state of precarity initially constituted at the border. These disciplinary regimes are increasingly managed, but also contested digitally: with growing amounts of data on migrants' past, present but also future trajectories accumulated by the state; with surveillance systems becoming ordinary and infinite in time and space of migrants' lives; and with an ideological order that pushes digital entrepreneurship among newcomers, the governmentality of migration has turned digital. As digital governmentality of migration in the city reproduces and digitally disguises bordering power and its restrictions to migrants' lives, a number of crucial questions are raised about rights and recognition in the city.

Dr. Annalisa Pelizza, University of Twente

Biography

Annalisa is associate professor at the Science, Technology and Policy Studies department (STePS), University of Twente. Her research lies at the intersection of science and technology studies, communication science and political theory, with a focus on governance by data infrastructures and how they shape institutions inherited from Modernity. She currently leads the “Processing Citizenship. Digital registration of migrants as co-production of citizens, territory and Europe” research group (http://processingcitizenship.eu). The research is funded by the European Research Council and investigates transnational data infrastructures for migration management as activities of European integration. After her PhD in Information Society (University of Milan-Bicocca, research partner Ars Electronica), she worked as project leader and ethnographer of large-scale governmental/industry information infrastructures. Her fields of interest are large-scale data infrastructures, governance by information infrastructures; performativity of data circulation, especially affecting modernist institutions; internet cultures; computational methods; Actor-Network Theory, script analysis and semiotics as research methodologies, population management. She also collaborates with Ars Electronica, as a member of its International Advisory Board on Digital Communities.

Abstract

Processing Alterity, Shaping the European Order

This lecture introduces the concept of “alterity processing” to account for the simultaneous enactment of individual “Others” and emergent European orders in the
context of informational migration management. Alterity processing refers to data infrastructures, knowledge practices and bureaucratic procedures through which populations unknown to European actors are translated into “European-legible” identities. Drawing upon a Science and Technology Studies constructivist perspective, the lecture provides empirical evidence and theoretical reflections on the co-production of migrant people and polities mediated by the digitization of registration and identification. It shows how different registration and identification procedures compete to legitimize different chains of actors, data, and metadata as more authoritative than others. Competing procedures have governance implications, as well, with some institutional actors being included and others being excluded. In this tension, it is not only the individual Other that is enacted but also specific bureaucratic orders cutting across old and new European actors and distinctive understandings of “Europe.” The lecture draws upon data collected in the context of the “Processing Citizenship” project (ERC StG No 714463, http://processingcitizenship.eu).

Prof. Dr. Sandra Ponzanesi, Utrecht University

Biography

Sandra Ponzanesi is currently Full Professor and chair of Gender and Postcolonial Studies at the Department of Media and Culture Studies/Graduate Gender Programme (UU). Her expertise is gender and postcolonial critique from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. Her research areas include postcolonial studies, transnational feminist theories, comparative literature, Italian colonial history, European migration studies, visual culture, postcolonial cinema, media and conflict studies. She studied English and Commonwealth Studies at the University of Bologna (Italy) and University of Sussex (UK) and received my Ph.D., in Comparative Literature and Gender Studies at Utrecht University. She was visiting scholar at the University of California, Riverside (2004), visiting Professor at the University of California Los Angeles (2016), Gemma Scholar at Rutgers University (2014), Visiting Professor at Columbia University, and Visiting Scholar at the New York University, NYU (2017-2018). Professor Ponzanesi is the PI of the ERC consolidator project CONNECTINGEUROPE 'Digital Crossings in Europe. Gender, Diaspora and Belonging.' The project aims to investigate the relation between migration and digital technologies, in particular the way in which the ‘connected migrant’ contributes to new forms of European integration and cosmopolitan citizenship.

The project explores digital diasporas in relation to issues of gender, ethnicity and affective belonging, focusing on how new technologies enhance new forms of
connectivity between the homeland and destination countries, but also across diasporas. The project pioneers a new interdisciplinary method that combines media studies, postcolonial theories, digital humanities and gender studies, drawing from the humanities and social science.

She is the founder and director of the Postcolonial Studies Initiative (PCI) and also the project leader of the NWO Internationalization in the Humanities project "Postcolonial Intellectuals and their European Publics" (PIN) which brings together an international and interdisciplinary network of scholars to investigate the role of postcolonial public intellectuals as crucial actors in renewing the function of the humanities and of democratic participation in Europe.

Abstract

Digital Europe and its Discontent

This talk proposes an intervention into the notion of Europe as a closed Fortress by foregrounding migrant mobility and digital connectedness as part of everyday life but also pertaining to new forms of citizenship and urban cosmopolitan belonging.

Though migration to and within Europe is nothing new, the recent ‘refugee crisis’ has sparked intense debate on the issues of borders, identities and belonging. Austerity measures and intensified high-tech surveillance have replaced hospitality and possibilities for circular migration, generating new bordering regimes that are not just material but also epistemological and technological.

While aware of these new entrenchments and virtual rewalling the focus here is on the possibilities that technologies enhance to stay in touch with close and far-off communities, creating diasporic hubs that allow for new forms of sociability and intimacies.

Focusing on everyday digitized practices allows for a more complex, yet realistic, assessment of how gender and racial presence, agency and emancipation are rearticulated beyond the current deterministic debate of public versus private, inclusion and exclusion, agency and tradition.
Dr. James Tangen, *De Montfort University*

**Biography**

Dr. James Tangen is a Senior Lecturer (VC2020) in Criminology and Programme Leader for the BA (Hons) Criminology and BA (Hons) Criminology with Psychology programmes. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and module leader for Researching Crime & Justice (CRIM1014) and Digital Criminology (CRIM2090). James is a member of the Faculty of Health & Life Science Faculty Development And Review Committee (DARC).

James joined the National Probation Service in 2001 as a Trainee Probation Officer in the Nottinghamshire area. During his training, and immediately following his qualification as a Probation Officer in 2003, James was seconded to Youth Offending Teams and spent over 2 years delivering the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP) to prolific and otherwise priority Young Offenders (PYOs). James has also worked in a variety of Courts and has experience of supervising adult offenders. In 2006 James was promoted to Senior Probation Officer of an inner-city team in Nottingham, following which he moved to supervising a community supervision team in Newark and Sherwood, a rural district of Nottinghamshire.

In his PhD thesis, titled *’Instability in the social construction of victims of trafficking: A sociological case study of UK public policy’* Dr Tangen explored the factors influencing street-level bureaucrats in the UK as they judge the credibility of individuals claiming to be a victim of human trafficking. In 2015 he became a Lecturer in Probation at De Montfort University, where his focus was delivering academic teaching as a part the Probation Qualifying Framework. In 2016, Dr Tangen transferred to the BA Criminology and Criminal Justice programme as a VC2020 Lecturer.

**Abstract**

*Cui bono? Digital technology and the (further) securitisation of the anti-trafficking agenda.*

The potential for cyberspace to provide opportunities for transnational criminality has been recognised since the moment criminal justice academics and practitioners turned their attention to the on-line environment (Stratton et al., 2017). As well as offering opportunities for new types of criminal activities, digital technologies provide the means to extend existing offences through transnational networks that transcend the usual temporal and spatial limitations of private criminal enterprise. These technologies also provide new opportunities for law enforcement agencies to leverage
additional resources through the co-production of security in conjunction with the publics they are traditionally intended to protect (Chang et al., 2018). In the context of a persistent ‘hostile environment’ for migrants amongst global northern nation-states, policies to tackle human trafficking appear to do more to address national security concerns than to protect and support victims (O’Connell-Davidson, 2010). This paper critically interrogates the purpose of digital technology applications in co-opting citizens and publics in the identification of ‘victims of human trafficking’. Based on developing research by Dr James Tangen and Dr Ruth McKie, the paper argues that the functionality of the apps reproduces existing concerns about the securitisation of migration, adding a further tool for nation-states to control their borders without deploying further resources.

**Prof. Dr. Katerina Linos, UC Berkeley School of Law**

*Biography*

Katerina Linos’ is Professor of Law and Co-Faculty director at the Miller Institute for Global Challenges and Law at The University of California, Berkeley. Her research and teaching interests include international law, comparative law, European Union law, employment law and migration law. To address questions in these fields, her work combines legal analysis with empirical methods.

She holds a J.D. and Ph.D. from Harvard and was a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. Her book Democratic Foundations won the 2014 Chadwick Alger prize as the best book on international organization and multilateralism, the 2014 Peter Katzenstein prize for an outstanding first book in international relations, the 2014 Giovanni Sartori prize as the best book on qualitative methods, and was reviewed by nine international law professors for an Opinio Juris symposium.

The law and politics of the European Union are another key area of Linos’ research. To explore the gap between widely diffused, internationally accepted norms and their uneven implementation on the ground, Linos’ recent work focuses on human rights. In 2017, she was awarded a Carnegie fellowship to study the European refugee crisis. She investigates now how communication barriers frustrate fundamental rights and explore the potential of new technologies to facilitate refugee and migrant integration. Linos’ research appears in leading law reviews and peer-reviewed journals, including the American Journal of International Law, the American Journal of Political Science, the California Law Review, the Chicago Law Review, Comparative Political Studies, the European Sociological Review, and International Organization.
Abstract

How Technology Transforms Refugee Law

Until recently, migrants and refugees relied on family networks and word of mouth to make critical decisions about destination countries, formal versus informal travel routes, and applications for legal status. However, in an internet era, when many refugees consider Wi-Fi more important than food and shelter, social media, phone, and other internet-based communications are critical to refugee and migrant decision-making. At the same time, governments are employing new powerful identification and surveillance technologies. I will revisit basic questions in refugee law in light of these technological transformations. Refugee lawyers have long debated who deserves protection, who has a duty to protect, and how to ensure travel and ultimately integration in a safe country. I will argue that core compromises in the refugee regime, such as the sharp distinction between deserving refugees and undeserving economic migrations, or the much heavier burden placed on proximate safe countries as compared to distant safe countries, become entirely unsustainable in light of technological transformations.

Screening: Robert Glas “ID2020”

The artistic practice of Robert Glas (1986) is an ongoing investigation into the technologies nation-states use to manage the movement of people across territories. This process results in short films, photography and installations exhibited at the Van Abbe Museum, Kunsthal and Foam. In 2016 he received the Mondrian Young Talent Grant and was invited to join the Academy honours programme for young artists and scientists (KNAW & Akademie van Kunsten). Glas lives and works in Rotterdam (NL).

He will preview his film: “2020”. The film is a fictional interview recorded with two time-of-flight cameras, in which a filmmaker questions a consultant working for a corporation which played a seminal role in the early development of iris recognition, and biometrics by extension. In this work Robert explores what a politicized defense of the use of biometrics would look like.

2020 (1080p, 41 min) 2018

This film is a fictional interview based on real interviews Robert Glas held with several biometric engineers. In the film a consultant working for the real-life company Iridian Technologies (Nadia Amin) is interviewed by an independent filmmaker much like Glas (Daniël Cornelissen). Founded in 1993 by the inventors of the first automated system for iris recognition, Iridian played a seminal role in the advance of biometric identification, leading to the technology’s current omnipresence. Touching upon key events that Iridian was involved in, the filmmaker tries to get a hold on the world view...
and politics of the corporation. How is the concept of legal identity intertwined with the project of the nation state? How has science fiction affected our stance towards high-tech identification technologies? What would a politicized defense of biometrics look like? The film is shot with two Time-of-Flight sensors, a type of camera often used in biometric systems which generates thirty depth-mapped pixel clouds per second. A weightless eye scans their faces—represented in coarse pixels—which contort more and more as the conversation slowly turns into an interrogation. ‘2020’ is a film about the end of faith in strangers.

Discussant: Dr. Nilay Kavur

Screening: Aurora Peters and Erwin van ’t Hof: Dancing on a Razor’s Edge

Aurora Peters (1989) studied journalism at the Utrecht University of Applied Sciences and holds a master’s degree in international relations from the University of Amsterdam. She works as a freelance journalist for various media since 2012. She is currently working for the AD Ochtend Show to go, OPEN Rotterdam and a new documentary project under the wings of Lost in Europe and Small Stream Media.

Erwin van ’t Hof (1989) studied journalism at the Utrecht University of Applied Sciences and holds a research master’s degree in political history from the University of Utrecht. He works as a freelance journalist for various media since 2010. Erwin is currently working on a book about freelance journalism in the Netherlands and a research project for the Dutch Media Federation.

Dancing on a Razor’s Edge is a documentary about the Hungarian border fence. We ask: what happens when you close a border? We speak with Hungarian citizens, mayors of border villages, activists, aid workers, refugees and scholars. Every single one of them gave us a different answer and everyone of them opted for a different solution. This film shows how complicated borders can be, that thinking in ‘us and them’ does no right to the actual situation and what the consequences are when a government, that does think that way, comes to power.

Discussant: Dr. Elena Krismanovic
WORKSHOP CONVENORS

Dr. Fran Meissner

Fran Meissner’s main research interest is focused on contemporary urban social configurations and how these are transformed through international migration. She is a Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow at the TU Delft. Fran is also affiliated as and is a long term research partner at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, where she completed her PhD work as a Doctoral Research Fellow.

Fran has previously been a Junior Research Group Leader at the University of Kassel and a Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the Migration and Diaspora Studies Center. Before that she started her post-doctoral career as a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence Italy.

Her work grapples with novel perspectives on migrant socialities in cities and the diversity dynamics this produces. Through her PhD research she has developed a keen interest in the use of innovative visualisations to facilitate the analysis of complex data. Her PhD research is an empirical application of superdiversity. It investigates how multidimensional forms of migration related differentiations can be studied through the social networks of migrants from numerically small migrant groups. The work on ‘Socialising with Diversity’ is in the interdisciplinary field of Migration Studies and it has been awarded by the University of Sussex and was published with Palgrave.

Her most recent obsession, next to climbing, is to better understand the complex configurations of the legal statuses migrants inhabit in different cities and neighbourhoods.

Vassilis Gerasopoulos (MA)

Vassilis Gerasopoulos is a PhD candidate in the Willem Pompe Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology in the University of Utrecht. He holds a Bachelor in Law from the University of Athens. Upon his graduation, he pursued an MA in Global Criminology from Utrecht University. For his MA Thesis, he conducted ethnographic research on the processes of labelling and homophobia against young Greek gay men within their
family. In his PhD research, he focuses on how the refugee crisis of 2015 has affected, reshaped and reconfigured the societal attitudes and popular narratives towards migrants and migration as a phenomenon.

He is chiefly interested in the concepts of fear, exclusion and identity – in racial, sexual or cultural terms. As such, he is perpetually eager to explore how and why the different ‘-phobias’ are constructed and expressed. Alongside his PhD research, he is also involved in projects regarding the dominant representations of crime, migration and gender as well as the intersection between migration and security. He has published articles on the recent refugee crisis in Greece, the contemporary modalities of racism in the country, and the representation of sexual diversity in popular culture.

Dr. Rianne Dekker

Rianne Dekker is assistant professor at the Utrecht University School of Governance (USG). Next to teaching several courses in the bachelor and master-programs, she cooperates in the Horizon 2020 research project ‘Medi@4sec’. Her research activities focus on the use of social media for public security purposes. Rianne is also involved in the foundation of the ‘Governance Lab Utrecht’. MEDI@4SEC is a community for sharing experiences in the use of social media for public security. It brings together a range of security professionals and others and showcases the multitude of ways social media can be used to enhance public security.

Working in partnership with security professionals MEDI@4SEC has developed a knowledge base to provides you with resources to use in your everyday activities.

Although the MEDI@4SEC project itself is now complete, the community is alive and active. Through it we invite you to continue to exchange stories and information with others. Together you can better use social media for greater public security.
**Dr. Koen Leurs**

Koen Leurs is Assistant Professor in Gender and Postcolonial Studies at the Graduate Gender Program, Department of Media and Culture, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. He is the chair of the European Communication Research and Education (ECREA) Diaspora, Migration and the Media section. He is the principal investigator of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research funded study *Young connected migrants. Comparing digital practices of young asylum seekers and expatriates in the Netherlands* and the Dutch National Research Agenda funded participatory action research project *Media literacy through making media: A key to participation for young newcomers*. Recently he co-guest edited special issues on “Forced migration and digital connectivity” with Kevin Smets for *Social Media + Society* and “Connected Migrants” with Sandra Ponzanesi for *Popular Communication*. Currently, he is writing a monograph titled *Digital Migration Studies*.

**Dr. Veronika Nagy**

Dr. Veronika Nagy is Assistant Professor in Criminology at the Willem Pompe Institute in Utrecht. She completed her PhD in the DCGC program funded by Erasmus Mundus+. Her research interest includes surveillance, digital inequality with a focus on the connection between mobility and technology, securitisation of international migration and criminalization. She has conducted research on specific forms of securitisation, financial surveillance, ethnic mobility, human trafficking, and digital profiling (exploitation of workers, forced criminal activities and forced labour, trafficking of children). Veronika is currently doing a research scholarship ‘Virtual Asylum’ funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation. This empirical study reflects on the role of self-censorship among refugees under the EU surveillance gaze in different Member States.

She is teaching different BA courses in the minor Criminology (Introduction to Criminology, Advanced Theories, Int Organised Crime) and she is the coordinator of the course Digital Criminology in the Master program Global Criminology. Her latest editorial volume with Prof. Dr. Dina Siegel, *The Migration Crisis? Criminalisation, Security and Survival* (2018) was published by Eleven International Publishing.

**Dr. Fiona-Katharina Seiger**

Fiona-Katharina Seiger obtained her PhD (2014) from the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. Her research centres on young migrants, citizenship claims and “mixed” ethnic identities. For her research projects, Fiona conducted
extensive fieldwork in Japan and the Philippines. In her doctoral thesis, she explored the material dimensions of ethnic identity constructions and identity claims through the study of Japanese-Filipino children in the Philippines and of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) advocating on their behalf. Fiona examined the construction of the “JFC”, the Japanese-Filipino Child, through NGO discourses as well as the mobilization of Japanese-Filipino children’s Japanese descent in claims-making and in struggles over resources.

During her post-doc at the Kyoto University Center for Southeast Asian Studies (Japan), Fiona focused on how Japanese-Filipino children and youth reconfigured their ethnic identifications upon migration to Japan. Her research was published in *Mixed Race in Asia* (2017), edited by Zarine L. Rocha and Farida Fozdar, in the journal *Critical Asian Studies* (2017) and is forthcoming in *Social Identities*. Currently, Fiona works as a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Migration and Intercultural Studies (CeMIS) at the University of Antwerp (Belgium), where she is an active consortium member of the Horizon 2020-funded project CROSS-MIGRATION and co-editor of the upcoming book *Migration at Work: Opportunities, Imaginaries & Structures of Mobility*. She was a recipient of the Asia Research Institute (ARI) Graduate Student Scholarship, two Japan Foundation Grants, and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences (JSPS) Post-Doctoral Fellowship.
Narratives of security and decision-making practices in Asylum trajectories

1. Lucy Boddington, MSc Candidate, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

Digital evidence and assessments of credibility within UK asylum tribunals

There is a relative paucity of academic literature focussing on the specific intersection of the role and dynamics of new technologies within asylum proceedings. I seek to address this gap by building on the work of legal scholar, Prof. Rosemary Byrne, to examine the use of digital evidence and assessments of credibility in the context of Immigration and Asylum Tribunals in the United Kingdom. Whilst digital forms of evidence can potentially be used by applicants to build a stronger case for asylum, Byrne’s critical work has theorized a problematic ‘double bind’ dynamic created by the use of digital evidence in the asylum context: The perceived universality of digital technologies and new media creates a higher evidentiary threshold, whilst such forms of new media are simultaneously viewed, when provided in practice by applicants, as unreliable forms of evidence. This is compounded by a lack of formal reliability criteria, and a lack of trust in ‘new’ media. Thus, I seek to investigate whether there is evidence to support this theory in reported cases from the U.K. Upper Tribunal, further asking whether such dynamics create the potential to discredit applicants, either on the basis of their failure to provide, or, on the other hand, because of their provision of, digital evidence relevant to their asylum claim. Further, I seek to situate this within broader dynamics across time and space beyond the immediate Tribunal/Applicant. Wider implications will be explored, in relation to postcolonial perspectives regarding globalization, modernity and the digital divide, drawing on debates around the emancipatory capacities of new technologies, in addition to considering the concepts of mutability and temporality thus far developed primarily in relation to embodied/medical evidentiary forms.

2. Angelique van Dam, MPA Candidate, Erasmus University Rotterdam


Successful resettlement requires a safe place for refugees. Besides preferences of refugees of certain spaces and available facilities, municipalities are also interested in a successful match of refugees and space; so much that they prefer certain categories of refugees over others. Families and highly educated refugees are at the top of this hierarchy. This research focusses on the selection process and understandings of a ‘right fit’ of person and space during the matching of refugees and space within the Netherlands. Bureaucrats that are trusted with the task of selection and matching do this without getting into personal contact with the person that they decide for. They operate behind a screen basing their judgement on limited information. Therefore, we call them screen-level bureaucrats. Building on the work of Lipsky (1980) this study will show that screen-level bureaucrats use their policy discretion in almost all their cases. Moreover, it will show that stereotyping lies at the basis of the very elaborate
stories about persons and places where screen-level bureaucrats rely their judgements on (e.g. ideas on where gay, families and high or low skilled newcomers belong). Through extended interviews (46) and observations (34) over a one-year period on a national, regional and local level (city of Rotterdam), this study sheds light on the practices of screen-level bureaucrats and the construction of belonging in the first phase of refugee resettlement in the Netherlands. This study emphasizes the complexity of interaction in digital space: even without physical contact, images are constructed that have consequences for the distribution of rights and facilities where social categorisation, stereotyping and principles of deservingness play a very important role.

3. Dr. Rianne Dekker, Lecturer, Utrecht University School of Governance Prof. Dr. Godfried Engbersen, Erasmus University Rotterdam Dr. Jeanine Klaver, Project leader & senior researcher, Regioplan Policy Research

Social media shaping migration decision-making: Comparing migrant groups with different levels of agency

Over the past decades, smartphones and social media have increasingly shaped migrant journeys (McAuliffe et al. 2018). They provide migrants with new sources of information that is valuable in migration decision-making. Information shared through social media not only comes from official sources, but is ‘streetwise’: timely, practice-based and personal. This highly relevant in migrant journeys, but it also brings risks of misinformation and surveillance. This paper reflects on differences in accessing social media and validating information from social media between groups of migrants that are seen as having relatively high levels of agency (labor migrants, family migrants, students) and a group of migrants that has relatively low levels of agency (asylum migrants). This contribution draws upon two earlier qualitative research projects conducted by the authors in 2012 (labor migrants, family migrants, students) and in 2016 (asylum migrants). The first study (N=90) indicated that social media use makes migration decisions of labor migrants, family migrants and students better informed (Dekker & Engbersen, 2014, Dekker et al., 2016a, Dekker et al., 2016b). However, these groups already are characterized by relatively high levels of agency in deciding when, where and how to move. A follow up study (N=54) during the recent European refugee crisis demonstrated that smartphones and social media are commonly used by refugees on their journeys to Europe as well. Because of the highly risky journeys, we found that refugees have specific challenges in accessing social media and dealing with ‘rumours’ (cf. Carling & Hernández-Carretero, 2011). Furthermore, this contribution reflects on new ways in which social media do not only enhance agency but also bring new structuring elements to migration decision-making. Specifically, we address the use of social media by migrant networks and organizations, NGO’s and humanitarian organizations, migrants smugglers and government organizations – as discussed by the migrants we interviewed. These structuring elements can be migration-encouraging as well as migration-discouraging (cf. Dekker et al., 2016b).
4. Ilaria Aversa, MSc Candidate, University of Essex

The effect of asylum seekers’ biometric data gathering and sharing, on refugees’ experiences. A human rights evaluation of ‘crimmigration’ policies and practices in a case study in Rome, Italy.

This research investigates how the implementation at the local level of both European regulations and domestic legislation affect the experiences of refugees. It highlights both positive outcomes of the practical implementation of migration legislation by local authorities, as well as problematic and potentially traumatic experiences resulting from those. It highlights contested domestic legislations such as the Salvini Security Decree (4th of October, 2018, n.113), which are argued to be in breach of international regulation (Campani, 2016), as well as the well documented and EU controversial practices of biometric data gathering and sharing (Brady, 2008; Dijstelbloem, Meijer and Brom, 2011). It uses data gathered through semi-structured interviews with refugees living in Rome to investigate refugees’ understanding of such practices, and the impact that these have on their attitudes towards the authorities. It also discusses the complex effect that this has on their decision-making in their everyday lives, including their choices and possibilities of movements within the city, the State and/or the EU.

5. Dr. Simon Goebel, Postdoc Candidate, Centre for Flight and Migration, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Migration-related communication processes of political players in digital media

As many studies consistently confirmed over the last decades, flight was and is a controversial topic in media. Typical mass media like print journalism, radio, and TV, often depict refugees and migrants as a threat, a burden, and as a deviation from the “normal” in general. Those media at the same time get criticised from right-wing stakeholders for publishing alleged “fake news”. Obviously, social and cultural negotiations about migration are under way constantly. The “fake news”-preachers find their truths in digital media. However, research on the representations of flight in digital media is still at lack. One reason might be the quantity and the access of data bringing a high complexity on methodological approaches. Another might be the mixture and unclear interrelations between those who produce content (traditionally journalists) and those who receive content (traditionally media consumers). I’m working on a research project focusing on processes of opinion making in digital media related to migration topics. Against the background of my research project, I would like to discuss the ways, political players (such as parties or institutionalised movements) of each shade try to find, build and reconfigure digital communication channels for their migration-related agitation. What topics do they use and maybe neglect in digital public spaces – also compared to non-digital public spaces? How do network-based and interactive platforms influence their communication processes? A special focus will be the constructions of culture, ethnicity and race as I analysed media constructions of those categories in earlier projects, i.e. in political talk shows.
Between the Benefits of Connectivity and the Risks of Surveillance: urban refugees' experiences of digital technologies in Kenya

Digitalization has been changing the way that governments and refugee protection organizations seek to identify, support and track forcibly displaced persons. What this paper seeks to do is explore the refugees' experience, focusing on how refugees in Kenya see new technologies in their own lives. We specifically aim to answer questions about how refugees use digital technologies to navigate the social, economic and geographic aspects of their daily lives, balancing the benefits of connectivity with the risks of surveillance. Nairobi provides a unique context to explore questions of community solidarity, security, and economic access, since refugees living in Nairobi occupy a precarious position in the eyes of the Kenyan state. To understand these dynamics, we use a mixed method approach, gathering qualitative and quantitative data directly from displaced people. Working with local NGOs we are facilitating 30 semi-structured interviews about technology use and access with people who had experienced cross-border displacement and resettled in Nairobi. The qualitative research is supplemented with a 2,000-respondent survey of urban refugees on the same topic, which provides a large-N comparison to the in-depth qualitative data. We also interview experts from Kenyan NGOs and protection organizations in order to understand how the views of institutions about technology align with the views of refugees themselves. This data collection phase will be completed by mid-April 2019, and a working paper with initial results will be available by the end of April. This project will provide researchers and policy makers with rich descriptive data about how refugees use technology in their daily lives, highlighting where their experience of opportunities and risks in navigating an increasingly digital urban environment.

Online/offline resilience strategies of young Syrian refugees in the Netherlands

Drawing on in-depth interviews, this paper offers insights on how young Syrian refugees in the Netherlands negotiate stressful experiences and demands through offline and online means. In their daily lives, people are exposed to many pressures. Stress is a normal response to the psychological and emotional challenges. However, dealing with stress in extraordinary situations may be more difficult. Many Syrian refugees have experienced extraordinary stressors including threats of security, family safety, violence, destruction, loss of their homes or loved ones, and having to leave their home. In addition, extreme stressors include their dangerous journeys, as well as many obstacles faced during resettlement. We focus on how Syrian refugees negotiate the challenges they face as they stake out their new life in European and Dutch society. Loneliness, being far away from family or loved people, struggling with the language and new traditions, boredom, lack of privacy and familiar routines, fears about a mysterious future all add up to feelings of anxiety. Even such exceptional circumstances can
be emotionally overcome, this is called resilience. From this perspective, stress reactions are no longer seen as a sign of weakness or vulnerability but as a human reaction when confronted to extreme situations, violence and suffering. With the right support - including education, health care, protection and recognition, young refugees have been documented to overcome such challenges and thrive (UNICEF, 2018). If we consider their situation from this perspective, the image of young refugees changes from that of “victim” to one of competent, strong and resilient young people.

In our paper, we chart 1); what challenges young refugees experience; 2); which useful strategies young refugees have developed to overcome stress; 3) how previous stress coping mechanisms impact upon their current resilience; 4) how are social networks mobilized for social, practical and emotional support; 5), to what extent social media grows resilience or increases stress; and 6) how do changing gender roles and expectations impact on resilience strategies?

8. Qian Huang (MA), PhD Candidate, Erasmus University Rotterdam

The Nationalist People’s Court: Chinese Vigilant Patriots on Social Media

In recent years there have been several incidents of citizen journalism demonstrating nationalism in China, where citizens identify and expose an individual’s ‘unpatriotic’ conduct or speech and call for shaming and/or other forms of punishment. This paper will examine the dynamic among various actors and stakeholders in such incidents to provide a nuanced understanding of Chinese online participation. Posts, comments, and replies on relevant social media platforms and news reports of four selected cases are collected and analyzed. The chosen cases represent two types of targets and corresponding developments: civilian targets’ private personal information is made public so that they can be punished by unwanted online visibility, while celebrity targets’ ‘unpatriotic’ conduct is made visible so that they can be punished by unwanted invisibility due to official bans or grassroots boycotts. Often, expats from mainland China such as overseas students, or expats who come to mainland China such as Hong Kong, Taiwan or foreign celebrities, fall as targets of the patriotic vigilantes. Being publicly named and shamed online in China can result in long-term and unwanted visibility or invisibility accompanied by institutional punishment, such as reprimands from the government, revocation of one’s academic degree, or an official ban of entry into the mainland entertainment industry. The strategies adopted by Chinese patriotic netizens demonstrate their collective identity, their support to the state’s narrative and collaboration with the state institutions.

9. Anisha Debbarman (MPhil), PhD Candidate, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Centre of Urban Policy and Governance

Reassessing Social Media Coverage: Re-building Community through the Myriad Student Associations from North-Eastern India.

In 2012, I stumbled upon an odd man-made calamity. There was an exodus happening in a neighbouring city, Bengaluru, wherein a few elements of this particular incident overflowed
into my city. These people who fled the metropolis belonged to a region that I too hailed from-- North-east India. They fear that their lives were in danger after receiving anonymous messages threatening their safety. Now, a few distinct characteristics about the region. One, it is rather segregated and aloof from the rest of India. Two, being a region connected via a chicken-necked corridor, poor infrastructure and delay was a part and parcel of life in this region. However, my study didn’t focus on this divide. Rather, it tried bringing out literature of alienation and eventual redefinition of this forlorn identity. Thus, embarking on this brief journey to understand Bengaluru as it is today (from 2017 onwards), and discovering the multiple associations who reworked the idea of community. By utilizing social media their outreach multiplied (through Facebook and WhatsApp) and people from the region reached out to access this commonly-pooled resource-- which is a largely network-oriented social capital. The centrality of my research was to examine these tiny fragmented networks, focusing on outreach, adaptation, and informed-education (Removing any fallacious ideas about the people and region). While a major theme of this conference is to discuss the remarkable rise of a digital economy to approach security issues in the migration domain, I believe that it is important to look at social media as it gives a voice to disadvantaged sections. What was once a channel of informal connectivity has risen to provide a haphazard populous, a *formalized* informal network of communication. Hence, the underlying perspective of my thesis is to narrate and discuss the lived experiences of individuals who faced fear and uncertainty and how they learned to overcome it together.

10. Liam Turner-Murrell (MA), *Utrecht University*

**The Digital Evolution of Radical Right Movements**

In 2016, a radical right group were proscribed to the terrorist organisation list in the UK for the first time. National Action, a neo-Nazi groupuscule were deemed as a threat to society. The bestowing of such legislation upon NA could be interpreted as a symbolic statement; indicating a shift in the perception of the radical right as a growing threat to public safety. Since the implementation of this legislation NA have adapted their activity and fragmented into array of groups entrenched into the deeper corners of the online world. The changes in this particular nationalist movement highlight how interaction between the digital realm, nationalist movements and securitization by the state can have unanticipated outcomes. In contemporary times states are increasingly struggling with the online activity of such groups. Therefore, an analysis of such online activities is crucial in understanding the evolution of nationalist movements in the modern cyber sphere. This paper will explore the transition of NA into System Resistance Network, as this recent phenomenon shows the flexibility, innovative nature and digital understanding of current nationalist movements. By doing so, this exploration focuses on the reverberations of the interplay between the enforcement of state legislation and the reactionary acclimatisation of NA within the digital domain.
11. Zhihe Bai (MA), Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society (REMESCO) Linköping University

Nationalism and the construction of others in China: exploring social media in the shadow of the “refugee crisis”

This research is planned to examine discourses on the Chinese social media site Weibo around international asylum seekers aroused by a campaign launched by UNHCR to raise awareness of asylum seekers during June 2017 in China. Weibo is often referred to as the Chinese equivalent to Twitter. In 2017, Weibo users made up of around 50% of the total Chinese internet users (Weibo, 2017). Considering the background that the Chinese government is dedicated to taking more significant responsibility in global governance, along with China demonstrating emerging interests in refugee issues, comments from grassroots Chinese on social media, however, showed another picture. According to my observation, during and after the UNHCR campaign of World Refugee Day in June 2017, comments on topics of international refugee, refugee protection, and certain religions and ethnic groups on Weibo were loaded significantly with negative emotions, biased stereotypes, and various resistances.

The study is based on a critical discourse analysis approach, where I study the relationship between several discursive practices and the social, cultural as well as power structure in the Chinese context. The paper will examine the questions of, inter alia, public cognition of the European refugee crisis as well as public reaction toward the humanitarian pursuits of UNHCR, grassroots identification and construction of “us” and “them”, mass participation in creation, circulation and contestation of various (dis-)information about certain ethnic groups and religions. Last but not least, features of new media in the digitized and globalized “Web 2.0” as well as social media’s impacts on these aspects, as mentioned above, will also be discussed in this paper. By analyzing representations of the European refugee crisis through the particular lens of China, in the midst of shifting material, social, political, and symbolic ground, this paper aims to study how displaced people are framed and how various actors respond to them.

12. Basma Elmahdy (MA), Graduate of Mundus Journalism Program - Arabic-speaking Journalist - Researcher

Reflections on roles of the Arabic-language Newcomer Media in Berlin: ‘News is important to feel at home.’

Drawing on the main themes of the Digitized Global Mobilities conference, with focus on the second session: Media, Gender and Ethnicity, I would like to present my exploratory study on the conceived roles of the media produced by refugees and for refugee in Berlin in connection with the discourse of identity and integration in Germany, which reveals the role of these media in challenging the controversial issues in the Arabic culture in regard to women liberation and Hijab (headcover), which are seen as obstacles to the integration.

My interdisciplinary study borrowed theoretical concepts of nationalism and Postcolonialism that its main research question is how do well theories of imagined community and third space explain the roles of the Arabic-speaking migrant media. To answer this question, I conducted a qualitative study, from February to June 2018, running 8 semi-structured interviews with
media makers - half of them female interviewees- working for three immigrant media platforms: two magazines and one website. The main findings reveal that the respondents have imagined a collective cultural identity of their audience; moreover, they consider themselves part of the emerging community of refugees in Germany. Nevertheless, they are keen on challenging the so-called traditional Arabic identity in order to help their audience to adapt to the culture of the host country. In regard the latter function, they referred to the role of their media in breaking the taboos of Arab culture and reconsidering the gender roles.

13. Dr. Simon Noori, Senior Researcher, University of Zurich

Smartphones, transnational activism and viapolitical in(ter)ventions in maritime borderzones

While most scholars concerned with the use of digital technologies at the EU external borders have focused on practices of control that draw on sophisticated surveillance technologies, in this paper I address migrants’ use of digital technologies itself, arguing that it has fundamentally transformed the ways in which maritime border crossings are actually accomplished. In 2015 and 2016, when every day thousands of migrants crossed the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece, smartphones, GPS devices and other mobile IT equipment played a pivotal role during their journeys. On the one hand, these devices enabled them to navigate the sea and to circumvent state control while crossing maritime borders. On the other hand, they allowed to get in touch with transnational support networks, which made use of geo-referenced data in order to intervene in situations of distress in real-time. Based on first-hand empirical insights into one of these networks, the WatchTheMed Alarm Phone, I demonstrate how migrants used smartphones to make emergency calls and to alert supporters via WhatsApp or Facebook, who in turn mapped and tracked the positions and movements of their boats, gave advice to the travelers and pressurized coastguards to perform rescue operations. At the same time, these activists were able to document cases of non-assistance or illegal pushbacks, thus providing new forms of evidence about the violation of migrants’ rights at sea. In my analysis, I draw on William Walters’ concept of viapolitics, which captures how the journeys, vehicles and routes of migration become means and sites of contestation in their own right. The concept allows me to show how the use of digital technologies forges new connections between migrants, activists and state actors alike and how it shapes the ways in which precarious migrants transgress the external borders of the EU.

14. Dr. Ilse van Liempt, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University
Younes Younes (MSc), Junior Researcher, Utrecht University - Co-founder and Director of Yalla Foundation
Prof. Dr. Richard Staring, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Social media and homemaking processes of recently arrived Syrians in the Netherlands

This article explores Syrian’s social media use during settlement in the Netherlands. Based on 50 in-depth interviews with a diverse group of Syrians who arrived since 2015 we found that there are different social media platforms that play various roles in the initial phase of
settlement of Syrians. Apart from providing functional information related to formal participation trajectories social media platforms are also used for sharing more informal types of information. These online information exchanges cover a wide spectrum of daily issues related to participation in Dutch society that gives important insights in the type of information that is deemed important to share. Moreover, social media also plays an important role in the process of belonging in the Netherlands by connecting to family members and friends abroad and by making new connections in the host society through online communities.

15. Vassilis Gerasopoulos (MA), PhD Candidate, Utrecht University

Xenophobic narratives in virtual platforms: Particularities of articulation and validity

In the years that have come to pass since the onset of the proclaimed refugee ‘crisis’ of 2015, the perceived efficiency of the European and national migration policy nexus, as well as the effects of migratory influxes in Greek society have been hugely controversial issues. At the same time, the framing of those concerns in political and public discourse have generated anti-immigrant narratives that obfuscate reality, intensify distrust towards the State and solidify the impression that migration is an unsolvable problem – even a deliberate attack to the fragile social cohesion. Some of these narratives and myths have traditionally been employed in xenophobic expressions and some have been specifically inspired by the events of the last four years. These racist reactions have been increasingly manifested in online platforms – predominantly, in social media groups. Within that climate, the aim of this presentation is to explore whether and how these discourses are articulated in two greatly popular Greek Facebook groups. On the one hand, the focus lies in the methodological obstacles of studying online expression and the arising concerns over validity. Simultaneously, my goal is to map out the particular cultural observations that derive from an analysis of xenophobic speech in virtual spaces and how these discourses eventually permeate the ‘real world’.

16. Michele Francis Ferris-Dobles (MA), PhD Candidate, University of Illinois ; University of Costa Rica

Central American Migration: Using the Mobile Phone across National Borders

The Central American – United States (U.S) corridor is the largest and most concentrated migratory area in the world (Massey et al. 2003). In Central America, between 10 and 12 percent of the population has migrated towards the U.S (Sandoval, 2017). While crossing the Mexican territory, migrants face hazardous situations of extortion, torture, and kidnapping, as well as abuse and violence from the organized crime and the Mexican authorities (Feldmann et al. 2018). This situation of extreme danger and vulnerability has allowed mobile phones to become crucial tools for migrants to attain a sense of security. Carrying a mobile phone with access to the Internet has become a priority for migrants, they invest a significant amount of their limited budget to communicate with their family and acquaintances. Mobile phones also allow them to access information regarding shelters, routes, and locations as they transit unknown regions (Barros, 2017). By applying qualitative research methods and using a media
archeological approach, I employ Durham Peters (2009) theory of infrastructuralism to investigate, which are the major infrastructural transitions that allow Central American migrants nowadays to use the same mobile phone plan and to have Internet coverage across multiple national borders throughout their journey? How have these shifts enabled, induced, and changed new ways and patterns of migration? I argue that these infrastructural shifts are not only evolving traditional migratory patterns, but they are also creating a profitable business for a few private multinational telecommunication corporations that benefit from selling transnational mobile communication plans. This research concludes that at the same time that the global capital promotes a sense of closeness and a perception of a "borderless" world through the use of communication technologies, the nation-state borders are becoming more harsh, surveilled, and rigid for the migrants who are continually being harassed, persecuted, and detained.

17. Dr. Sanja Milivojevic (LLM), Senior Lecturer, La Trobe, Melbourne

Rethinking ‘Stealing the fire, 2.0 style’: Furthering our engagement with counter-security technologies in 21st century

Policing global mobility within informed space and the use of technology in mobility control have been subjects of academic inquiry for quite some time. Scholars mostly ventured into this area of academic inquiry to document the use of technology to observe and control mobile populations. Rarely did academic attention focus on the use of chronology as a site of resistance and/or social change (Newell et al. 2016; for notable exceptions see Gillespie et al. 2016; Rovisco 2015). In this presentation I would like to revisit and further some key premises from my paper published in Theoretical Criminology in 2018 (Milivojevic 2018). In the paper, I investigated how the ‘digital’ transforms borders from below and how technology can serve as not only mobility enabler, but also a tool for de-securitization and re-humanization of illegalised noncitizens. I argued that border crossers reclaim technology and in so doing successfully secure safe passage, record abusive bordering practices, and create counter-narratives of migration by challenging an account of a ‘dangerous migrant’ (effectively deploying what I call ‘counter-security technologies’). In the context of irregular migration, I contend, this process largely occurs on existing technological platforms, such as social media and smartphone technology. In this presentation, however, I would like to test some of these premises, but also further my analysis on the role technology can and should play in desecuritization of migration. I will focus on the upcoming technology for ‘the good’ (for example, virtual and augmented reality, apps developed by border crossers themselves and the Internet of Things). The presentation will also reflect on the role of research and why we need to focus on counter-security technologies in the Global North, but also the Global South.
Disciplining migration aspirations: Looking into the role of new media and information campaigns to prevent irregular migration in Ethiopia

The emerging new mobility regime is centered around the notion, that human mobility should take place orderly, without disrupting, disturbing or challenging the existing order of things and thus, should be transformed from a complex multifaceted reality into a manageable and predictable one. One strategy of migration control and disciplining mobility are information campaigns to prevent human trafficking and irregular migration. In the past few years, states and governmental agencies have developed a rather diverse repertoire of border-control, respectively measures to discipline unwanted mobility, ones that ought to communicate directly to the ‘hearts and minds’ of the targeted population through new media. In this paper the discourses and underlying assumptions of information campaigns in Ethiopia like “dangerous crossings”, a multimedia campaign from UNHCR targeting the dangers of crossing the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea from Africa, should be analyzed. Discussing how these mass-media strategies aiming for deterrence are part of the new digital securitization processes. Finding that they might not be particularly effective in curbing migration attempts, but help create a climate in which border-control measures appear as both necessary to “stem the floods” and as humanitarian efforts to come to the aid of irregular migrants. This paper is situated within the work on my PhD project “The future in (im)mobility: aspirations and desires to migrate and the role of ICT in Ethiopia”.

Securitization of Migration and the Role of Surveillance Technologies in European External Border Management

This study tries to assess the role of technologies of surveillance and control in the securitization of migration policies with reference to the EU’s border management instruments and the impact of this securitization on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers. With the large-scale movement of people from the conflict-ridden areas to the European states and the growing concerns of the host countries about cross-border crime and terrorism, the means and ends of the migration and asylum policies have been integrated into the security policies of the Union. Restrictive and security-oriented policies of the Union have manifested itself in the new technological instruments, such as automated decision making, artificial intelligence, biometric data, facial recognition, iris scanning, and fingerprinting, which have been widely deployed at the external borders in order to identify and screen illegal arrivals to the European territory. While being efficient in curbing irregular flows and maintaining the security of external borders, these new technologies has caused securitization of migration and violated the basic rights of migrants such as international right of seeking asylum, right to life and privacy. This study uses the theoretical framework of the Paris School which pays attention to the practices and technological developments in the securitization process. In this regard, the EU’s information technology systems such as the Schengen Information System, Eurodac, the Visa Information System and the new border security technologies such as artificial
intelligence-powered lie detectors are examined to illustrate securitizing practices of the Union. The study reaches a conclusion that without a proper impact assessment of the new technologies deployed at the border management, the EU may risk of violating its founding norms and principles besides the international obligations for human rights, by securitizing its migration policies.

20. Lene Swetzer (MA), Junior lecturer, Utrecht University

See through me: Securitising transgender identity through biometric authentication

In the age of biometric surveillance, the assumption prevails that (bodily) identity verification increases security (e.g. Currha & Mulqueen, 2011). This engages airport security in practices of “identity management” (ibid.), sorting out which person or population poses a risk (Lyon 2003: 1). This has led to what Rose (1999) coined the “securitisation of identity”. Therein biology and the body have become the primary sources of information and identification (Aas 2006: 144). However, certain identity markers, such as gender, challenge these assumptions and practices (Currha & Mulqueen, 2011). This is particularly apparent with gender-fluid groups, such as transgender identities (ibid.). As a result, transgender people are exposed during body scans and, as a research in the Netherlands in 2017 showed they become vulnerable to discrimination (COC, 2017). While technology is claimed to be neutral, it is in fact deeply political (e.g. Introna & Wood, 2004), as its very design is based on negotiations between different actors, interests and values (Valkenburg & van der Ploeg, 2015). Taking a queer criminological approach, this theoretical paper will explore existing gender politics inherent in biometric authentication by looking at the implications the use of full body scans for transgender travelers.

21. Dr. Nina Grønlykke Mollerup, Postdoc Candidate, University of Copenhagen, The Saxo Institute
Dr. Marie Sandberg, Associate professor, University of Copenhagen, The Saxo Institute

Perilous navigation: The creation of trust and knowledge through irregularised migrants’ digital practices in/of the European border regime

Despite a digital ‘turn’ in migration research, there have been limited studies on migrants’ use of ICT for navigating during and after flight (e.g. Charmarkeh 2013; van Liempt & Zijlstra 2017). Most studies conceptualize ICT as add-ons to migrants’ everyday practice, rather than seeing ICT as co-constituting migration. ICT co-constitutes the very migration routes and the ways migrants enter border struggles, also far away from geographical borders; ICT becomes a lens and a tool for shared decision-making and navigation among migrants. Crucially, the ways in which migrants repurpose, rather than simply use these technologies, have received no attention. Hence there is a need for research that simultaneously examines how migrants use ICT and focuses on how their usage affects and repurpose journeys and digital platforms themselves. This paper investigates migrants’ digital practices in and of the European border regime based on ethnographic fieldwork with irregularised migrants and solidarity workers carried out in 2018-19 in the Danish-Swedish borderland. We explore how irregularised
migrants establish trust and knowledge in dangerous and unstable circumstances during their journeys. During these perilous journeys, knowing and trusting are not only made difficult by the precarious situations of the migrants, but also by the continuously shifting circumstances of changes in reception policy, border closings, weather conditions and more. That is, the migrants navigate in at once social and natural environments that engage and move them as they navigate during flight; they are moving in a moving environment (Vigh 2009). Seeing ICT as co-constitutive of a moving environment opens up for an understanding of digital practices as paths to both life-saving knowledge and heightened uncertainty.

22. Agathi Merdi, MSc Candidate, University of Twente

ICT Use by Refugees: The Role of Technology in Refugee Mobility

Europe is experiencing the second biggest influx of migrants since the second World War. It has been reported that refugees use digital devices and online media to assist them in their journey, using them for communication, for their survival and their safety. However, many times the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) that they use, hides a dark side, that may even lead them to become victims of human trafficking and cybercrime. According to the literature review, fewer empirical studies have addressed the migration process along with the technology that is used by refugees. During the formulation of my thesis project, entitled “ICT Use by Refugees: The Role of Technology in Refugee Mobility” I am planning to conduct a survey by interviewing refugees in Greece to explore the topic, paint a board picture on how technology is used and how it could be used by policymakers. The main goal of the research is to collect the suitable information on the technology, and the digital devices that are used by refugees, before, during and after their journey. Moreover, the investigation will center around the main challenges that refugees face and the ways that ICT helps refugees to overcome all these challenges.

23. Parisa Diba (MA), Research Associate, Teesside University, UK
Prof. Dr. Georgios A. Antonopoulos, Teesside University, UK
Dr. Georgios Papanicolaou, Reader, Teesside University, UK

Digital routes of human smuggling: evidence from the UK

There are justified concerns but little empirical evidence about the implications of the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the business of human smuggling, by both smugglers and migrants. Our study aims to provide an empirical account of this phenomenon in the UK context, we carried out a virtual ethnography predominantly on social media (Facebook) and travel guide websites to investigate the online context of human smuggling. We also undertook a series of ‘offline’ in-depth interviews with strategic informers, including: law enforcement agents (LEAs); experts on cyber-crime and/or human smuggling/trafficking; and individuals with experience in facilitating clandestine migration to the UK. Our project was part of the wider research effort supported by the European Commission (Surf and Sound) and with the role of the Internet in human smuggling in the European Union. By bringing together and analysing data acquired in both online and offline
contexts, we argue against the temptation to treat ICT and its impact on the business human smuggling as a major development and new type of criminal threat, and equally against the tendency to decide on questions of vulnerability abstractly without regard to the migrants’ concrete situation.

24. Dr. Costanza Di Francesco Maesa, Research Fellow, University of Torino

Digitisation of migration control and accountability. Algorithmic accountability or no accountability?

Over the past few years, after the recent terrorist attacks, a new emphasis has been placed on the necessity to build a “Security Union”. To this end, legislative measures aimed at preventing future potential threats to security have been adopted. In particular, the aim of preventing irregular immigrants from entering the European territory, coupled with the development of advanced technologies and the growing digitisation of the means used to monitor the movement of people, has led to the establishment of a multitude of large-scale European databases, where an extensive amount of personal data, including sensitive data such as biometric, are stored. Access to these databases has been granted to a large plethora of actors, whose mission, in some cases, is only indirectly related to the purpose for which personal data were included in the databases to which they have access. The alleged justification is that such a system is necessary not only for immigration control, but also for combating terrorism and other serious crimes. However, the delegation of immigration control-related responsibilities to private actors and EU agencies has not been accompanied by an adequate European legislation regulating the allocation of responsibilities of the actors involved. As a result, in case of violation of the rights of the people whose data are retained, it could be not possible to define who is accountable. It is in that context that this paper aims to assess whether mechanisms adequate to ensure the accountability of the actors managing the personal data collected in those databases, or a different form of “algorithmic accountability”, have been established at the European level. To this end, the paper first reviews the concept of accountability in the light of the new approach given to migration and security issues in the current digital era, and, then, examines whether mechanisms appropriate for ensuring such an accountability have been put in place at the EU level.

25. Dr. Amira Paripurna, Researcher, Human Rights Law Studies (HRLS), Faculty of Law, Universitas Airlangga Surabaya
Masitoh Indriani (LLM), Lecturer, Human Rights Law Studies (HRLS), Faculty of Law, Universitas Airlangga Surabaya, Indonesia

Biometric Data Sharing in Addressing Irregular Migration and Security Issues within The Bali Process Framework for Indonesia and ASEAN State Members

The Rohingya crisis poses a critical test for the ASEAN state members and its institutions, pointing up ASEAN’s lack of a political and legal framework to deal with issues related to refugees and migrants. This led members of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime to acknowledge the need for an urgent and
collective response on such issues. The Bali Process is the regional forum for combating migrant smuggling and is well placed to discuss and develop regional cooperation policies on refugees and irregular migrations within the region (the member of Bali Process partially is the ASEAN state members). In particular, the Bali Process has led opportunity to develop the use of technology and biometrics data sharing in migration and border management. Bali Process provides a key area where Indonesia and ASEAN state members can contest and amend the norms and practices around the human rights of refugees and irregular migrations. This article traces and analyses the emergence of the use of technology and biometrics in Indonesian migration, border and security management. This article finds the tension with stated Bali Process objectives in terms of rights and protections for refugees and migrants, as well as unresolved issues on data privacy protection. This article also identifies that Indonesia’s security-driven policies and regional disagreements over humanitarian responsibility remain an ongoing tension within Bali Process states, and provides commentary on the implications of this for future Indonesian policy relating to the role of technology, security and regional cooperation on irregular migration.

26. Dr. Vasiliki Makrygianni, *Researcher, IT University of Copenhagen*
   Dr. Vasilis Galis, *Associate Professor, IT University of Copenhagen*

**Migrants’ digital practices for gender and LGBTQ+ solidarity: narratives from Greece**

Migrants’ entanglements with ICTs reveals a wide spectrum of spaces and resistance practices that extend from the human body to transnational borderlands (Gillespie et al 2016). In this paper, we investigate how ICTs at the disposal of migrants not only question the very idea of citizenship and (il)legality (Galis & Summerton 2018) but also disturb dominant gender and sexuality norms and act as a shield from patriarchal and sexist practices. Following an intersectional approach, (Bürkner 2012, Crenshaw 1989, Yuval-Davis 2006) moving populations are not a homogenous group, but are differentiated by class gender, sexuality, age, body-ability and so many other characteristics and relations. Sexuality has been a terrain for creating and maintaining racialized, gendered, economic and geopolitical discriminations (Manalansan 2006, Palmary 2016). In migrants’ case, gender relations and sexual orientation is a battleground not only for those on route trying to abolish borders of every kind but also for those settled in national territories. After crossing demarcated borderlines, moving populations continue to be governed and disciplined, while trying to access economic, health and welfare systems. Based on an ongoing research we have been conducting since 2016 in the Greek territory, we highlight the ways social media, smartphones with multiple apps and other digital technologies subvert dominant practices on gender relations and sexuality and enact patterns of use in terms of navigation, information, contact, care and solidarity among others. In this respect, we investigate different aspects of migrants’ journey in order to trace self-organized, antiseexist, and solidarity practices amongst members of LGBTQ+ communities and discuss their characteristics, their limits and potentialities. Sources of empirical material such as interviews with people on the move or settled in Greece and migrants’ narrations are used in order to broaden the understanding of gender and sexuality discourse on migration and of bordering practices posed from normative practices. In this respect, we explore the ways gender and sexuality is entangled with ICT and migration practices, and how are existing digital platforms reconfiguring spaces of sexism and solidarity networks for the LGBTQ+
communities. Moreover, we address the potentials of ICTs for non-heteronormative subjectivities and the ways they challenge (or fail to challenge) borders of sexism and patriarchy. All in all, we aim to show how gender and sexuality matters not only for critically addressing and abolishing bordering practices but also for highlighting terrains of solidarity and encounter.

27. Dr. Koen Leurs, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University
Jeffrey Patterson (MSc), Utrecht University

We Are Queer!: Young Gay Connected Migrants’ Transnational Ties and Integration in the Netherlands.

Upon arrival to Europe, young migrants are found grappling with new language demands, cultural expectations, values, and beliefs that may differ from global youth culture and their country of origin. This process of coming-of-age while on-the-move is increasingly digitally mediated. Young migrants are “connected migrants”, using smartphones and social media to maintain bonding ties with their home country while establishing new bridging relationships with peers in their country of arrival (Diminescu, 2008). Drawing on the feminist perspective of intersectionality, socio-cultural categories like age, race, nationality, migration status, and gender and sexuality have an impact upon identification and subordination, thus we contend it is problematic to homogenize these experiences to all gay young adult migrants. The realities of settlement and integration starkly differ between those living on the margins of Europe – forced migrants including non-normative racialized gay men – and voluntary migrants – such as elite expatriates including wealthy, white and Western gay men. Drawing on 11 in-depth interviews conducted in Amsterdam, the Netherlands with gay young adult forced and voluntary migrants, this paper aims to understand how sexual identification in tandem with bonding and bridging social capital diverge and converge between the two groups all while considering the interplay between online and offline entanglements of their worlds.

28. Georgia (Zeta) Lazarou (MA), Independent Researcher, Restorative Justice and Mediation Lab in Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences

Social media and refugee smuggling in Greece; ethical impossibilities and research limitations

The rise of new technologies and the extensive use of social media have severely altered the ways in which social mobility is perceived. The invasion of multiple new media in the traditional human contact and exchange has opened paths for refugees and smugglers alike to connect and communicate in a fast, safe and efficient way. People on the move throughout Europe make use of social media in and in between countries of transit, while crossing EU borders and in some cases in order to communicate with smugglers.

During my research on hate crimes against Lgbtqi+ refugees, that was based in Athens in 2017-2018, it became prevalent that digitally mediated environments acted as the basis surrounding all activities of the community, legal and illegal. The ways in which the specific
minority group made use of social media and various online platforms could be interpreted as a form of civil disobedience to social and legal oppression, experienced in Greece. Many Lgbtqi+ refugee cases have evolved into obscure disappearances from the country and reappearances to another European state. In most of these examples, social media played a huge role in this digital and physical flow of populace.

The usage of online media in order to search for and collaborate with human smugglers has led to the digitization of refugee mobility throughout Europe. The efficiency and speed of the digital locales, challenges further the research objectives of the present academia and acts as a reminder of the constant need of reshaping our methodological and theoretical approaches to issues such as security, traceability and human mobility in the present context.

It is crucial to comprehend the new phenomena arising from this digitization of refugee population in Europe in order to be able to efficiently conduct researches. Both smugglers and refugees have found new, digitized paths of communication that manage to go undetected. At the same time, it is essential to reform our research interest on the gendered and sexual dimensions of new media use.

The security and mobility of refugees can be influenced heavily by social media and various websites. As it can be seen in the recent example in Diavata, Greece where hundreds of refugees gathered in a makeshift camp near the Northern Macedonian border after a false rumor in their social media that the Balkan countries had opened their borders (Bellamy, 2019). Greek media described as “fake news” the Facebook story about plans for an organised crossing of the North Macedonia border (While Greek police clash with migrants after 'fake news' border movement, 2019). Incidents like these highlight the complexity and vastness of user-generated context spreading in the web, posing as valid news and eventually motivating hundreds of people into social disorder and civil unrest.

29. Julia Söhnholz, MA Candidate, European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations, Erasmus Mundus Programme

Women on the Move’s Access and Use of Smartphones on the Balkan Route

Despite the importance of smartphones for people on the move, existing research and literature is very limited and does not differentiate much between gender. The research presented in this paper explores women’s use of smartphones as means through which women can (re-) shape their autonomy at the hand of the following research question: How do smartphones influence women on the move’s autonomy on the Balkan route? The theoretical framework is based on the concept of autonomy of migration as “migrants’ and refugees’ struggles to realize their heterogeneous migratory projects by exercising their elementary freedom of movement” (De Genova, 2017, p.17). This paper draws upon secondary data analysis as a research method. The results indicate that women on the move have less access to smartphones and use them differently than men and point out the importance of improving women on the move’s access to (digital) information and services and the content of the latter in order to enhance empowerment and moments of autonomy. However, existing research is still too limited to draw useful conclusions without generalizing women on the move’s experiences. Rather than presenting results, this paper hopes to promote future research to
expand upon the topic, preferably participatory research that allows the voices of women on the move to be heard.

**30. Book Launch: Handbook Media and migration: research encounters**

Dr. Kevin Smets, Assistant Professor, Vrije Universiteit Brussel with Dr. Koen Leurs, Prof. Dr. Myria Georgiou, Dr. Saskia Witteborn, Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Communication at CUHK & Dr. Radhika Gajjala, Professor, Bowling Green State University, Ohio

Migration moves people. A variety of forms of migration, as a result of war, conflict, global economic inequalities, climate change, and internationalized labour markets, deeply reshape previous notions of nationhood, community, and solidarity. Media play a central role in these dynamics, as evolving media technologies push boundaries of time and space. Belonging and not-belonging are largely shaped through mediated processes. Media and migration research has been occupied with these developments in an intense way for over two decades, but is now faced with an increasingly complex environment in terms of its global reach, technology, policy, and complex migration patterns. The Sage Handbook of Media and Migration seeks to offer a comprehensive overview of media and migration research. It not only charts the legacies of media and migration scholarship so far, but also sets the agenda for further developments in this expanding field. It explores key concepts and methodologies, and how these are challenged by the new realities of the contemporary migration media nexus. Our aim in this introduction is to provide a multifaceted overview of where media and migration scholarship stands today and to indicate main disciplinary, methodological and emerging encounters we observe while editing the book.

**Biography**

Kevin Smets is assistant professor in media and culture at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium). He obtained his PhD in Film Studies and Visual Culture from the University of Antwerp (2013) and was a visiting fellow at, among others, Bilgi University Istanbul, School of Oriental & African Studies (London) and the University of Oxford. He is the vice-chair of the Diaspora, Migration & the Media section of the European Communication Research & Education Association. He is the lead editor of the forthcoming Handbook of Media and Migration (SAGE, 2019, co-edited with Koen Leurs, Myria Georgiou, Saskia Witteborn and Radhika Gajjala). His research focuses on relations between media, diaspora, conflict, and migration in the European, Turkish and Middle Eastern contexts.

Dr. Elisabetta Costa, Assistant Professor, University of Groningen & Dr. Xinyuan Wang, Postdoc Researcher, UCL

**Being at home on social media: Online place-making among the Kurds in Turkey and rural migrants in China**

The chapter describes how Kurds in Turkey and Chinese rural migrants in China have turned social media into “place of belonging” (Morley, 2000, p. 30) in which they can identify themselves and feel at home. Drawing on two long-term ethnographic research studies in two
medium-sized towns, the chapter examines how these two different diaspora groups engage in practices of place-making on social media, which have transformed their experiences and ideas of “home” and “homeland”. Social media and online worlds are described as places in their own right, within which people live, maintain relationships, and engage in lived experiences, rather than simply a medium that connects two distinct locations.

**Biographies**

Elisabetta Costa is a digital anthropologist specialized in the study of social media in Turkey and the Middle East. She is assistant professor at the Department of Media Studies and Journalism at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

Xinyuan Wang is a post-doc researcher at UCL Department of Anthropology. Wang received her PhD from UCL’s Department of Anthropology.

**Dr. Christine Quinan, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University, Dana Theewis (MA), Researcher, Utrecht University & Cecilia Cienfuegos (MA), Researcher, Utrecht University**

The politics of vulnerability and protection: Analysing the case of LGBT asylum seekers in the Netherlands in light of securitization and homonationalist discourses

This chapter analyzes the concepts of ‘safety’ and ‘vulnerability’ in the context of LGBT asylum cases in the Netherlands. Many LGBT organizations have asked the Dutch government to provide separate housing for LGBT asylum seekers because they are facing discrimination and violence in Asylum Seeker Centers. The leading party in the Netherlands has responded by saying that, instead of providing separate housing for LGBT people, they prefer to separate the perpetrators of this violence from the victims. Drawing on ethnographic data, we take up this debate to illustrate how both the Dutch government and LGBT organizations lobbying for this separation posit LGBT people as in need of protection. The naming of these refugees as ‘vulnerable’ is not an innocent move, as this notion of vulnerability is not only affective, but is also political. Taking up the case study of safe housing for LGBT refugees and analysing the discourse of ‘safety’, this chapter aims to explore the ways in which the relationship between securitization and homonationalism can help us understand how concepts like ‘safety’ and ‘protection’ are deployed in relation to anti-LGBT violence and discrimination. More broadly, this allows for a nuanced problematization of migration, human rights, and (European) bordering practices.

**Biographies**

Christine Quinan is Assistant Professor of Gender Studies in the Department of Media and Culture Studies at Utrecht University (The Netherlands). From 2011 to 2014, Christine taught in the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Christine’s research interests include postcolonial studies, trans studies, queer theory, literary and film studies, and feminist/queer pedagogy. Christine has published on questions of violence, surveillance, and decolonization, with work appearing in several journals and edited volumes, including *Women: A Cultural Review, Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, and *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*. 
Dana Theewis is a researcher with an interest in gender studies, nationalism, migration, educational philosophy and sociology. Dana has recently obtained her master’s degree in Gender Studies at the University of Utrecht and is currently a trainee for the municipality of Rotterdam, where she is working on societal development policy. Previously, she has worked as a volunteer for an organization that provides a space for LGBT refugees in the Netherlands to talk about their issues and organizes monthly events. Dana’s interest lies in connecting academic theory and practice, and to think about how both can enrich each other.

Cecilia Cienfuegos (Madrid, 1989) is an intersectional researcher in gender studies and philosophy. She graduated from the Research Masters in Gender Studies at Utrecht University, which was supported by a La Caixa Foundation Grant for postgraduate studies (2016-2018). Between 2013 and 2015, she obtained a research grant to study the Masters in Cultural Theory and Criticism of Culture at Carlos III University (Madrid). She was awarded the Elisa Pérez Vera Prize (2014) by the Center for Gender Studies of the Spanish National University of Distance Education (UNED) for the research work “Dialogues of Justice. Recognition, gender and precariousness in contemporary debates on justice,“ as well as the V Prize for Research in Gender Studies Ciudad de la Cerámica (2016) for the work “Subjects of Violence." She is currently focused on the study of the intersections between gender, race, violence, and subjectivity.

**Dr. Amanda Paz Alencar, Assistant Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam**

**Digital Place-Making Practices and Daily Struggles of Venezuelan (Forced) Migrants in Brazil**

This study focuses on the use of digital media as a useful practice in the place-making among refugees during temporary settlement. With a point of departure in the daily lives of recently arrived Venezuelan refugees in Brazil, this study explores the ways in which digital technologies contribute to (re)building a sense of place in spaces characterized by insecurity and precarious living conditions. Data for this ethnographic study were collected using participant and nonparticipant observations and interviews in multiple research sites. By accounting for the interaction between local communication infrastructures and practices of both refugees and local communities, this study contributes to understanding the importance of digital media in place-making practices within unexplored contexts of forced migration in the Global South.

**Biography**

Amanda Alencar is a digital migration scholar specialized in the study of media and social media in Europe and Latin America, with a focus on how communication technologies are shaping refugee mobility and integration processes. She is Assistant Professor in the Department of Media & Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Amanda was a Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Amsterdam, where she conducted a research project on the role of TV news for promoting interculturalism and the integration of economic and refugee migrants in the Netherlands, Spain, Ireland, and Brazil. She is also the Vice Chair of the Intercultural Communication Division within the International Communication Association (ICA) and board member of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) at EUR. She is currently guest editing two special issues in the (open-access) peer-reviewed journals ‘International
Migration infrastructures

In this chapter I chart the explanatory power of the concept of migration infrastructures. My focus is specifically on what can be called ‘migration crisis infrastructures’: contemporary tech-driven interventions developed to disrupt forced migration crises-situations across the world. I draw attention to how tech-driven solutions pertaining to migration management and border control are haunted by colonial and Holocaust technologies. There are historical parallels between contemporary migration infrastructures and colonial body-branding and fascist biometrical technologies of categorization, ranking, subjugation, disciplining and extraction. A critical infrastructural lens has the explanatory potential to understand the relationalities between migrant and non-migrants and between humans and technologies 1) from a multi-actor and multi-scale perspective 2) as reflective and constitutive of power relations and 3) as distinctly situated in history and geography.

Biography
For the biography of Dr. Koen Leurs please see p. 19
PRACTICALITIES

Venues:

The conference starts at Cervantes Institute located in the centre of Utrecht - Domplein 3, 3512 JC Utrecht.

https://utrecht.cervantes.es/nl/default.shtm

The registration and the Closing Session will take place here too.

Parallel sessions take place at different classrooms at Utrecht University, in the building located at Janskerkhof 2-3, 3512 BK Utrecht. https://www.uu.nl/en/janskerkhof-2-3a

Registrations continue during the conference at Information desk in the hall of Janskerkhof 2-3, 3512 BK Utrecht.

WIFI:
Please choose UU Visitor and follow the instructions.

Route descriptions

From Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam) to Utrecht Centraal
± 30 minutes by train

Schiphol train station is situated below the airport. You can pick up a free baggage trolley from the platform. There is a direct train connection to Utrecht that runs about four times per hour. When arriving at Schiphol, follow the train signs to get to the station.

Tickets

Tickets can be purchased from the yellow ticket machines at the Schiphol train station. Tickets are also available from the ticket offices, which are situated close to the red/white-checked cube at Schiphol Plaza. Staff at the ticket offices will also be able to provide you with train departure information. Costs to Utrecht are around €8,50 (one way ticket without discount). Please note that you cannot buy tickets in the train.

Incidentally, did you know that you can also purchase your train ticket well in advance? You can either buy one from a ticket machine or ask for a ticket at one of the NS-service desks. It is possible to do so for both the outward and return journey.

For all means of public transport you’ll need an OV-chipcard in the Netherlands. Click here for some extra information: https://www.ov-chipkaart.nl/home-1.htm
Travel advice
The journey planner on the NS website (http://www.ns.nl/en) will provide you with the latest travel information, including details of temporary timetable changes (use the terms ‘Schiphol Airport’ and ‘Utrecht Centraal’).

By public transport, you can take several busses. Take the exit ‘CS Centrumzijde’ at Utrecht Centraal. From there you can take city busses 28 and 8 to Janskerkhof. Also busses 52, 74, 77 and 251 go to Janskerkhof.

It is also possible to rent a bike (OV-fiets). There are four rental locations around the station in Utrecht. For more information you can take a look at http://www.ns.nl/en/door-to-door/ov-fiets. You can find a map with rental locations in Utrecht on http://www.ovfiets.nl/huurlocatieslocatie=Utrecht&POST_AUTOCOMPLETE=%2Fhuurlocaties.xml.

Places to eat:

Restaurant Luden
Located below the NH Centre Utrecht Hotel
Janskerkhof 10, 3512 BL Utrecht
+31 30 232 2344

Olivier Utrecht
Achter Clarenburg 6a, 3511 JJ Utrecht
+31 30 236 7876

De Rechtbank
Korte Nieuwstraat 14, 3512 NM Utrecht
+31 30 233 0030

Stan & Co
Ganzenmarkt 16A, 3512 GD Utrecht
+31 30 233 4535

Gys
Biological and vegetarian options
Voorstraat 77, 3512 AL Utrecht
+31 30 25 917 88
Accommodations:

Hotel Mitland  
https://www.mitland.nl/

Hotel Apollo  
https://www.apollohotels.nl/apollo-hotel-utrecht-city-centre/

NH Hotel centre  
https://www.nh-hotels.nl/hotel/nh-centre-utrecht

Stayokay hostel  

Hostel Strowis  
https://www.strowis.nl/

Eye Hotel  
http://www.eyehotel.nl

Mother Goose Hotel  
http://www.mothergoosehotel.com

Hotel NH Centre Utrecht  
https://www.nh-hotels.nl/hotel/nh-centre-utrecht

Via www.airbnb.nl there are also plenty of apartments available in (the inner city of) Utrecht.

Stay Okay  