

University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

CfP: Police Dreams: In/Security Politics in the Digital Age

Dear colleagues,

Please find below a call for paper for a panel session we are organising for the upcoming RGS-IBG conference (September 1-3, 2021).

Do not hesitate to forward the call to anyone you think might be interested in joining.

All the best,

Dennis and Silvana.

Increasingly, Big Data, algorithms and new technologies are integrated in everyday policing routines. The police are therefore considered as one of the major public actors most affected by the development of digital technologies. Drones, GPS, facial recognition, predictive tools and a myriad of other emergent technologies are promoted with the promise of guaranteeing greater efficiency and effectiveness of police work. Much of the fundamental scholarly work on such new digital security technologies discusses the logics and functionalities of software, code, algorithms and artificial intelligence, often in relation to socio-spatial logics and how they impact upon anticipation, risk, uncertainty, resilience and smart security policies. However, only a few studies deal with the role played by the sociotechnical imaginaries – the “police dreams” – associated with digital technologies and their impacts on contemporary in/security dynamics.

This session aims to contribute to these discussions by critically examining both the sociotechnical imaginaries of police forces globally, and the concrete impact of the increased implementation of digital security technologies upon everyday in/security politics in the digital age. Although we contribute with a specific focus on the police use of drones to advance empirical insights about the ways in which the police integrate the technology in their daily working routines, we very much welcome contributions in, but not limited to, the following set of areas of interest:

- Sociotechnical imaginaries of police forces
- Police perceptions and representations of in/security
- Power and digital security from the air-space
- New security practices and police work
- Drones and police work
- Artificial intelligence and police work (facial recognition, algorithms, predictive tools)

- Techno-discourse and in/security politics in the digital age
- Spatial logics of digital technologies and police work
- Power, violence and the digital
- Geography, criminology and digital police work
- Surveillance and digital policing

Please send the abstracts of no more than 300 words including title, author names and affiliations to the session organisers (silvana.pedrozo@gmail.com and dennis.pauschinger@gmail.com) not later than March 8. The session will be held online only. In addition to the session, we also intend to have a virtual room for further exchange beyond the limited time frame of the session.

Convenors:

Dr Silvana Pedrozo, Postdoc (SNSF)/Research Associate, Institute de Géographie, Université de Neuchâtel

Dr Dennis Pauschinger, Research Associate, Institute de Géographie, Université de Neuchâtel

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