

# Paper Workshop

## How can Science and Technology Studies help to reflect on the political crisis associated with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers?

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### *Book of abstracts*

#### Organizers

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## **Session 1: Data-infrastructures and the ontological transformation of borders**

### **Trajectories of databases: Intricacies in the use of biometric databases in the EU's migration regime**

*Vasilis Vlassis, PhD candidate, Technologies in Practice, IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

In the context of the EU's border regime the multi-level process of the construction of the "Other", is heavily mediated by the registration, storage and comparison of personal and biometric data in large, often interconnected digital databases. These ICT tools not only enable (if not enforce) certain realities on the subject/migrant but have played an important role in the extensively discussed ontological transformation of bordering.

The function of the aforementioned tools, is usually legislated in a responsive manner, draws from often re-occurring "emergency and crisis" discourses, and heads towards greater interoperability and constant expansion of scope. Reflecting the different realities and political agendas of different Member States, the implementation of this legislation is not always smooth, as the story of the Dublin Regulation has shown.

Seeking to enrich the critical discussion around the use of such databases and the function creep phenomenon that accompanies their design and use, this paper will discuss two instances of use of biometric data, namely the EURODAC database and the Prüm Convention. Examining the interference of the legislations governing these two different systems, the paper seeks to conceptualise "unorthodox" uses of data as the outcome of different practices among EU Member States, in the "margin" of the EU border control and asylum system.

### **Situating regimes of knowledge and visibility of border control. Frontex Joint Operation Reporting Application (JORA) and its practices of re-actualizing migration phenomena**

*Silvan Pollozek, PhD candidate, Munich Center for Technology in Society (MCTS), Germany*

For analyzing contemporary European border and migration surveillance notions such as "society of control" (Deleuze 1992; Walters 2006) and the "surveillant assemblage" (Haggerty and Ericsson 2000) have been taken up accentuating a networked and multi-sited form of control linked with the deployment of technologies, databases and information infrastructures aiming not so much at making single individuals visible and relevant but "flows [of people, money, choices, etc.]" (Brighenti 2007: 337; Tazzioli/Walters 2016: 450). Examining Eurosur and Frontex debriefing activities amongst other things Tazzioli and Walters (2016) outline that such modes of surveillance produce multiple rationales of "close- up and remote visibility" (ibid.: 461) making specific things and subjects exposable, politically relevant and detectable and translating "personal stories and geographies into risk analysis maps about migratory trends" (ibid.), patterns and routes.

Our talk aims at situating and mediating such regimes within specific local settings of data gathering, validating and analyzing and thus localizing their effects. Using an STS perspective we will ask how accounts of "human beings and their biological eyes" (Brighenti 2007: 337) are translated step-by-step and site by site via specific mediators and practices into more abstract knowledge of flows producing specific visibilities of phenomena enacted by the interplay of numbers, pictures, videos, tables and reports. Drawing on findings of an ethnographic study we will analyze such mediations by examining the logistics of incident reporting of Frontex, which are organized via the information system Joint Operation Reporting Application (JORA). All Frontex

officers in operations involved create fully standardized reports of so called 'incidents', which are then validated, processed and forwarded to Frontex Situation Center (FSC), where it is stored, analyzed and mapped. We will investigate the sites and channels of data gathering and processing and critically analyze how FSC as a center of calculation assesses data and re-actualizes visibilities of migratory phenomena. Finally we will elaborate on the database on JORA and on the ways, how stored data is selected, reassembled and re-presented.

### **A body of evidence: dataveillance and the internationalisation of biometric bordering in Brazil**

*Bruno Magalhães, Postdoctoral researcher at International Relations Institute, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

This article dwells on how the turn to biometric techniques currently taking place in Brazil is impacting the work of ascribing accurate identities to asylum applicants. The total of asylum applications in Brazil is growing very rapidly. Submissions increased 35-fold in less than 7 years, from 966 in 2010 to 33.865 in 2017. In this context, making the identification of asylum seekers more accurate is now hailed as something of a silver bullet by Brazilian border authorities. Most substantial measures adopted by the government to reform the asylum procedure have new ways of collecting, storing and analyzing data about applicants at their heart.

Among other initiatives, Brazil is now in the process of replacing ink-based dactyl slips for the digital fingerprinting of asylum applicants. This comes together with the adoption of forms of biometric measurement, as the use of body scanners at ports of entry. The way of analysis data is also changing. Until 2017, fingerprints were mainly checked against the Interpol database to identify 'wanted' migrants. Brazil is now negotiating access to UNHCR, Mercosur and the Schengen Information System. Data analysis is becoming less about identifying dangerous migrants and more about the ascribing 'the right identity' to migrants, dangerous or not. Brazil's Justice Ministry is also rolling out a new 'Electronic Protocol Program', through which all documents amassed by asylum applicants, their lawyers and case owners are expected to be submitted. Finally, a decree signed on February 2018 determined that all asylum seekers in the country will be re-registered for a new 'Temporary National Migration Registration Document'. The new id, which will start being issued by October 2018, will identify each applicant by a unified protocol number, under which biographical and biometric data will be stored and rendered accessible. Although extremely political, this turn to technology-based identification is occurring with virtually zero transparency. This article seeks to cut through the aura of secrecy surrounding these identification practices by drawing on stories collected since 2016 during documentary research, interviews and participant amid technology developers, border agents, Conare authorities, eligibility examiners, as well as asylum seekers and refugees. These stories arranged in three parts. I start by detailing the process of development and implementation of biometric identification technologies currently taking place in Brazil. The idea is to get a sense of the background understandings about what counts as a normal body embedded in these technologies. Section two looks at how asylum officers and other street level agents are redefining the space for discretionary judgment in face of these developments. Finally, the third section looks at how the turn to biometry is worsening asylum seekers' stand as producers of credible knowledge, marking status to the body and making it easier for Brazilian examiners to raise suspicion about them. The aim here is to grasp how migrants are appropriating these new identification techniques, refusing compliance or turning biometry to their advantage.

**Keynote: Can data speak? Financial-humanitarianism and the antinomies between autonomy and freedom**

*Martina Tazzioli, Lecturer at Swansea University, UK*

In this talk I deal with the processes of financialisation of refugee governmentality, focusing on the Greek context, where the EU has implemented the first refugee Cash Assistance Programme in Europe in collaboration with the UNHCR. Instead of taking for granted the grid of financialisation, I bring attention to the peculiar modes in which some financial tools, together with digital technologies, have been used to control and govern would-be refugees. Then, talk moves on in two steps. First, it considers the infrastructures of data and the data circuits associated to the implementation of debit cards in refugee camps. Second, it takes into account the ways in which refugees subjectivists have been shaped by this peculiar articulation between financial tools and humanitarian rationales. In the talk I question the nexus between identity and data that humanitarian actors try to establish with the spreading of the notion of “digital identity”, presented as what allows protecting and controlling refugees at the same time. In the final part, the talk focuses on the shrinking of freedom - of movement and choice - that the implementation of financial and digital tools contributes to, due to a widespread humanitarian narrative that opposes (financial) autonomy to freedom.

**Session 2: Managing Mass Migration as International Migration Techno-politics and Techno-bureaucracies**

**Re-assembling the Surveillable Refugee Body in the Era of Data-craving**

*Martin Lemberg-Pedersen, Assistant professor, Global Refugee Studies (GRS), Department of Culture and Global Studies, Aalborg University, Denmark & Eman Haioty, Master of Science from the IT University, Copenhagen*

Data enthusiasm is normalizing the making of surveillable bodies. Subject to this development are displaced persons, migrants and refugees, who are in the midst of data frenzy. Or rather, a data-craving, characterized by the determination to harvest, store and process evermore data of doubly vulnerable people. In this paper, we provide an overview of the political economy supporting databases like EURODAC, SIS II, VIS, EUROSUR, BIMS, and ProGres. Also, cross-sectorial collaborations involving institutions such as EU-lisa, Frontex and the World Bank in the humanitarian and refugee field, will be explored. As a result, a provisional overview of the relationships underpinning current day refugee management and its relation to industrial actors e.g. Accenture, Microsoft, IBM, Motorola, Lockheed Martin, Indra, SELEX, and HP is created. Questions posed investigate the interests featuring in this political economy including how profit-incentives impact policy-making on displacement and protection (cf. Lemberg-Pedersen 2013, 2018) We then move on to analyze UNHCR's practice of iris-enrolling refugees. Based on an intersectional approach (Crenshaw, 1989; Collins & Bilge, 2016) and studies on the digitalization of the body, we examine how biometric technologies transform the refugee body into a surveillable body. The doubly vulnerability refugees occupy will be understood as the intersection of oppressions based on social divisions positioning refugees differently. In turn, the theory of quasi-object (Serres, 1982) is applied to study how iris-data's transformative capacity is based on the establishment and sustenance of quasi-coerced alliances to legitimize the refugee body. This leads to a discussion of 'humanitarian experimentation' of technologies on refugee populations, and

critique of the interoperability of their sensitive data (Lindskov Jacobsen 2010, 2015). Using key concepts from Science, Technology and Society (STS) studies, we develop a critical understanding of the heterogeneous assemblages and processes of re-assembly of surveillable refugee bodies (cf. Sassen 2006; Ong and Collier 2005). Assemblages enabling the making of surveillable bodies transcend biometric technologies, e.g. IBM's development of 'weather forecasts' for displacement facilitated by machine learning, or UNHCR's blockchain-based solutions for aid administration, which also exemplifies the repurposing of data to surveil.

Concluding, the paper examines this harvesting of data as linked to neoliberalized migration governance. These include 'refugee economies' (Betts, Bloom, Kaplan, Omata 2016), which are framed as emancipatory solutions (Scott-Smith, 2016) or cost-efficient 'dual-wins', also facilitating industrialization in refugee hosting countries (Betts and Collier 2017). The digitalization of the refugee body may hold some emancipatory promise. But this is deeply embedded within processes of also transforming the refugee body along the lines of surveillable sequences of data. And this data is increasingly commodified and exchanged in new economies of cyber-humanitarianism. The overall trend of data-craving, therefore places refugee and humanitarian actors in profound ethical and functional dilemmas. The technological rollout risks leading to blurred boundaries within refugee management both between public and private interests (Larner 2000) and between interests in protection and profit.

## **The "retomados" refugees and their circular condition in Europe**

*Maria Cristina Santinho, Postdoctoral researcher at CRIA, Lisbon, Portugal*

The new borders, the desert, the Mediterranean, the barbed wires are now disguised in administrative rules, signed documents and imperative orders dictated by the institutions whose function is to "manage" the refugees. Often, through the mass media, we realize that despite the apparent generosity of the Portuguese state, which determined the availability of 10,000 refugees, only about 1,500 have been received so far, of which 40% have left Portugal to other European countries. However, there are international mechanisms and biometric databases - notably the Schengen system and Eurodac, imposed by asylum systems and borders - that detect the whereabouts of these refugees and obliged them to return to Portugal. They are the so-called "retomados". Identification by categorization (Dubois, 2010) forces refugees to look at their own lives, as they have never done before, assigning them a place in the world in which they do not recognize themselves easily. A geographic place, in the periphery, and social, in this case subordinate, dependent, subject to political, administrative and biological control. To challenge these imposed categories is to lose: lose legal status, lose social protection, lose social referents. But it is also gaining: to gain some time, while the bureaucratic mechanisms do not act in their detection and also gain some money, that allows them to survive for a while in this Europe hostile to their presence.

## **Technological and bureaucratic responses managing South Sudanese**

*Timm Sureau, Postdoctoral researcher at Max-Planck-Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany*

The ongoing existence of mobile populations and the resulting challenges to state and humanitarian actors drives attempts at population management as rational technical solutions to problems through technological interventions, which are "bureaucratic responses which often increase suffering" (Kleinman, Das, and Lock 1997), especially since the creation of a digital refugee. In the context of Sudan, where my research site is located, the EU supports refugee settlements where people seek refuge from South Sudan's so-called 'internal' wars. The support consists of funds and

technologies that can be seen, as often, as a double edged sword of either governance, food aid and live support, or as overarching control of movement and violence. And it can be overtly as in weapons and tracking technologies in order to literally stop people from moving to Europe and more subtle, as well in tracking, this time for food provisioning, and biometric registrations for fair distribution. Thus the 'humaneness' of bureaucratic intervention is a paradoxical response to growing challenges that mobile populations produce. The presentation looks at this biopolitical complexity, that is, the way institutions deal with quantities of individuals' bodies, from two complementary frames (that is anthropology and technology, merged in STS) and two approaches. First, it will focus on the techniques such as biometrics and databases employed by international organisation in their field offices in refugee settlements in the southern parts of Sudan with South Sudanese refugees. One of the interest that STS informs us about is the human-machine or human-technology-relationships and how societies accept quickly, often with little questioning, new technologies and subsequently take them for granted and even as the right thing to do in order to - for example- decrease suffering. Such societies are for example those international organisations that manage refugee settlements in multiple parts of the world. Such technologies are then closely integrated in the society as an inseparable evolving agencement and STS helps us think as society and technology as one entity. While trying to do good, the employees of those organisations ignore the technologies' inherent practices of exclusion, which perpetuate European exclusivity that is based on former colonialism and current relationships of dominance, and that are transported with the technologies to the refugee settlements at the Sudanese-South Sudanese borders. Second, it looks at the digital footprints which are co-shaped by the new accessibility of social media (mobile phones and internet) which has been instrumental to displaced populations themselves, who, in their own right, are seeking personal security to organize their lives, hopes and plans for the future and which try to position themselves in favourable positions in databases. People on the move gain knowledge of their rights through the internet or interpersonal networks, about the advantages and disadvantages of such categories as 'refugee' or 'internally displaced persons', about further routes, in both physical and imagined senses. They also keep in touch, exchange money, and organize charity or relief to families in conflict areas. They are often overlooked techno-social actors in this emerging agencement called refugee settlement.

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### **Immigration detention in Portugal: data from the field**

*Francesca Esposito, PhD candidate at ISPA-University Institute (Lisbon) Portugal*

In last years, immigration detention has become an ordinary measure used by states to govern human mobility and confine unwanted non-citizens. However, we still know relatively little about life and lived experiences of people inside these sites of confinement (cf. Bosworth 2014). Drawing on almost three years of fieldwork, comprising qualitative/quantitative interviews and ethnographic observations, this presentation provides an examination of life inside immigration detention in Portugal. In particular, it will focus on everyday life inside the Housing Unit of Santo António (Oporto), the only detention facilities on the Portuguese national territory. Who are the people in these sites of confinement? What are their lived experiences and how do they give meaning to them? What types of relationships are formed between staff and detainees? What strategies are used to control and discipline (staff), as well as to cope and resist (detainees)? These are some of the research questions that will be addressed. Based on the evidence provided, the nature and impacts of detention as a solution for managing mass migration will be discussed. A focus on the legal and socio-technical aspects of this particular practice of containment will be privileged.

### Session 3: Technologies of solidarity and resistance - alternative infrastructures to complement and counter migration and border regimes I

#### The role of ICTs and social networks in the migrants' integration: A study proposal in the Portuguese Context

*Luciana Sotero, Professora Auxiliar Convidada, Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade de Coimbra (FPCEUC), ITM (CES-UC), Portugal, & Maria Dias, Master Student, Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade de Coimbra (FPCEUC) & Joana Sousa Ribeiro, Researcher at CES, ITM (CES-UC), Portugal*

One of the main debates within the literature is whether the use of ICTs helps or hinders migrants' integration. If, on one hand, the use of ICTs facilitates the maintenance of the interpersonal relations within the social network that they left behind (e.g., family, friends, neighbours, etc.); on the other, its use can reduce the need to establish local connections and leading to a lack of strong networks with people in their new community. Thus, while in the past a feeling of loneliness may have prompted migrants to seek companionship in the country of destination, by using ICTs migrants reconnect and maintain sociocultural networks back home, decreasing motivation to develop social networks in their geographic proximity. The lack of empirical research on this topic also contribute to the scarce knowledge on how the use of ICTs among migrant communities is influencing their social networks and, consequently, their integration. In the Portuguese context, this research proposal aims to explore the role of ICTs use in the migrant social networks process of maintenance and reconstructions. In addition to the application of an instrument to evaluate the use of ICTs, it will be used the social networks maps. A systemic tool that evaluates a person's social network, according to its structural characteristics (size, distribution, density, types of functions, and homogeneity/heterogeneity), the social functions accomplished (social companionship, emotional support, cognitive guidance and advice, social regulation, and material aids and services), and the attributes of specific links or relationships (prevalent function(s), multidimensionality, reciprocity, intensity/commitment, and history). Specifically, it consists on a diagrammatic representation that includes all the individuals with whom a person interacts, distributed by three circles (inner, intermediate and outer circles) and four quadrants (family, friendships, community, work/study relationships). Synthesizing, this paper proposal aims to explore the debate surrounding the role of ICTs' use and migrant integration and to present a research project to be implemented.

#### Gatecrashing the borders: on alternative infrastructures of solidarity

*Fredy Mora-Gómez, Postdoctoral researcher at Department of Thematic Studies. Tema-T. Linköping University, Sweden*

The deployment of revised assessment protocols, fingerprinting technologies, and standardized registration procedures have extended bordering practices even beyond geographic borders. The access to governmental forms of solidarity in different countries of the EU is highly restricted nowadays and comes along with new fences, impressive official numbers, international agreements and massive surveillance technologies. The latter particularly end-up producing migrants as marginalized populations and potential 'imposters'.

One of the predominant features of the above landscape has to do with the endless procedures of asylum applications. This paper condenses ethnographic reflections about objects developed by communities of migrants in Greece to cope with everyday struggles during their current application periods and, in some cases, their passage towards relocation countries. Drawing on the notion of infrastructure, I describe how those objects arise from transformative interconnected material

practices. I put forward the argument that these infrastructures allow migrants to 'gatecrash' borders by exceeding governmental contention and enacting alternative forms of solidarity and psychosocial support.

The gatecrashing of borders is a plausible area of interest for those interested in everydayness, mundane governance, material politics and alternative technoscience. Hence, the study of alternative infrastructures and their contrast with instituted arrangements in the case of migration is one way to gain a better understanding of the sociomateriality of borders and what exceeds them.

### **Italy at the Border of Humanitarian and Political Responsibility in the Crisis Migration**

*Laura Stefanelli, Public Officer at Provincia Autonoma di Trento - Labour Agency, Italy*

Since 2011, Italy faces an increasing of the refugees arrival and since the management of thousands of people reaching Italian (and European at large) coasts spread over each month, by becoming an urgent political issue to handle. This is certainly the biggest refugees crisis since World War Two (UNHCR, 2015) and a multilevel approach rose to react urgently: Italian institutions are called to regulate migration via administrative and labour techniques, while civil society and NGOs remain the main actors to handle this crisis, which is humanitarian as a matter of fact.

On one hand, the rising of neo-nationalism in numerous European countries explains limits of taking a common management system of refugees' inclusion into the labour market. Foreign policy is led by single national European country, and cases of occasionally 'closing borders' between Austria-Italy, France-Italy and Hungary-Austria has appeared in the last two years. On the other hand, crossing the Mediterranean sea keeps being the heading (but the most dangerous) way to reach Europe, while international and Italian associations are the main actors to provide assistance, at the first stage, and attempt to insert effective skilled refugees into the labour market afterwards. To this extend, my contribution sheds light on how different approaches are engaged in including skilled refugees into the labour market and society at large, by shedding lights to an applied case in Central Italy, in Emilia-Romagna region. 'VESTA' project is an innovative, scaled and decentralized approach, led by a private social cooperative using digital technologies and funded by European fund AMIF. VESTA project is engaged to reconcile innovation, integration and social inclusion by balancing (and matching at its best) refugees human and cultural capital into the labour market. Pilot experiments of VESTA project were launched in September 2016 in the city of Bologna and in the year along it has been diffused and implemented in other Italian cities, which adopted the ICT methodology. In November 2017, VESTA has been presented to the Cooperatives Europe Alliance as a 'good practice' in Brussels. How ICT might help managing 'refugees and migration crisis' toward an inclusive and human oriented tool, is the key and leading question of VESTA.

### **Session 4: Technologies of solidarity and resistance - alternative infrastructures to complement and counter migration and border regimes II**

**Undoing the borders of fortress Europe through ICTs: moving populations and digital resistance in the Greek territory**

*Vasilis Galis, Associate Professor, Technologies in Practice, IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark & Vasiliki Makrygianni, Postdoc fellow, IT University of Copenhagen, DIGINAUTS project, Denmark*

The recent intensifying securitization of border controls, the restrictive migration policies and the consequent racialization of space have been producing an ongoing nexus of death-scapes in the European territory. Nevertheless, the so-called migration crisis that unfolds from the Middle East

to northern Europe revealed a wide spectrum of spaces and resistance practices. We need to understand the ways in which social media, electronic technologies and other infrastructures are interlinked in these journeys. Relatively little is known, however, about the actual everyday practices of migrants in configuring and navigating their migratory routes through interactions with digital resources. Some work within science & technology studies, STS, that is specifically related to borders has provided useful conceptualizations of interactions between migrants and non-human entities at the borderland (Dijstelbloem & Meijer 2011; Galis et al 2016; Galis & Summerton 2017). We are particularly interested in developing and applying these concepts to understand those intertwinings of migrants and digital media that redraw the material conditions at stake in a way that forces the border (Papadopoulos 2011). In this respect, migrants' engagement with Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) enacts unbordering practices that generate ruptures in the sovereignty scapes and produces new spaces of autonomy.

In this paper we examine how migrants' digital practices reconfigure migration and space as migrants navigate through unknown and - for them - unsafe areas. We highlight the ways social media, smartphones with multiple apps, computers and other digital technologies provide migrants information regarding navigation, safe passages, care and police controls in order to show that ICTs play an important role not only as restrictive mechanisms but also as emancipatory tools. We enhance the theoretical debate on migration with new ways of understanding borders and space as fluid, autonomous, and provisional linkages between humans and nonhumans. Thus we discuss ways that STS approaches contribute to the understanding of the sociotechnical and epistemic aspects of migration and resistance practices. Based on findings from fieldwork conducted in Greece in the period 2015-2017, we aim to discuss how migrants' digital practices generate new spaces and materialities of resistance and autonomy.

Attending to the making of migrants' ICTs assemblages we examine the emergence of unbordering practices, the creation of crucial solidarity networks and the risks and limitations that emerge when using ICTs. In this respect, we look through the different phases of their journey in order to trace new spatialities (at the intersection of digital spaces and their physical edges) that are enacted through ICTs. For this purpose multiple sources of empirical material are used such as interviews with people on the move, published migrants narrations and net-based sources. Finally, the paper highlights the recent migratory map not simply as a result of neoliberal doctrines, but (also) as an act of disobedience to fortress Europe through the creation of digital-urban autonomous zones.

## **Hacking the shelter? Alternative mesh networks and STS research in times of forced migration**

*Tim Schütz, MA student in Science and Technology Studies, University of Frankfurt*

In light of increased forced migration towards Europe, hacker collectives have become prominent actors to include issues of refugees and asylum seekers to their political agenda. From an STS perspective, this moves long-standing "sociotechnical imaginaries" (Jasanoff 2015) of ubiquitous access, fear of surveillance and the right to tinker with technologies closer towards the realities of people on the move. Furthermore, the inventive infrastructuring (Niewöhner 2015) it entails might lead to the formation of new publics and novel forms of critique. Still, such subversive engagements with and critiques of mundane technologies (such as privatized internet access) have yet to be examined in light of contemporary border regimes.

The research brought forth in this paper therefore aims to deepen our understandings of the entanglements of forced migration and digital infrastructuring by presenting findings from a study of the Freifunk ("free wireless") initiative in Germany. Founded in the early 2000s Freifunk is a grassroots initiative establishing, supporting and maintaining free mesh networks that provide an alternative to commercial internet providers. Since the so-called migrant crisis in 2015 Freifunk members have expanded their engagement related to alternative wireless infrastructures to include refugee accommodations. This is of particular interest because of governmental institutions' lack of

commitment in this context. Despite the United Nations (UN) declaration that access to the internet is a human right and the German constitutional court's ruling that every citizen has the right to internet access the communication rights and needs of refugees were (and still are) far from being on top of the German government's priority list.

The data for this contribution builds on the following qualitative research methods that took place in Bremen between May 2015 and March 2016: interviews with Freifunk members (actively involved in installing wireless internet at refugee centers), managers of short-term shelters and social workers at an underage refugee accommodations. In addition to participant observation at the shelters and Freifunk gatherings, the paper will include data generated through reflections of my own advocacy, such as engaging with the recently founded humanitarian platform 'Freifunk Helps'.

### **Housing for refugees in today's Lisbon? An analysis through the radical lens of the Right to the City.**

*Sílvia Leiria Viegas, Postdoctoral researcher at CCArq/CES-UC and member of GESTUAL/FA-UL, Portugal, ITM (CES-UC)*

The presentation focuses on the housing struggles motivated or promoted by and/or for refugees, economic migrants and their descendants in today's Lisbon metropolitan area having, as a theoretical reference, a renewed and radical perspective of the concept of Right to the City, as originally advocated by Henri Lefebvre (2009). The first purpose is to identify the recent urban and housing strategies, policies and paradigms leading to greater exclusion scenarios, on one hand, and, on the other hand, the rising and strengthening of particular grassroots social movements fighting for the physical materialisation of the Right to adequate Housing for all, that is, for these immigrants and their host societies. Furthermore, the article aims to identify and analyse recent governmental visions and approaches in Portugal targeting vulnerable populations in general so as to support their right to inclusion regarding housing, since they recently (and vehemently) proclaimed their intention of considering these people's needs and aspirations.

Regarding the practical context, housing solutions for refugees and economic migrants in Portugal have been in the spotlight as the government announced the arrival of 10.000 asylum seekers coming from Africa and the Middle East in 2018. Also, immigrants from Portuguese-speaking African countries, among other poor communities, such as the Gypsies, have been struggling for the Right to their place and their Right to housing, especially in the Lisbon metropolitan area. Given this and other housing issues, Public Administration developed and recently presented, for public consultation, a new generation of housing policies yet to be tested (Secretaria de Estado da Habitação, 2017). As for the structuring theoretical framework, Lefebvre's Oeuvre (the work) is a vital complement of the *Produit* (the product), as it corresponds to an ample participation of all on the building and transformation of an inclusive urban society, both as a path and a tool for the construction of the Right to the City.

Given these complex dynamics regarding the protection of several Rights and housing for a multicultural urban society and, also, the projection of innovative inclusive-to-be housing experiences, searching and standing up for the Right to the City and adequate Housing for all is fundamental. Considering these factors, the informed cross-analysis of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area will contribute to identify the problems and solutions concerning this specific context, as well as invigorate the defence of the original meaning of this key-concept and its operative motivations and purposes.

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## **Keynote 2: The Invention of Illegal Immigration: Constructing Immigration Control as a Social Problem in France and the UK**

*Christina Boswell, Full Professor, Centre for Science, Knowledge & Policy (SKAPE) University of Edinburgh, UK*

The concept of ‘illegal’ immigration is a relatively recent political and legal construct in European countries: indeed, it was only in the late 1960s and early 1970s that the transgression of immigration controls was identified as a social problem requiring political and legal intervention. However, our archival research on France and the UK suggests that the issue was constructed in quite different ways over this period. In France the issue was situated in the context of concerns about labour relations. In the UK, by contrast, the issue emerged as a concern around border control in the context of rising levels of Commonwealth immigration. This divergence exposes how constructions of illegal immigration were contingent on (national) ideational and institutional contexts - an observation easily accommodated within institutionalist theories. But drilling down into the UK case we can also observe a deeper contingency, as policy makers puzzled over how best to reconcile ideological and tactical considerations with operational constraints. Indeed, the archival material reveals a degree of uncertainty and even bafflement in policy deliberation that is typically underplayed in theories of problem definition. The talk will explore the implications of these findings for theories of policy making, suggesting the need to better theorise the role of puzzling in deliberation.

## **Roundtable: “How can Science and Technology Studies help to reflect on the political crisis associated with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers?”**

### *Speakers:*

*Vasilis Galis, Associate Professor, Technologies in Practice, IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

*Martina Tazzioli, Lecturer at Swansea University, UK*

*Francesco Vacchiano, Researcher at ICS, University of Lisbon, Portugal*

## **Session 5: Technologies of migration governance and politics of constructing classifications**

### **On crisis terms. Representational practices in the 'hotspots' of the European border**

*Margarita Lipatova, PhD-candidate at Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle (Saale), Germany*

2015 marked the emergence of a highly mediatized ‘European refugee crisis’ narrative. Receiving the unprecedented influx of people on the move, Greece has become one of the main sites and spectacles of the European border regime. The notions of emergency situation, as well as the discourses of combatting human trafficking, and deaths in sea crossings, are applied here in order to justify the militarization and border fortification processes. Consequently, the response to the arrival of migrants materializes in a rapid build-up of mobility control apparatus, characterized by increased surveillance, expanded recruitment of warships and helicopters, implementation of

biodata technologies, and externalisation of border control to states outside European Union. The increasingly technologized mobility control targets two aims: to stem the migration flows and to channel the unwanted subject against whom the European border needs to be protected. Meanwhile the dissemination of spectacles of suffering, first represented by images of distressed people arriving at the Greek shores, later replaced by images of inadequate conditions of refugee camps, has, as a consequence, attracted numerous humanitarian and charitable bodies seeking to provide aid. The great density of humanitarian actors affecting the dynamics within the politics of refugee response aid, turning the situation into what Crisp has called ‘a diffuse humanitarian marketplace’ (Crisp 2009: 75). Even more problematic is the ongoing entanglement of militarism and humanitarianism, since not only that the humanitarian bodies function as technology of governance, e.g. through participation in the practices of containment, sorting, and deportation, but also the military forces are engaged in the spectacle of saving and rescuing (Tazzioli 2016). The paper illustrates how the described dynamics manifest within the settings of Chios ‘hotspot’ Vial and are negotiated by the people on the move. More specifically, I focus on how the space of Vial is re-invented as the site of antagonism and contestation over the representation politics. On the one hand, I describe how the technologies of governance and humanitarian care contribute to the knowledge production about the border and those who ‘cross’ them. I examine how the ideal construct of an ‘aid-recipient’ produced by the humanitarian culture corresponds with the border regime’s ‘categorical fetishism’ (Crawley & Skleparis: 2018) that distinguishes the ‘deserving’ refugee from the illegal migrant. On the other hand, I show how the people on the move manoeuvre among the imposed categories and create their own representations of life in the camp and border situations.

Raising the question of forms of creative living and placing the focus on new types of engagement and mobilization of newcomers against the disciplining and discursive practices in the camp spaces, I seek to contribute to the ongoing critical discussion on disempowering technologies applied in border spaces. Through examining the dialectical relationship between the structuring effects of camp spaces and the agentive capacity of the people that dwell in them, I will depict what appears to be a new global condition ‘a life in limbo’ co-shaped by the people on the move and the practices of humanitarian organizations, bio governance, and labelling.

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### **Mobility, Monstrosity, Postcoloniality: Containment and Resistance**

*Gaia Giuliani, Researcher at CES, Associate professor in Political philosophy (ASN 2017), PI of the FCT project (DE)OTHERING, Co-founder of InteRGRace (Italy), ITM (CES-UC)*

My paper investigates how the contemporary hegemonic reading of the border, people’s life and mobility trajectories, of their body, and of the geographic/social context in which this reading takes place is profoundly shaped by an iconography of monstrosity that can be traced back to national and colonial archives. This iconography is based on those gendered/sexualised “figures of race” that

since global and capitalist modernity have been making up the symbolic material of (post)colonial imaginaries of Otherness.

### **Channeling Migrants away from Europe, or, the Multiplication of Migration (Control) Infrastructures in Niger**

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In the past years, Niger has become a central transit country for West and Central African refugees and migrants on their way to Libya and Algeria and on to Europe via the Mediterranean. With European development aid pouring into the country to stall the migration and a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Libya, where migrants are detained, tortured, and enslaved, international and Nigerien organizations established an infrastructure that aims at, on the one hand, turning refugees and migrants away from Europe and, on the other, adhering to international protection needs of vulnerable populations.

People traveling on the same routes are now rigorously classified and subsequently channeled into different streams, hubs, and dead ends. One might become a ‘stranded migrant’ rescued by the International Organization of Migration in the desert and be ‘voluntarily’ returned to their village of origin, the other might be a ‘vulnerable refugee’ who should be saved from the ‘hell’ in Libya by being convinced by the UNHCR to apply for asylum in Niger with arguably little chance of a secure and decent life. And another one might, independent of their orientation, already become a ‘*candidat à migration*’ who needs scrutiny by border intelligence while they are circulating within the West African Economic Community’s zone of free movement. Despite these vigorous attempts at classifying and channeling migrants, individuals enact the available categories, passing as Nigerien citizens, or circumvent the available infrastructures by choosing new paths and therefore establishing new migration infrastructures.

The presentation is based on 3 months of fieldwork in Niger and draws on Science and Technology Studies literature on classifications and standards (Bowker/Star 2000, Lampland/Star 2009) applied by a network of different actors to understand how these migration control infrastructures impact on migrants’ trajectories and futures. It argues that STS can help us to analyze the social classifications, bureaucratic procedures, and technologies that turn a person into one bureaucratic or legal subject and their neighbor into another and to understand how these classifications contribute to the migration trajectories that unfold how migrants are channeled into different streams, hubs, or dead-ends, mostly turned away from reaching the European Union and its asylum system or from global resettlement options.

### **Session 6: Epistemic orders in asylum politics**

**Climate migration: contours of an epistemic object.**

*Kris Decker, Department of Cultural and Science Studies, University of Lucerne, Switzerland*

In recent years, climate migration has become a momentous epistemic object in the field of climate science. Variegated studies, investigating for instance the prospects of island communities confronted with rising sea levels, the notion and legal status of climate refugees, or historical patterns of climate-related migration, cut across conventional dichotomies between natural and social scientific questions, procedures, concepts, and modes of representation.

Although much of what is known about climate migration, present and future, comes from the desks and computers of scientists, there are many more actors among them, local interest groups,

artists, policy makers, science writers crafting knowledge and issuing their own accounts' reports, books, exhibitions on phenomena as diverse as intensifying droughts and rural exodus in the Andes or thawing permafrost and menaced housing in Alaska. Like other contested epistemic objects, climate migration does not exclusively belong to the realm of science, but exists at the fringes of scientific and other cultural endeavors; it is, in short, a paradigmatic "matter of concern" (Latour, 2004) woven into political controversies, epistemic struggles, and real-life consequences at the same time. This situation leaves us, as science studies scholars, with a set of initial questions, such as: How to grasp the different shapes the object of climate migration is taking on across diverse domains? How to trace the "coming into being" (Daston, 2000) of this object both historically and ethnographically? How to explore the conflicting claims, standpoints, and arguments articulated by heterogeneous actors staking out the contours of the object?

In attending to matters to do with migration, we might face an abyss between cold-blooded observation and emphatic engagement. Is there a middle ground between being an analyst on the one hand and getting involved into contentious matters on the other? Which forms of analysis would such a standpoint entail? My paper sets out to explore a few pathways for doing science studies understood as an "engaged program" (Sismondo, 2008), though without letting go of its critical tools for studying the fragile nature of scientific and other forms of knowledge of something as multifarious and complex as climate migration.

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### **Experts according to whom? Legitimate for whom?: (Non)expert knowledge and (il)legitimacy of refugee-run organizations upon resettlement**

*Odessa Gonzalez Benson, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Assistant Professor Fall, Detroit School of Urban Studies School of Social Work, University of Michigan, USA*

Expert knowledge legitimates organizations and substantiates ideas, a symbolic function that goes beyond its instrumental role in policy and politics, including immigration (Boswell 2009). Such studies focus on organizations that are institutionalized, such as government agencies or state-funded organizations, and define expert knowledge as knowledge produced by scientific research. In examining knowledge and organizational legitimacy in the domain of refugee resettlement policy/practice, this study aims to open up the universe of organizations to include those that are refugee-run. Emerging out of informal spaces and often without official designation, these (quasi)organizations are formed and run by refugees soon upon resettlement and operate with direct assistance as well as cultural and social functions for resettled refugee communities. I conceptualize the refugee-run organization as an organization "that occupies a space outside national and/or international credibility but inside the everyday practical and moral organization of specific audiences," drawing directly from Cederstrom & Fleming's conceptualization of the 'bandit organization' (ie. drug cartels) minus the illegal and anti-social dimension (Cederstrom & Fleming 2016). Within this liminal outside-inside organizational space, we can find gaps in existing theories and raise questions about the source and kinds of knowledge considered expert and about the point of reference for legitimacy.

For such illustration, I draw upon a case study of Bhutanese refugee organizations in the United States, using archival research and 40 interviews and four focus groups with leaders and volunteers of organizations in 35 cities. During two decades in exile, Bhutanese refugee camps came to be

hailed as 'model camps' by the international community (ie. United Nations), due to exemplary camp management conducted by refugees themselves with remarkable outcomes (ie. literacy rates, health outcomes) (Muggah 2005). The Bhutanese case thus allows examination of how such organizational experience may translate upon resettlement, and reflections about knowledge and legitimacy for resettled refugees' organizations.

What emerge are tensions pertaining to internal and external legitimacy of refugee-run organizations; that is, legitimacy in the eyes of the resettled refugee community vis-a-vis the 'host' community. Second, analyses show the how resettled refugees simultaneously enact and resist institutional isomorphism (or imitation) (DiMaggio & Powell 1983) in efforts to gain cognitive legitimacy (or 'comprehensibility and taken-for-grantedness') (Suchman 1995) for their organizations. Finally, findings suggest that policy and practice structures put to the wayside the organizational expertise of resettled Bhutanese refugees. "There is no hard and fast way... of distinguishing (expert knowledge) from other -non-expert- forms of knowledge," (Boswell 2009:23), and the Bhutanese refugees' case illustrates how such distinctions are made and the problematics that arise. In the final analysis, this study considers how (in)expert knowledge forges organizational (il)legitimacy of refugee-run organizations, and what's at stake.

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### **De-politicization and re-politicization of policy instruments in asylum policies of the EU: EURODAC and the epistemic construction of political order**

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In this paper I address expertise-based policy instruments as part of European Asylum policies and how they contribute to a particular epistemic construction of political order. By building on insights of Actor-Network-Theory (ANT) as well as on insights from the epistemic turn in social constructivist governance studies (Boswell 2012, Voss and Freeman 2016, Voss and Amelung 2016) the notion of politics developed here has to do with black-boxing (Callon 2001) of governance arrangements and de-politicization as a governance move as well as the constituency of instrument experts advocating technocratic policy solutions. Taking the policy instrument of EURODAC as an example I reconstruct how experts and expertise contribute to the development and establishment of the instrument over time. The analysis emphasizes the unintended side effects of European asylum policies which come with expertise based policy instruments such as EURODAC when they establish particular imaginations, ways of knowing and practices which 'neutralize' and de-politicize policy areas and make it more difficult to contest policy instruments. In a final outlook I address how counter moves can cause re-politicization of temporally stabilized governance arrangements.

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