The Digitalization of EU Borders and the Production of Vulnerabilities Conference

Thursday, 13.06.2024, 10.00 am - 6.00 pm
Heinrich Böll Foundation, Schumannstr. 8, 10117 Berlin
Languages: English, German
Livestream

The symposium takes a closer look at the digitalization of EU border security and to place it in the broader context of the EUI law recently adopted by the EU and the "New Pact on Migration and Asylum".
On two panels we ask: How is artificial intelligence being used and what are the consequences of this technology for people on the run? To what extent does the digitalization of EU borders endanger the fundamental and human rights of refugees? At the same time: How do those affected defend themselves? How do the expanded video surveillance, the use of robodogs, lie detectors and the intensified use of language and dialect recognition programs affect the right to asylum? And what can politicians and civil society do to strengthen the right to asylum, mobility and humanitarian aid?

It is important for us to understand these new digitalization technologies in the context of flight and asylum as a legacy of colonialism and to shed light on the extent to which they reinforce the marginalization of people and create vulnerabilities.

Program

9.30 - 10.00 am	**Admission**
10.00 - 10.30 am	**Welcome** Dr. Ines Kappert, Co-Director of the Gunda Werner Institute Dr. Mengia Tschalär, Professor of Anthropology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Co-Director Queer European Asylum Network Francesca Schmidt, Founding and board member of Netzforma e.V.
10.30 - 11.30 am	**Keynote by Myria Georgiou,** Professor of Media and Communication, London School of Economics and Political Science Her most recent publications are: Being Human in Digital Cities. Polity Press, 2023 and The Digital Border: Migration, Technology, Power. NYU Press, 2022 (together with L. Chouliaraki) **Moderation:** Dr. Ines Kappert
11.30 - 11.45 am	**Coffee break**
11.45 - 1.15 pm	**Panel #1: EU Borders in Digital Shift: AI, Migration and Fundamental Rights** We would like to open a broader discussion on how the digitalization of borders is linked to the EU's current migration and asylum policies.

How can we understand the global race for AI technology as a race intertwined with migration control and border regimes?

With:
Alexandra Geese, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group since 2022. Her focus is on digital policies and feminism.

Lena Rohrbach, Human Rights in the Digital Age Officer, Amnesty International, Berlin

Caterina Rodelli, EU Policy Analyst, Brussels

Moderation: Monika Remé, Political Scientist

1.15 pm- 2.30 pm	**Lunch**
2.30 pm- 4.15 pm	**Panel #2: The Colonial Legacies of Border Digitalization**

The panel will focus on power relations that are created, perpetuated or exacerbated by border technologies, EU migration policies and surveillance apparatuses. The aim is to shed light on the entanglements of (neo-)colonial border regimes, digital technology and larger geopolitical processes of othering.

With:
Pin Lean Lau, legal scholar and Professor of Bio-Law at Brunel University London. Her research covers the legal governance of technologies, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence in relation to reproductive, biomedical and health technologies.

Mirca Madianou, Professor of Media, Communication and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her research focuses on the social consequences of communication technologies, infrastructures and artificial intelligence (AI) in the context of the Global South, particularly in relation to migration and humanitarian emergencies.

Michelle Pfeifer, postdoctoral researcher in the research project "Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, and Social Change" at the Technical University of Dresden

Moderation: Monika Remé, Political Scientist

4.15 pm - 6.00 pm	**Coffee and cake**