



# ROTTERDAM SYMPOSIUM DUTCH SURVEILLANCE STUDIES 8-9 APRIL 2024

Programme Symposium

## AI-Experiences and Public Safety

Symposium organized by  
Marc Schuilenburg, Majsja Storbeck, Martijn Wessels, Merel Driessen  
Erasmus School of Law, Rotterdam

The widespread integration of AI into surveillance technologies within the realm of public safety has become increasingly prevalent, exemplified by the likes of biometric and emotional recognition, anomaly detection, DNA banks, crowd control, round-the-clock monitoring, and other forms of data-intensive surveillance. This phenomenon prompts crucial inquiries into its effects on the human experience. The ambition of the symposium is to explore the multidimensional facets of AI-surveillance and its implications for public safety – encompassing beyond its technological and judicial issues to its emotional, social, and cultural contours. Building on research in surveillance and AI, the aim of the symposium is to explore how AI-surveillance is experienced by individuals who define, judge, and have emotions related to being watched or being a watcher.



**Location and Public Transportation:** The Symposium is at the Erasmus School of Law, Sanders Building, in room 0-07 (Moot Court), which is located on the ground floor. Drinks are at the Pavilion, next to the pond. The nearest tram stop to the university is Woudestein, which is just a 4-minute walk away, while the closest metro stop is Kralingse Zoom, approximately a 10-minute walk. For check-in, you can conveniently use your bank pass or Apple Pay, but please don't forget to check out as well! For a map of Erasmus, scan the QR code provided, or [click this link](#).

**Accommodation:** We suggest considering accommodation in Kralingen, a peaceful and quiet neighborhood near the university. For hotels, Novotel (next to the university), Savoy Hotel, and Inntel Hotel are our recommended choices.

**Emergency contact:** [storbeck@law.eur.nl](mailto:storbeck@law.eur.nl)

 ai maps

This event is supported by the small grants scheme of the research initiative on Rebalancing Public & Private Interests and Erasmus Center of Empirical Legal Studies of Erasmus School of Law.

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# Monday, 8 April

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**Location: Campus Erasmus University Rotterdam, Sanders building, room 0-07 (Moot Court)**

**9:00 – 9:30**    **Arrival and Registration**

**9:30 – 9:45**    **Welcome Address • MARC SCHUILENBURG (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM)**

**9:45 – 10:45**    **Keynote**

***The Recombinant Subject of Algorithmic Governmentality***

ANTOINETTE ROUVROY (UNIVERSITY OF NAMUR)

The feature of 'power' in algorithmic regimes is not so much that it 'looks' at us and 'spies' on us, but rather that it literally bypasses the visual episteme: the phenomenological, perceptual systems of recognition, qualification, concepts, judgement – in favour of systems of recursive computation. Machine-learning algorithms, metabolizing proliferating data, generate a new kind of 'reality' – not one that is re-presentative, but rather compressive and speculative – which relates to the 'world' not in the referential mode through which signifiers relate to signifieds, but in the hyperstitional, defuturizing mode of a pre-semiotic 'discourse' that generates and effects its own reality. Or, one might say, in the mode of a map that would generate its own speculative territory.

In algorithmic regimes, the human subject ceases to be the inevitably presupposed transcendental node in processes or techniques of meaning production, techniques of power, and even techniques of the self. This is not to say, however, that algorithmic regimes don't produce a specific kind of subject, which I call 'homo numericus'. Homo numericus is *recombinant* rather than *recalcitrant*, and as such is reabsorbed into the infrastructure of algorithmic governmentality. The malignity of algorithmic governmentality lies in its ability to mimic or to perversely metabolize the optimal conditions for the flourishing of localities and subjectivation (through personalization, atmospherics, customization) and organic regulation (with the notion of 'ambient intelligence' branded as an organic metaphor allowing for homeostasis), as well as a sensitivity to emergences (through recursivity), all while actually enrolling everything in the intensification of capitalism itself.

In this intervention, Antoinette Rouvroy will attempt to locate possible coordinates of critique against algorithmic realism and its total(izing) mobilization of recombinant rather than recalcitrant or consistent subjects.

**10:45 – 11:00**    **Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 12:15**    **Session 1: From Care to Methods: Innovative Ways for Studying AI-Surveillance** (chair: Amr Marzouk)

AI-surveillance encompasses both care and control. Recognizing the need for new approaches to study AI-experiences, this session presents novel methods to study the positive notion of care, with the goal of a more inclusive and affirmative approach to public safety and human well-being.

• ***Creating better AI with ethics of care, trust, and empathy*** • SARAH YOUNG (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM)

• ***Genetic surveillance and the tyranny of the minority*** • NINA DE GROOT (VU AMSTERDAM)

• ***Multi-stakeholder methods towards good-for-everyone public safety in the AI-age*** • GINGER COONS (WILLEM DE KOONING ACADEMY) GABRIELE JACOBS, FRISO VAN HOUDT (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM) & MARK RUIJSENDAAL (THE HAGUE SECURITY DELTA)

• ***Rhizomatic dreams and nightmares: An exploration of rhizomatic harms and imaginaries of environmental surveillance for crime control*** • ROSAMUNDE VAN BRAKEL (VUB BRUSSELS)

**12:15 – 13:15**    **Lunch**

**13:15– 14:30** **Session 2: Protest Policing** (chair: Merel Driessen)

Protest policing is increasingly at the forefront of EU debates, particularly as AI infiltrates law enforcement. In this context, how do police gear up for protests, and does this lead to novel experiences by protesters and police officers? How does the integration of digital technologies and AI mediate the relationship between protesters and the police? And does this AI-driven approach lead to ‘chilling’ effects in the dynamic of public demonstrations and social media use?

- *Policing protest by simulation* • ANDREA KRETSCHMANN (LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LÜNEBURG)
- *Changing lenses on lenses: empirical experiences of function creep with digital cameras in Dutch protest policing* • NANOU VAN IERSEL (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM)
- *Policing protest: abstract police and the issue of negotiated policing* • JAN TERPSTRA (RADOUD UNIVERSITY NIJMEGEN) & OTTO ADANG (UNIVERSITY GRONINGEN)
- *Beyond cat and mouse: exploring surveillance experiences of protesters and police officers at Extinction Rebellion roadblock protests in the Hague* • MAJSA STORBECK (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM)

**14:30-15:45** **Session 3: Resistance & Borders** (chair: Majsa Storbeck)

The EU is intensifying its use of biometric surveillance technologies at its outer-borders, raising serious concerns about privacy, data protection, and other issues. What is the role of AI in monitoring and surveilling asylum-seekers, migrants and refugees? Which fundamental rights are being jeopardized? Accordingly, the discussion revolves around how opposition to AI-surveillance can manifest, asking: is this form of resistance both meaningful and successful?

- *The risks of automated decision-making and artificial intelligence at European borders* • YIRAN YANG, FREDERIK ZUIDERVEEN BORGESIU & PASCAL BECKERS (RADOUD UNIVERSITY NIJMEGEN)
- *Morocco’s governance of cities and borders: AI-enhanced surveillance, facial recognition and human rights* • SYLVIA BERGH (THE HAGUE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES)
- *Predicting citizen counter-strategies to AI-based police surveillance* • PETRA SASKIA BAYERL (SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY)
- *Community experiences of data-driven policing in Europe: on the ground realities and resistance in the context of racialized criminalization* • SANNE STEVENS (JUSTICE, EQUITY AND TECHNOLOGY TABLE/LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SCIENCE)

**15:45 – 16:00** **Coffee Break**

**16:00 – 17:15** **Session 4: AI-Imaginations** (chair: Gabriele Jacobs)

The way we depict, dream and fantasize about AI greatly shapes how such technology develops. Whether viewed as a panacea or a Pandora’s box, these imaginations inevitably exert an influence on the course of AI-developments. This session will dive into how society imagines AI, and how we can rethink our vision of AI and its consequences.

- *“We’re all dreaming AI”: Speculative fantasies and technologies of desire in South African policing* • TESSA DIPHOORN (UTRECHT UNIVERSITY)
- *“Humanoid robots are coming to you”: on how they might cause privacy threats* • LUCAS CARDIELL (EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE)
- *AI on Screen: Exploring Representation Techniques in Expository Documentary Films* • VIVIANA ECHAVEZ MOLINA (UNIVERSITY OF CAMPINAS, BRAZIL)
- *Navigating youthful transgression in virtual space: challenges and strategies for public safety professionals* • JUUL GOOREN (THE HAGUE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES)

**17:15 – 18.30** **Drinks & Small Bites at Erasmus University Paviljoen**

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# Tuesday, 9 April

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Location: Campus Erasmus University Rotterdam, Sanders building, room 0-07 (Moot Court)

9:00 – 9:30 Arrival with Coffee

9:30 – 10:30 Keynote

***On being targeted: The Childcare Benefits Scandal***

BATYA BROWN (POET, ACTIVIST AND ARTIST), SALAMA KONATÉ (JUNIOR RESEARCHER & TEACHER UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM), NADINE STIJNS (VISUAL ARTIST), MELISSA STRANGIO (DIRECTOR OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS)

This keynote discusses how AI-mediated risk-profiles and biases embedded in algorithms utilized by the Dutch Tax and Customs Authority resulted in the victimization of over 30,000 families. The 'Childcare Benefits Scandal' is a Dutch political affair arising from unfounded suspicions of childcare benefits fraud and a stringent recovery policy enforced by the central government. Consequently, many families became indebted and encountered major financial problems, ultimately causing significant disruption of their lives and futures.

Despite the prolonged denial of institutional racism by the Tax Administration Office, shared characteristics among the group of affected parents are: (1) the majority being female, (2) many of them manage single-parent households, (3) many possess either a second nationality or a non-Dutch nationality, and (4) are frequently associated with low-income households. It has been revealed that discriminatory risk profiles have been employed, not only in the context of childcare benefits but also in areas such as rent allowances, income tax, and various other government policies and departments.

This presentation will feature lived experiences from artists, two of whom were directly affected by the Childcare Benefits Scandal, complemented by scientific insights providing an intersectional perspective on AI experiences. The keynote will be moderated by Nadine Stijns, a visual artist whose current body of work centres around the Childcare Benefits Scandal.

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:00 **Session 5: Platform Surveillance** (chair: Amr Marzouk)

What are the precarities inherent to experiences of surveillance capitalism and platform surveillance? This panel will discuss data colonialism in relation to Google's 'geofence warrants', followed by a discussion on the rise of gig work and platform labor through apps like Uber/Deliveroo/Care.com, and their impact on workers. The session aims to highlight the challenges and precarities around surveillance of Big Tech and platforms, especially around surveillance, control and resistance.

- ***Geofence warrants and public safety: Locating Google's Sensorvault subjects via illiberal practices of surveillance capitalism*** • RENÉE RIDGWAY (AARHUS UNIVERSITY)
- ***Applying critical feminist theories to counter algorithmic management: Collective action in the platform economy*** • ELISE MAES (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM)
- ***Surveillance and control as work-based harms in the paid domestic work sector in the platform economy*** • JING HIAH (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM)
- ***Gig worker community identification and resistance to surveillance and control*** • PHUONG HOAN LE (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM)

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 14:15

**Session 6: Going Beyond Western-Centric AI-Perspectives** (chair: Jing Hiah)

Where the application of surveillance technologies within Western democracies has set the stage for academic scrutiny, the global spread of AI-surveillance brings up new questions in different political contexts. How is AI-surveillance experienced in different corners of the world, and what are its implications on the ground?

- *AI-surveillance cameras: A safeguard for women in the Global South* • JASMIN DALL'AGNOLA (THE SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)
- *Localising the digital cold war: Chinese and US deployments of urban surveillance in South African metropolises* • IGINIO GAGLIARDONE (UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND)
- *Big Brother is still watching: Old Surveillance for new enemies in Egypt* • AMR MARZOUK (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM)

14:15 – 15:30

**Session 7: AI-Experiences in Public Space** (chair: Rosamunde van Brakel)

This session delves into the complex wave of AI-surveillance in the public domain, be it the digital realm or the streets we walk. By dissecting the impact of these technologies on how citizens engage in public space, this session illuminates the way we respond and react to AI-surveillance in our immediate surroundings.

- *Resituating citizen engagements with smart and safe cities* • VIVIEN BUTOT (INHOLLAND UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES)
- *Safety and the techno-mediated city: lessons from Bengaluru's AI-powered CCTV network* • UDIPTA BORO, FRAN MEISSNER & KARIN PFEFFER (UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE)
- *Citizen acceptance of online public order surveillance* • WILLEM BANTEMA (NHL STENDEN UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES)
- *How do differences between public and private automatic facial recognition systems impact our ability to access different public spaces?* • WILLIAM PAGE (UNIVERSITY OF READING)

15:30-15:45

Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:00

**Session 8: AI-Experiences of Policing Professionals** (chair: Jair Schalkwijk)

AI is becoming an integral part of public safety, transforming and amplifying established policing practices. This transformation has a profound impact on how policing professionals carry out their work, necessitating adaptation to these novel technologies in their daily practices. This session discusses how professionals perceive and interact with AI, and how professionals can use this in a meaningful way.

- *In the algorithmic watchtower: an ethnography on interactions of policing professionals with AI-violence detection in public space* • MARTIJN WESSELS (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM/TNO)
- *From human intervention to meaningful human oversight? Mapping the opportunities and constraints in the decision-making process of place-based big data policing* • ROBIN KHALFA, NAOMI THEINERT & WIM HARDYNS (GHENT UNIVERSITY)
- *Disentangling the interactions between professional intuition and ANPR-technology: an ethnographic study from the backseat of the police car* • NIENKE DE GROES (LEIDEN UNIVERSITY)
- *The 'doings' behind data: an ethnography of police data construction* • ISABELLE FEST (UTRECHT UNIVERSITY)

17:00

**Farewell & Follow-Up (Special Issue 'AI-Experiences', European Journal of Policing Studies)**  
MARC SCHUILENBURG (ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM)