

Workshop “Security at Large: Violent Exchange and Citizenship beyond the State”

Amsterdam, January 19-20, 2015

SECURCIT/University of Amsterdam and DIGNITY Danish Institute against Torture

In cities across the world, people rely on a broad range of security providers. In addition to public security forces such as the police and the military, non-state actors such as private security companies, neighborhood watches and armed vigilantes also play an important role in protecting urban residents’ lives and property. As the provision of security is privatized, pluralized and globalized, new forms of governance and political subjectivity emerge, and differentiations of citizenship are reproduced and reconfigure. The workshop focuses on the role that security providers (actors characterized by their capacity for violent enforcement) play in new configurations of governance and citizenship. The presentations emphasize ethnographic studies of the security encounters between security ‘providers’, ‘clients’ and ‘threats’, and how these enable a relational understanding of citizenship and governance. In such encounters between policing authorities and urban residents, ‘violent exchanges’ (transactions involving violence and money) may become central in negotiating relationships of rule and belonging, of rights and responsibilities. How is power negotiated in such encounters and exchanges, and what relationships of reciprocity do they enable? Speakers during this two-day workshop will present on these issues, drawing on cases from across the world. In addition to presenting empirical cases, they will reflect on the analytical purchase of concepts such as assemblages and hybridity in theorizing forms of rule that blur public-private distinctions.

January 19	
9:30-10:00	Registration, introduction
10:00-12:00	Daniel Goldstein (Rutgers), “Color-Coded Sovereignty and the Men in Black: Private Security in a Bolivian Marketplace” Steffen Jensen (Dignity Institute) “Violent Exchange: Corruption and Sovereign Power in Urban Centers of the Global South” Discussant: Martijn Oosterbaan (Utrecht University)
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-15:00	Erella Grassiani (University of Amsterdam) “Surveillance Through Intimidation: Israeli Security Agents ‘Showing Presence’ in the Old City of Jerusalem” Shira Havkin (Sciences Po) “Civilianizing Security: Managerial Reforms and the Outsourcing of Israeli Checkpoints in the Occupied Palestinian Territories” Discussant: Martijn Dekker (University of Amsterdam)
15:30-17:00	PhD masterclass
January 20	
9:30-10:00	Registration, tea/coffee
10:00-12:00	Rivke Jaffe (University of Amsterdam) “Security on the Move: Neo-Colonial Policy Mobilities in Jamaica” Rita Abrahamsen and Michael Williams (Ottawa) “The Corporate-Security-Development Nexus” Discussant: Marieke de Goede (University of Amsterdam)
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-15:00	Morten Koch Andersen (Dignity Institute) “Discourses of Corruption and Torture Across Four Cities” Tessa Diphooorn (University of Amsterdam) and Helene Maria Kyed (DIIS) “For the Community or for the Money? Entanglements of Private Security and Community Policing in South Africa and Swaziland” Discussant: Oskar Verkaaik (University of Amsterdam)
15:30-17:30	Finn Stepputat (DIIS) “Emerging Governscapes and Formations of Sovereignty” Gareth Jones (LSE) “Policing the Marvellous City: A Critique of Violence and Security Debates” Discussant: Jolle Demmers (Utrecht University)