

Appel à contributions - Call for papers

Revue Espaces Populations Sociétés (eps.revues.org)

Texte français disponible sur : <http://eps.revues.org/index4295.html>

Keywords:

- Spatial control systems, surveillance technologies (CCTV...) and their use by commercial firms, individuals or states
- Society / Security
- Democratic states and the temptation of surveillance
- Changing attitudes of citizens in relation to the development of controlled spaces
- The geography of surveillance

Publication planned for 2012 (issue 3)

Since the digital age started after World War II, computers and new telecommunication technologies have become daily commodities. Today, the world counts more than one and a half billion mobile phones. GPS (Global Positioning System) has become fully operational worldwide since 1995 as a geo-location system. Even if it was expensive in these early days, it has gradually spread to become almost standard in each new car today.

Related to computer systems, GSM and GPS can track any vehicle or person in space. Some applications, such as vehicle tracking in a company context, have clearly and openly as goal to locate an object or person at any time. But similar applications are often introduced unknown to users. Some countries started to analyze traffic flows by using the density of GSM signals. Commercial analysis systems are developed and sold to supermarkets or airports. Telecom firms retain customer data for months, sometimes forced by legislation. It is possible to monitor all movements of an individual, even several months after date. Very recently two young researchers have revealed that every iPhone has a hidden software program installed that stores all data of the geo-positioning in time unbeknownst to the owner of the device. Anyone with access to this database can accurately reproduce all movements of the owner with a "time tag". Another example of a multinational firm that adds in its business model a seemingly innocent application with potentially important implications for our privacy. Obviously these databases can provide very interesting services. But should the user have at least some control over is kind of applications? And what to think about such an incident in a context where the rule of law and democracy are threatened?

These are just a few of the many new instruments of surveillance that arise around us: surveillance cameras, traffic control systems, automatic toll systems, RFID, underthe- skin chip implants, ...

In democratic states legislation and institutional arrangements are developed for the sake of protection of privacy. However, in some states we see that for many reasons a willingness of surveillance of citizens has developed. Sometimes with valid arguments, but often with unexpected implications.

The marriage between the modern states and modern technologies creates a world of controlled spaces. The analysis of these trends is the subject of this issue (planned as n° 2012-3) of the journal. The purpose of the papers may as well be to describe some less known systems of spatial control, as a more philosophical, ethical or sociological reflection on the evolution of territorial control about the place where people live or want to move to. Important is the role played by the development of new technologies and how states, corporations, citizens, legislation, etc.. position themselves in relation to this development.

The co-editors of the thematic issue on "Controlled spaces" are Patrick Deboosere (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VUB Brussels) and Christian Dessouroux (Université libre de Bruxelles, ULB Brussels).

Proposals are expected on the following topics:

1. Spatial control systems and their use by commercial firms, individuals or states.
2. Democratic states and the temptation of surveillance.
3. The benefits that companies can expect by controlling new technologies of space and the changing attitudes of citizens in relation to the development of controlled spaces.
4. The difficult question of balancing benefits and threats from the introduction of new technologies in modern society.

Calendar / Contacts

Please send us a text (in French or English) of about 10 lines highlighting the main points of the proposed paper.

Proposals should be sent, preferably before December 4th 2011, to

- Mrs Nicole Thumerelle, administrative secretary of the journal, Nicole.Thumerelle@univ-lille1.fr
- Mr Patrick Deboosere as coordinator of this issue, Patrick.Deboosere@vub.ac.be
- Mr Christian Dessouroux as coordinator of this issue, cdessour@ulb.ac.be

Decision of acceptance of abstracts is December 2011

Final date for submitting articles will be April 2012

Note to the authors (final paper)

No article should exceed 45,000 characters including footnotes, references and illustrations. Illustrations and charts should readily be formatted for reproduction and submitted on paper and/or electronically if possible. Authors will be asked to submit three paper copies in English or in French on paper and disk or attached file by email. Figures and maps must be furnished in separated files (tiff, eps, jpeg, etc). All papers will be peer reviewed. Each author whose submission is expected to have committed himself/herself not to withdraw his/her text and not to submit it to another publication during the period between its approval by the Editorial Committee and its printing. Authors retain ownership of copyrights and all other rights with respect to their submissions. Authors are solely responsible for their articles published in Space Populations Societies.