



VUB Chair in Surveillance Studies Seminar Series

Seminar IV: Workplace counter-surveillance: Reconsidering resistance in workplace 4.0 with Kirstie Ball

March 19th at 3PM CET – 4.30PM CET on Microsoft Teams

Registration is free.

Introduction:

This seminar explores how surveillant concepts can help draw together accounts of worker control and resistance in Industry 4.0. It draws upon the findings of a systematic review on the extension of workplace surveillance in recent times. Across professions, hierarchies, and organizational boundaries, worker performance, location, behaviour and reputation are now more visible to organizations. Although remote working has caused a spike in this visibility, broader innovation in analytical techniques, wearable devices, the platformisation of work and the cheap availability of worker monitoring apps are contributing to what is seen by many an intensification of workplace surveillance. With research findings scattered across the social sciences, the seminar draws together and theorises this new body of work using a surveillance studies lens.

About the speaker:

Kirstie joined the School of Management in 2016 having held positions at Aston, Warwick, Birmingham and The Open Universities. She is Professor in Management and co-director and founder of CRISP, the [Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and Privacy](#). CRISP is a joint research centre between St Andrews, Edinburgh, Stirling and Essex Universities. She is also Research Fellow at the [Surveillance Studies Centre, Queen's University, Canada](#) and Visiting Professor at the [Centre for Business in Society at Coventry University](#).

Over the last 20 years Kirstie's research has been funded by ESRC, EPSRC, SSHRC (Canada), The Leverhulme Trust, The British Academy and the European Framework Programme. In 2015 she published 'The Private Security State? Surveillance, Consumer Data and the War on Terror', the first empirical study, from an organizational perspective, of private sector involvement in government surveillance regimes. She is also co-editor of a new Routledge book series entitled 'Studies in Surveillance' and edited 'The Routledge Handbook of Surveillance Studies', a key resource for those who teach about surveillance. She has consulted to the UK's Information Commissioner, authoring 'A Report on the Surveillance Society' in 2006, which prompted two parliamentary committee enquiries, and its follow up in 2010.

Kirstie co-founded and co-edited the journal [Surveillance and Society](#) and the charitable company [Surveillance Studies Network](#), an educational charity which supports the journal. She has also advised numerous NGOs, research funding bodies and news media organizations about surveillance, privacy and security. She frequently appears in the broadcast and print media and at public events to speak about surveillance as a contemporary social phenomenon.

For all questions related to this seminar, please contact Bram Visser (bram.visser@vub.be).

We are looking forward to welcoming you all!

Warm regards,

Rosamunde & Bram



SURVEILLANCE STUDIES
CHAIR