

INHIBITORS OF PUBLIC DELIBERATION: SURVEILLANCE

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Panel abstract:

Surveillance is fast becoming part of everyday vocabulary. The implications of mass surveillance and the technologies of surveillance enabling monitoring and profiling are yet to be fully evaluated, however there is a great deal of evidence about the degree to which they can function as inhibitors of democratic deliberation, investigative journalism and public participation. In the so-called 'post-Snowden' era 'surveillance for safety' is used by States to develop and/or justify restrictions to public debate and participation, including journalists and civil society actors aiming at holding power to account. At the same time, the impact of surveillance is not 'limited' to public life but starts with, indeed depends on, the monitoring and subsequently policing of individual behaviour. The inextricably connected practice of surveillance and violation of privacy is a recent phenomenon at a mass scale. We welcome Papers interested in exploring the impact, empirically proven and hypothesised, of surveillance of citizens' self awareness as public subjects and their participation in public affairs; the impact on dissent communication and politics; impact on journalism and public 'checkers' as whistle-blowers; and the connections of privacy violation with surveillance as a question of paradigm change in State's role withholding and protecting Human Rights.