

ENACTING CITIZENSHIP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

International Workshop
ERC Project "Doing Digital Identities" (DigID)

29-30 November 2023
Leuphana University, Lüneburg



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



LEUPHANA
CENTRE FOR DIGITAL CULTURES

WORKSHOP RATIONALE

Welcome to the first workshop of the DigID-project (2023-2028) on the enactment of citizenship in the digital age. The interest in this topic springs from the research agenda of the DigID-project, which investigates how the digitization of identification practices reconfigures relations between citizens and state authorities. We want to trace and study these reconfigurations at three sites: birth registration, citizen-government transactions, and border controls. The implications of digital ID devices are studied ethnographically in one international and five country case studies (Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Malawi, Sierra Leone). Based on insights gained in these multi-sited, collaborative ethnographies, the DigID-project aims to develop a novel understanding of material citizenship in the digital age which allows to capture and expose how material devices and infrastructures shape and affect the lived experience and practical meaning of citizenship.

Hence, besides critical data and science and technology studies (STS), the project is very much inspired by critical citizenship studies and its conception of citizenship as a field of political struggles over the right to have rights. Accordingly, citizenship is not reducible to legal status, a formal relationship to state, or membership in a political community. Citizenship constitutes also – and maybe first and foremost – a performative, democratic practice that revolves around the making of rights claims, which often manifest themselves in the self-authorisation to claim a right that previously did not exist. Such instances of rights-claiming have often been framed as 'acts of citizenship' (Isin 2008) which disrupt the established order of things through protests, hunger strikes and other forms of contestation and demonstrations of refusal in the public sphere through which people – including formal non-citizens – enact themselves as political subjects with the right to claim rights. Hence, one defining feature of acts of citizenship is that they take place in the public sphere and that they feature a voice that demands to be heard.

However, how does the digitization of border and citizenship regimes – as highlighted by the move towards eGovernance, eDemocracy, eVoting, 'smart borders' and so forth – affect these struggles over the right to have rights and people's possibilities to enact themselves as political subjects? How can people then perform acts of citizenship in a context where public assembly is rare, and government operations increasingly/primarily occur through automated digital platforms, limiting direct citizen-state interactions? Do these shifts towards the digital sphere demand a reconsideration of how we think performative citizenship and related politics of contestation in the digital age? In how far do economic, political and social constellations in the Global South call for a reconsideration of concepts and approaches of critical citizenship studies, which have predominantly been developed in the Global North? And even if we can identify the enactment of moments of disruption in the digital sphere, what kind of methods and research practices might allow us to actively engage with their protagonists and follow their struggles and practices of contestation, dissent and negotiation? And finally, how does the digitization of social, economic and political life call for a more thorough (re-)consideration of material citizenship, that is, the material affordances, artefacts and infrastructures that are needed to enact citizenship as a formal relation to the state, as belonging and membership to a political community and as a democratic practice which is based on the claiming of (the right to have) rights?

To engage with these and related questions we are inviting a group of scholars from diverse backgrounds for a 1.5-day hands-on workshop to collaboratively discuss and develop concepts, methods and research tools for following and studying the enactment of citizenship in the digital age. The event will follow a public lecture on 'Performing Digital Data Rights' by Evelyn Ruppert (Wednesday, 29th November 2023, see abstract below). The workshop (Thursday, 30th November 2023) will involve roundtable discussions on methodological and conceptual challenges as well as experimental ethnographic approaches from diverse fieldsites.

More on the project: digitalidentities.eu

Formats and Roles

This workshop is intended to provide space for presenting work-in-progress and open discussions for researchers and practitioners at different levels of their careers. While most participants will have assigned roles, we ask everyone to contribute to a conducive discussion atmosphere where everyone is encouraged to participate equally.

Presenters: Please present your conceptual argument or main research puzzle and how you addressed it in short inputs (5-10min) with a view on the topic of the panel/roundtable you have been assigned. In the interest of providing space for joint discussions, we will adhere to rather strict time-keeping.

Discussants: Please see your role in opening up the discussion and generating questions. Please keep your intervention to a total of ca. 5 min.

Chairs: Please be strict with respect to time in order to allow for enough time for discussion.

PROGRAMME

29 November 2023

|| Keynote Lecture

Venue: Lecture Hall 3 (LH3), Leuphana University

18:00 Prof. Evelyn Ruppert (Goldsmiths, University of London): “Performing Digital Data Rights”

What are the possibilities of performing effective and creative politics in increasingly digitised societies? How do subjects struggle to revolt, subvert and evade digital assemblages that track, troll, visualize, control, discipline, surveil and datify their acts and actions? How might we conceptualise such acts of resistance as data rights claims that subjects make when they act in or through digital technologies? I will approach these questions by considering two citizen-led enumeration practices. One is the #NiUnaMenos (Not One Woman Less) movement in Argentina which makes rights claims to the collection and presentation of data about violence against women. The second is the Afrozensus project based in Germany that creates alternative census data about the experiences of discrimination and underrepresentation of African-descendants. I will suggest that through a complex assemblage of legal, performative, and imaginary forces these practices perform 'I, we, they have a right to' challenge and perform alternative data about who we are as citizens.

19:30 Taxi/ Walk to Dinner Location

20:00 Conference Dinner

Venue: Trattoria Lüneburg, Am Stintmarkt 2, 21335 Lüneburg

PROGRAMME

30 November 2023

|| Workshop

Venue: Room C40.175, Central Building (C40), 1st Floor,
Leuphana University

09:00-09:30 Arrival and Coffee

09:30 Welcome and Introduction

10:00-11:30 Session 1: Reconfigurations of Citizenship in the Digital Sphere

Ilia Antenucci (Leuphana University): "The Borders of Smart Citizenship"

Aleksejs Ivashuk (Apatride Network): "Impact of Recent Developments of Digitalization and Blockchain Decentralization on the Forcibly Displaced"

Vasiliki Makrygianni (Independent Researcher): "Mobile Citizenship in Digital Spaces: Migrants' Emancipatory Practices in Contested Borderscapes"

Discussant: Katharina Schramm (Bayreuth University)

Chair: Laura Lambert (Leuphana University)

Questions:

- How do people enact rights with digital means and/or in the context of increasingly digitized states and government regimes?
- How does digitization create obstacles to enact the right to have rights?
- What can critical citizenship studies bring to studying digital processes and data practices (i.e. critical data studies)?
- How can Eurocentric perspectives and concepts in citizenship and digitalization research be decentered?

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

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12:00-13.30 Methods Roundtable: Investigating Digitized Practices

Kelly Bescherer (Leuphana University): "Open-source Citizenship Research: Learning from Anti-corporate Campaigning Methodologies"

Anna Kalinina (Leuphana University): "Navigating Limited Field Access in the Research of the Russian Dissident Network"

Francisca Grommé (Erasmus University Rotterdam): "Locating Digital Citizenship in Local Bureaucratic Practices: The Caribbean Netherlands"

Discussant: Evelyn Ruppert (Goldsmiths, University of London)

Chair: Sindhunata Hargyono (Leuphana University)

Questions:

- What kind of difficulties have you encountered when researching the enactment of (the right to have) rights in the digital age? If you found a way to address these difficulties, how did you solve your puzzle?
- How do you research digitally mediated practices (of contestation)?
- How do you decide on and recruit research participants, such as protagonists of contentious citizenship politics, in your research?
- How do you define and delineate your field-site in digitized research contexts, in which practices and relations are usually highly fragmented, spatially dispersed and digitally mediated?
- How do you negotiate field access and create viable research relations in increasingly digitized research environments?

13:30-14:30 Lunch

Venue: Klippo Cafeteria, Central Building (C40), Groundfloor

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14:30-16:00 Session 3: Conceptual Discussion: Material Citizenship

Sabine Netz (Bayreuth University): "Material Citizenship as Incorporated beyond – on Analysing Citizenship from Means of Life in (Post)Colonial and Capitalist Relations"

Toke Møldrup Wolff (University of Copenhagen): "Securing Citizenship: The Materiality of (a Contested) Citizenship Status"

Vasilis Galis (IT University of Copenhagen): "'If You Are a Dane, then You Are Registered in the System' – Citizenship in the Time of Digital Ontologies"

Discussant: Amanda Hammer (University of Copenhagen)

Chair: Jasper van der Kist (European University Viadrina Frankfurt)

Questions:

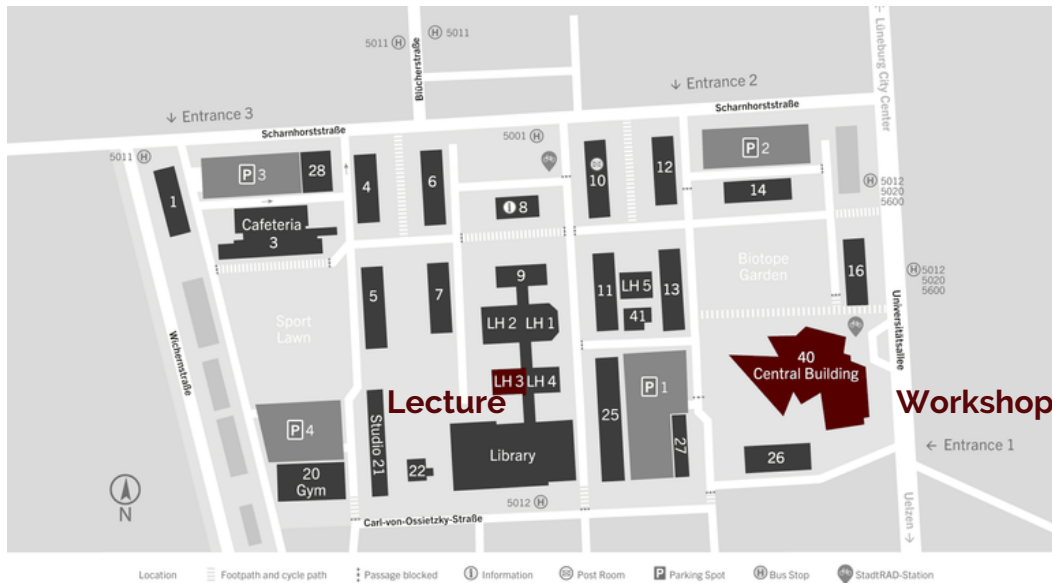
- How do you understand material citizenship? What is the analytical purchase and political benefit for the study of citizenship in the digital age?
- How do you conceptualize people's capacity to act (agency) in relation to material citizenship?
- To what extent does material citizenship change in the digital age?
- How does your research context shape the meaning of material citizenship? How is this related to global and societal power relations, postcolonial legacies, etc.?

16:00-16:30 Final Discussion

Individual Departure

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Our Venues at Leuphana University



Transportation to the University

From Lüneburg train station you can take public buses (5001, 5011, 5012, 5600) to Leuphana University. See schedules on: <https://www.hvv.de/en>
For more travel directions to the university, see: <https://www.leuphana.de/en/university/maps/travel-directions.html>

For cabs call: Citycar Röhlig (04131/2222), Taxi Zentrale Lüneburg (04131/52025), LG Taxi (04131/2230200). Please note that we can only reimburse cabs in exceptional cases and for short distances only.

Please keep all original receipts and submit them to us for reimbursement after the workshop.

Hotel

You are hosted at "Dormero - Altes Kaufhaus", Kaufhausstraße 5, 21335 Lüneburg. Reception is daily available from 01:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Check-in is after 3pm, check-out until 12noon. For arrival information please check the following link: <https://www.dormero.de/hotel-altes-kaufhaus>

WiFi

You can access eduroam through diverse access points at Leuphana University. Alternatively, the "guest" network allows you to surf the Internet and access your e-mail accounts. This access is unencrypted. To log in, please use:

User name: ercdigid

Password: 4888

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Ilia Antenucci (Leuphana University): "The Borders of Smart Citizenship"

Drawing upon case studies from Cape Town, 'Africa's smartest city', I suggest that urban-digital citizenship is defined by borders which operate: i) at a socio-spatial level, through the unequal distribution of digital infrastructures across the urban space; ii) through the algorithmic techniques of monitoring, profiling, and sorting, which filter access to urban services, mobility, and participation. In contrast to popular narratives of 'smart' cities as closely interconnected, holistic spaces, urban digitalisation proceeds by creating (or grafting upon) zones and by distributing border techniques across infrastructures and mundane practices. These borders shape and filter economic opportunities and mobility, access to basic services, and, ultimately, citizen rights. The analysis of these border regimes is the key starting point to develop the idea of urban-digital citizenship as a system of differential inclusion.

Kelly Bescherer (Leuphana University): "Open-source Citizenship Research: Learning from Anti-corporate Campaigning Methodologies"

Researchers looking at digital identification find themselves confronted with the problem of a geographically extended field site as well as a variety of access issues for which the traditional sociological toolbox alone is not always sufficient. Activist research groups and journalists have long tried to circumvent similar problems through creative methodologies; here we might draw, for instance, on the lengthy experience of campaigners seeking to map out the work of corporations, as well as powerful developments within open source research over the past few years. Through the example of my own fieldwork on a project in Senegal, I will provide a few ideas on how open source information such as contract databases, social media, and access to information requests can also be helpful in mapping out the "field" of digital identity research and negotiating access.

Vasilis Galis (IT University of Copenhagen): "'If You Are a Dane, then You Are Registered in the System' – Citizenship in the time of Digital Ontologies"

POL-INTEL is a data integration and analysis platform purchased and used by the Danish police. All Danish citizens and companies located in Denmark are registered in the platform in terms of name, address (also history), place of birth, tax number, and profession. POL-INTEL interconnects several data

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bases and provides Danish police officers with a powerful search engine and visualization tool. POL-INTEL constitutes a double panopticon that promises security through public data analytics and law enforcement accountability and transparency by design through in-house auditing processes. Critical voices warn that such data analytics platforms inevitably reproduce citizen biases and inequalities and reinscribe surveillance as well as forms of oppression in terms of class, gender, race, and ethnicity in the police platform. The project aims to address what types of visions and values are inscribed in POL-INTEL, what kind of quantifications/classifications of crime and citizenship are enacted through POL-INTEL and how the implementation of the platform affect interactions between police officers and citizens.

Francisca Grommé (Erasmus University Rotterdam): “Locating Digital Citizenship in Local Bureaucratic Practices: The Caribbean Netherlands”

How does digitalisation affect citizenship in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands? This question is relevant in response to the action programme 'Strengthening digital society' (Min. of the Int., 2022), which seeks to implement personal identification numbers to improve access to digital government services. However, digital citizenship, or the capacity to claim rights (Isin and Ruppert, 2020), requires more than online access and services. In a small community like the Caribbean Netherlands, local civil servants seem to be aware of this and mediate between citizens and the state. In this presentation I will present examples from an ethnography of local bureaucratic practice to discuss if and how local bureaucratic practices (e.g. address registration) are relevant field sites to learn about enactments of digital citizenship.

Aleksejs Ivashuk (Apatride Network)

Apatride Network is a coalition of stateless people that sees developments in digitalization as an opportunity for resolving some of the key issues faced by the stateless. Of particular interest are developments in decentralized identification built on blockchain, and their potential to revolutionize and liberalize ID documentation issuance. Unfortunately, such notions as "belonging" and identity are still under the absolute monopoly of state actors, unsurprisingly leading to mass abuse when the political landscape shifts. It would be valuable to see how developments such as in decentralized ID can help create a healthier competitive environment where people may have a plan B under circumstances of abuse of centralized authority.

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Anna Kalinina (Leuphana University): "Navigating Limited Field Access in the Study of the Russian Dissident Network"

Contemporary research into the Russian dissident network is linked to the challenges posed by restricted field access. The pervasive government control over political expression, coupled with legislative measures aimed at stifling organized dissent compels the majority of protest activities to operate clandestinely. In these conditions, researchers find themselves without comprehensive access to a physically delineated research field. With most dissident activities being organized covertly and through digital means of communication, protest groups have amassed a noticeable presence on various social media platforms. This context accentuates the methodological challenge of defining the research field, while simultaneously presenting practical questions regarding access, safety, trust, and sense-making out of disjointed and heterogenous pieces of data.

Drawing from my research on Russian dissidents in the aftermath of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, this contribution reflects upon the challenges encountered and offers potential solutions, all while addressing broader methodological dilemmas connected to the limited field access in an ethnographic study.

Vasiliki Makrygianni (Independent Researcher): "Mobile Citizenship in Digital Spaces: Migrants' Emancipatory Practices in Contested Borderscapes"

The intensification of digital practices in our worlds, lead to the emergence of new subjectivities, and spatial dynamics in urban and peripheral terrains. Drawing from Science and Technology Studies, Critical Urban Studies, Citizenship Studies, and the emerging field of Digital Geographies this presentation examines the ways contemporary versions of citizenship are being redefined through digital mobility and discusses the production of contradictory places and the enactment of antagonistic versions of citizenship. Following an intersectional and multiscalar approach, the presentation focuses on migrants' acts of disobedience, counter information, solidarity and radical care which lead to the emergence of digital-urban heterotopias that contest the intensification of border zones and racialized policies. The presentation argues that these emerging habits and materialities resulting from migrants' everyday digital practices are constitutive elements of new forms of mobile citizenship which anchor in paradoxical places across analog and digital terrains.

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Toke Møldrup Wolff (University of Copenhagen): "Securing Citizenship: The Materiality of a Contested Citizenship Status"

This presentation will explore the materiality of differentiated citizenship. More specifically, the presentation interrogates the question of how people with a precarious citizenship status perceive the significance of paperwork, documents, and certificates in facilitating their interactions with state bureaucracies and other authorities. The presentation will circulate around the tensions between ideas and ideals of collective versus individual citizenship and in doing so, the strategies that people employ to leverage social networks and sense of self in order to assert their rights and attain meaningful citizenship will be explored. As such, the presentation examines the ways in which ordinary people navigate the complexities of shifting bureaucratic realities and political systems through ethnic mobilization, political affiliations, emotional performances, and collection of physical items that contribute to the consolidation of citizenship.

Sabine Netz (Bayreuth University): "Material Citizenship as Incorporated beyond – on Analysing Citizenship from Means of Life in (Post)Colonial and Capitalist Relations"

What happens to our conceptualization of citizenship when we consider material elements? I will discuss this reviewing my empirical-philosophical ethnographic trajectory of analysing age estimations and their effects for migrants and citizens. First, analysing forensic age estimations with material semiotic tools, I conceptualized 'biorelational citizenship' to highlight that decisive identity categories like age are not simply readable from migrants' bodies but are an outcome of situated scientific practices. Second, learning from a deported migrant and agricultural worker, a cauliflower and bananas, I broadened my biorelational understanding of citizenship. Adding Marx to my material semiotic toolkit, I conceptualize citizenship as 'incorporated beyond'. This means that national citizens and body politics such as Germany have been and continue to be brought into being by incorporating (i.e., eating, embodying, forming a corporate body, black boxing), among others, (post)colonial, capitalist relations of agrifood and other means of life from beyond their 'national' bodies and borders.

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Ilia Antenucci is a Postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Digital Cultures and at the Institute for Sociology and Cultural Organizations of Leuphana University, Lüneburg, where she is part of the "Automating the Logistical City: Space, Algorithms, Speculation" project. Ilia researches the politics of (urban) digitalisation at the intersection of urban studies, STS and political theory. Recent publications include 'Infrastructures of Extraction in the Smart City Zones, Finance, and Platforms in New Town Kolkata' (International Journal of Communication, 2021) and 'Three Shades of 'Urban-Digital Citizenship': Borders, Speculation, and Logistics in Cape Town' (with Federico Tomasello, Citizenship Studies, 2022).

Kelly Bescherer (Leuphana Universität Lüneburg) is a PhD candidate in an interdisciplinary research training group, "Cultures of Critique". Her work explores identification as a site of epistemic conflict, focusing on the role of identificatory practices in Germany and the EU's politics of deportation. As part of this research, she is investigating the impacts and neocolonial dimensions of EU initiatives for digital population registration in Senegal and throughout West Africa. Kelly worked for several years in the field of immigration law prior to starting her PhD and aims to produce research in dialogue with social movements.

Salah El-Kahil is a PhD candidate at Leuphana University Lüneburg, holding bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology. He has contributed to projects centered around migration, social policy, social theory, and labor sociology. His research has investigated data and security, exploring how security agencies' practices influence national and cultural identity narratives. In 'Doing Digital Identities', Salah conducts a case study examining the social and political implications of emerging digital ID infrastructure in Germany, paying particular attention to identity wallets.

Sifka Etlar Frederiksen has a background in sociology and currently works at the German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) in Berlin where her research is focused on the participatory development and implementation of a digital tool for violence protection in refugee accommodation across seven federal states in Germany. Through this and other projects, she collaborates with diverse stakeholders active in refugee reception and accommodation from government, academia, and civil society - contributing to the German federal initiative on violence protection in refugee accommodation. Inspired by this she is working towards a PhD project on data practices and utilization of knowledge surrounding the political field of refugee accommodations.

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Vasilis Galis is an Associate Professor in the Technologies in Practice (TIP) group at the IT University of Copenhagen. His research on the digitalisation of the welfare state, and on law enforcement, is informed by STS and qualitative methods. Galis is the Principal Investigator of Welfare after Digitalisation (funded by the Velux foundation in Denmark) and Critical Understanding of Predictive Policing (funded by Nordforsk). Galis has published in leading international journals including Political Geography, Science, Technology and Human Values, Science as Culture, Social Media + Society, Social Movement Studies. Galis' research is interdisciplinary and is impregnated by a strong epistemological solidarity with social movements.

Francisca Grommé is assistant professor in the Digitalisation in Work and Society programme at the Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). She works from a background in science and technology studies (STS), political science and digital sociology. She currently does research on platform work, health care and agrifood. In these projects, she is interested in what comes to count as 'good knowledge' for governance, who decides on this, and how this changes power relations between citizens and the state and between professions.

Amanda Hammar is Professor of African Studies at the Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen. She is also President of AEGIS, the European African Studies Association (2019 to the present). She currently leads CERTIZENS (Certifications of Citizenship in Africa), a large multi-layered collaborative research project exploring the forms and implications of changing national identification (ID) regimes, together with colleagues in Ghana and Uganda. Her research and publications over time have addressed questions of agrarian change, the Zimbabwe crisis, political economies of displacement, urban politics and resettlement and ideas of classification and difference, almost always including aspects of state making and citizen making. She is Zimbabwean but with strong trans-African sensibilities, and considers herself a critical African Studies activist.

Sindhunata Hargyono is a postdoctoral researcher in the DigID project. He has successfully defended his Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at Northwestern University in August 2023. His PhD-research has explored the work of state power at the margin, with his latest project focusing on the political intersection between aesthetics and infrastructure in the context of Indonesian border infrastructure development. His research interests lie in the epistemology of state rule, infrastructure politics, and citizenship. He will contribute to the DigID project with ethnographic research about the introduction of digital statist identity in Indonesia, especially how it produces a new landscape of difference in the experience of citizenship.

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Aleksejs Ivashuk is the Founder of Apatride Network, a coalition of stateless individuals, communities and stateless-led organisations working on addressing statelessness in the EU. He is also an associate member of ENS, Co-Lead of Global Movement Against Statelessness, and serves on UNHCR's Advisory Board of Organisations led by the forcibly displaced. Previously, Aleksejs worked for Thomson Reuters, IPSA International, the Green Party of Canada, the U.S. Senate, and was actively involved with the Canadian Red Cross in its First Response and Disaster Management programs. He holds a Political Science MA from Simon Fraser University, Canada. Aleksejs published on the topic of statelessness with Oxford's FMR and Swiss Refugee Council.

Mheadeen Kadora is a former stateless person who is living in Germany since 2015. Mheadeen cooperates individually with different organisations to share and raise awareness. As an informatics engineer with a M.Sc. in internet technology and information systems, Mheadeen has an interest in digital ID projects.

Anna Kalinina is a PhD candidate and scholarship holder at the Institute of Sociology and Cultural Organization at Leuphana University. Her ongoing dissertation titled "The Dissident Network: Self-made Civil Structures, Organizational Practices and Contention in Russian Dissident Networks" focuses on the contentious practices, ethics of secrecy, affinity, precarious organizing, self-organizing, and politics of action in Russia's contemporary anti-war milieu.

Jasper van der Kist is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Viadrina. Here he is working on a project called "Calculating Migration" that explores the digitalisation of asylum adjudication and its implications for refugee protection. He completed his PhD at the University of Manchester examining the politics of country of origin information (COI) in European asylum systems. He works at the intersection of critical migration studies, socio-legal studies and science and technology studies. His work has been published in International Political Sociology and Citizenship Studies.

Laura Lambert is a postdoctoral researcher in the DigID project with a focus on Sierra Leone. She holds an M.A. in Social Sciences (Humboldt University) and a PhD in Social Anthropology (Martin Luther University), which was funded by the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Based on an in-depth ethnography, Laura's PhD research examined the EU externalization of refugee protection to Niger. Among her main research interests are the remaking of European migration control and asylum policies in the

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cooperating African third states, asylum and migration bureaucracies, migrant struggles, future-making, infrastructures, and international organizations.

Vasiliki Makrygianni holds a diploma in Architecture Engineering and a PhD on Urban Planning and Regional Development where she investigated urban spaces of emancipation deriving from mobile populations' practices. She has worked in various research projects on migration, digital space, urban commons, and infrastructure and has taught both in studio and auditorium. She has researched and published on 'Urban Conflicts', 'Mobile Commons', 'Dialectics of space and accumulation by dispossession practices', 'The right to the city', 'Mobile Cyborgs' and 'Radical Digital Care'. Her primary research areas include Critical Urban Theory, Feminist Methodologies and Science and Technology Studies (STS). Currently, her research interests focus on the interconnecting fields of Urban Studies, Digital Geographies and Feminist Technoscience.

Toke Møldrup Wolff holds a Ph.D. in African Studies and is currently working as Assistant Professor at the Centre of African Studies at the University of Copenhagen. Being part of the CERTIZENS research group his work circulates around the digital infrastructures of identification regimes in Uganda where he pays specific attention to digitally designed and bureaucratically implemented forms of exclusion. He has a particular interest in the history of population data systems including the ways in which these have affected the multi-faceted relationship between citizens and states.

Sabine Netz is a social and cultural anthropologist (University of Bayreuth, Germany). In her PhD thesis, she analysed age estimations as an example of migrant categorization practices in the European citizenship and migration regime. She argued that migrant categorization practices and their effects are important for enacting national citizenship both as a powerful ideal and fiction. She is interested in citizenship and migrant enactments, global commodity chains, (post)colonial and capitalist histories and presents, and thinking with human and non-human migrant movements about more just ways of distributing access to the global web of life.

Oisín O'Brien is a PhD candidate at Leuphana University of Lüneburg. He holds a master's degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam, where he specialised in visual anthropology. During his master's he completed his first ethnographic film titled "The White Ship" which focused on national heritage problems and architectural symbolism in Tallinn, Estonia. His research interests include post-soviet urban space, national division, and digital societies. Within this project, Oisín will explore the integration of digital

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identification into the everyday lives of Estonians and how digital ID schemes are designed as trusted services to guarantee their widespread use in Estonia.

Evelyn Ruppert is Professor Emerita in the Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London. Her research focuses on how digital technologies such as smart phones, social media platforms, as well as myriad government databases generate enormous volumes of data about the movements, preferences, associations, and activities of people. While providing new sources of knowledge about individuals and populations, she investigates how digital technologies and the data they generate can also powerfully shape and have consequences for who we are and how we are known and governed. As such, digital technologies are also changing how we understand ourselves as political subjects, that is, citizens with rights to speech, access, and privacy. How citizens make claims to digital rights through what they say and what they do through digital technologies are key questions that she addresses. Evelyn was Principal Investigator of a five-year European Research Council funded project, *Peopling Europe: How Data Make a People* (ARITHMUS; 2014-19). Recent books are all Open Access: *Data Practices: Making up a European People* (co-edited with Stephan Scheel); *Being Digital Citizens* (2015; 2020; co-authored with Engin Isin); *Data Politics: Worlds, Subjects, Rights* (2019; co-edited with Didier Bigo and Engin Isin); and *Modes of Knowing* (2016; co-edited with John Law).

Stephan Scheel works as a Professor of Political Sociology at the Leuphana University of Lüneburg and is the Principal Investigator of the ERC-project 'DigID – Doing Digital Identities'. In general, Stephan's research interests lie at the intersection of critical border, migration and security studies as well as citizenship and science and technology studies. In context of the DigID-project, Stephan will be responsible for the country case study of Malawi where he will study the implications of a large-scale registration campaign, which was conducted by the government in 2017, for citizen-state relations.

Katharina Schramm is Professor and Chair for Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, where she is also a member of the "Africa Multiple" Cluster of Excellence. She is facilitating the research group "Anthropology of Global Inequalities" which is invested in a critical public anthropology at the interface of Science & Technology Studies (STS) and political anthropology. Her own work focuses on race as an unruly object in political and scientific practice.