The unsmart application of smart border control technologies

Prof. i.K. Dr. rer. soc. Bastian A. Vollmer (Catholic University of Applied Science Mainz)

How do border security practitioners engage with data and technology? What are the consequences and implications of such new investments into border security? The example of the UK is particularly interesting because governments have invested high efforts into constructing a more stringent, efficient and secure UK border for decades. The notion of e-Borders in the UK context represents an assemblage comprising abstract conditions, concrete objects, and agents whose roles often manifest themselves through perceptions and practices. Drawing upon a variety of empirical data, I will exemplify how the e-Border assemblage are constructed, but also discontinuities and frictions are included in this datafied phenomena of border control. Apart from being never entirely coherent, and always being re-made, this representation of UK borders also has an impact of public perceptions and discourses.