

Presenter: Hille Koskela

Title: Surveillance plays and games

Surveillance has become inconspicuous. People are increasingly exposed to it, but simultaneously almost anyone can participate in the production of surveillance. As of surveillance has become dispersed, decentralized and overlapping, it also extend beyond the control of formal organizations. People are no longer simply targeted by surveillance, but resist or play with surveillance. They are fascinated by surveillance dynamics that extend beyond issues of social control. The multiplication of surveillant agents has accentuated the point that surveillance is not necessarily restricting and repressive. Foucauldian 'internalisation of discipline' is replaced with – or at least accompanied by – creative empowering ways of being un-disciplined. Amateur uses of surveillance range from random witnessing to organized forms of political resistance. People also willingly subject themselves to a camera's gaze, turning surveillance into spectacle. Further, people conduct monitoring by using surveillance equipment in game-like settings. Surveillance has many different game-like functions yet to be discovered.

Hille Koskela is a Professor of Human Geography at the Division of Geography in University of Turku, Finland. She has conducted research on video surveillance and the politics of control, gender relations in surveillance practices, the emotional experience of being watched and the responsabilization of the public to contribute in surveillance via online webcams. Her current research focuses on the public and private policing in Sub-Saharan Africa. She published articles in a wide range of multidisciplinary journals – such as *Surveillance and Society*, *Crime Media Culture* and *Theoretical Criminology* - and contributed in several international anthologies.

Link to publications:

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