Presenter: Susanne Wigorts Yngvesson

Title: “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall” – Self-images and Objectification

The perception of surveillance is dominated by vision, but the identification of surveillance or sousveillance are not depending on technology alone. The recognition of surveillance is also a question about the “intention” of the “gaze”. To be watched can mean to watch over, i.e. taking care of someone. It can also mean to watch for something particular, an irregularity in relation to a normative behavior or appearance. In this talk Wigorts Yngvesson uses her own gaze and narrative to experience her self-image as well as who she becomes in other people’s gazes, and also in relation to the memory about herself as image. Through other peoples’ gazes she becomes something more and something else than she could experience on her own. To watch is to construct identities and to have the power to liberate or objectify “the other” and ourselves.

Susanne Wigorts Yngvesson is Associate Professor in Ethics and lecturer at Stockholm School of Theology (Ethics, Philosophy and Human Rights). Since a few years, one of her research fields is surveillance. For the moment she is in the beginning of a project about Surveillance and Religion. Together with Eric Stoddart, St Andrews University, she has started an international network for these issues: http://ericstoddart.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/surveillance-religion-network/