



# NIAS

Netherlands Institute  
for Advanced Study  
in the Humanities  
and Social Sciences

## Re-imagining Security Labour Workshop

June 10, 2024 / NIAS / Amsterdam

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This international workshop at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS) on *Re-imagining Security Labour* will explore the significance and global expansion of the security industry. Through interdisciplinary, hybrid, academic, and creative conversations, we will focus on security tasks, infrastructures, and narratives, with special attention to security laborers. This workshop responds to the problem that security and its everyday practices are not analysed frequently enough through the conceptual framework of labour. Similarly, labour is rarely seen as a means through which notions and understandings of (in)security are reproduced. Accordingly, we seek to emphasize how workers themselves are prime conduits through which to view the inner workings of security regimes, and the way they affect the people who carry it out. The core aim of this workshop is to bring together conceptual discussions in the fields of security and labour to foreground and better understand their complex entanglements. We propose that viewing security as a form of labour and viewing certain kinds of labour as a form of security, can provide new insights. This framework can elucidate the ways security regimes are produced, the mechanisms by which they are maintained, and the everyday tasks required to diffuse them widely throughout society. We are concerned with the ways that workers, consumers, and the public become complicit in maintaining these regimes, as well as the impact that security industries have on the lives of their employees. In addition to academic pieces and essays, we welcome creative interventions and imaginative approaches to understanding security and labour. This workshop is the start of a series of sessions that will culminate in a multi-authored edited volume on 'Re-imagining Security Labour'.

The workshop is organized by the Re-imagining Security Labour [Theme Group](#) currently based at NIAS. The members of this group are Ed Schwarzschild, Tessa Diphorn, Erella Grassiani, and Winifred Poster.



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## PROGRAMME

- 10:00-10:30 Walk-in and welcome
- 10:30-11:30 KEYNOTE: 'Transforming security labour from the margins. Indigenous organizations in Canada and Brazil'
- Speakers: Susana Durão (University of Campinas, São Paulo) & Beatrice Jauregui (University of Toronto)
- Discussant: Tessa Diphooorn (Utrecht University)
- Chair: Ed Schwarzschild (University at Albany, State University of New York)
- 11:45-13:15 PANEL 1: SECURITY ACTORS: ACCIDENTAL, UNEXPECTED AND RELUCTANT
- Speakers: 'On Reluctant Security Actors', Marieke de Goede (University of Amsterdam)
- 'In the Shadows: The Drafting of Men experiencing Houselessness into Security Labour and the Reinforcement of (In)security Imaginaries', Luisa Schneider (VU University)
- 'Reimagining security labour as interspecies care', Rivke Jaffe (University of Amsterdam)
- 'The Tree as Weapon: (Non)State Securitization of Trees in the Negev/Naqab', Erella Grassiani (University of Amsterdam)
- Chair: Tessa Diphooorn (Utrecht University)
- 13:15-14:00 LUNCH**
- 14:00-15:30 PANEL 2: SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURES: DIGITAL AND MATERIAL
- Speakers: 'Security Labour of Managing Digital Bodies: Women's Techno-Affective Work for the State,' Winifred Poster (Labour Tech Research Network)
- 'Digital Vigilantes: The Changing Labour of Informers in Mathare through Smartphone Technology', Naomi van Stapele (The Hague University of Applied Sciences)



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'Urban Forms and Security Infrastructures in an Urban Kampung of Jakarta', Zaki Arrobi (Utrecht University)

'Labour and Automation in the History of Automated License Plate Recognition', Gabriel Pereira (University of Amsterdam)

Chair: Erella Grassiani (University of Amsterdam)

15:45-17:00

## PANEL 3: VISUALISING SECURITY LABOUR

Speakers: 'Re/imagining Security through Artistic and Curatorial Practice', Rosa Wevers (Hanzehogeschool Groningen)

'Job/Security: Voices of and Views into the Expanding American Security Enterprise', Danny Goodwin & Ed Schwarzschild, (University of Albany, State University of New York)

'On the production of narratives, visuals, imaginaries: possibilities and challenges of visualethnographic narratives on policing and security labour', Monica Weissensteiner (University of Trento)

Chair: Winifred Poster (Labour Tech Research Network)

17:00 Closing remarks, Winifred Poster (Labour Tech Research Network)

17:30 Drinks