

GER 403 | EAS 403 Studies in Comparative Surveillance

Surveillance has long provoked a wide range of social responses, from the uncritical embrace of a promised security to the rejection of its threats to civil liberties. Why can some countries impose such social control while others cannot? Does this dynamic change when the monitoring is instead trans-national, be it in the form of more systemic logics of "surveillance capitalism" or of the new global tracking imperatives provoked by the current pandemic? This team-taught inter-disciplinary seminar in critical surveillance studies will examine the complex cultural, theoretical, political and techno-historical dimensions of both old and new forms of social control in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

Prerequisites: Open to both advanced undergraduates and graduate students from all departments. While previous coursework or background in media and cultural theory and/ or history would be welcome, it is not required.

GER 403 / EAS 403 Fall 2021

Instructors: Thomas Levin Steven Chung

T 1:30 – 4:20 pm

Taught in English



