

## Regimes of Mobility Control: Practices and Promises

Processes of circulation and transport depend on regulation and control. Mobilities of people, things, data, and energy are registered, monitored, and operated, guaranteed by various institutions, border architectures, and control rooms. Control regimes have historically developed in different ways and are accompanied by manifold, sometimes contradictory promises and fears, the complex infrastructural web of which the conference wants to analyze. It brings together researchers from science and technology studies, history, sociology, criminology, urban studies, and media culture studies to provide a comparative perspective on the regulation of mobilities in and beyond the control room.

The conference takes a twofold approach to the question of control: on the one hand, it connects to studies on control room practices and "centers of coordination" (Suchman), which emphasize the technical mediation of cooperation processes. On the other hand, following Deleuze (1992), it accentuates questions of the management and surveillance of traffic flows and incorporates considerations of urban geography, critical security studies, and media studies to analyze in particular the role of information technologies for processes of regulation.

The conference thus focuses on the practices and promises of infrastructures of mobility control: How can the materiality and organization of control spaces be thought together with imaginaries of ordering flows of people, goods, and information? What media are used to construct, disseminate, and deploy private or public authority? How do the histories, path dependencies, and temporalities of complex transportation infrastructures contrast and intersect? The aim is to connect the empirical with the semantic, to understand the socio-technical as cultural and discursive, and to identify which cultural techniques and forms of distributed action determine control (room) work.

## Hosted by:

CRC 1482 "Studies in Human Categorization"  
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz  
Research Project "Urban Regimes of Control"  
Media and Culture Studies



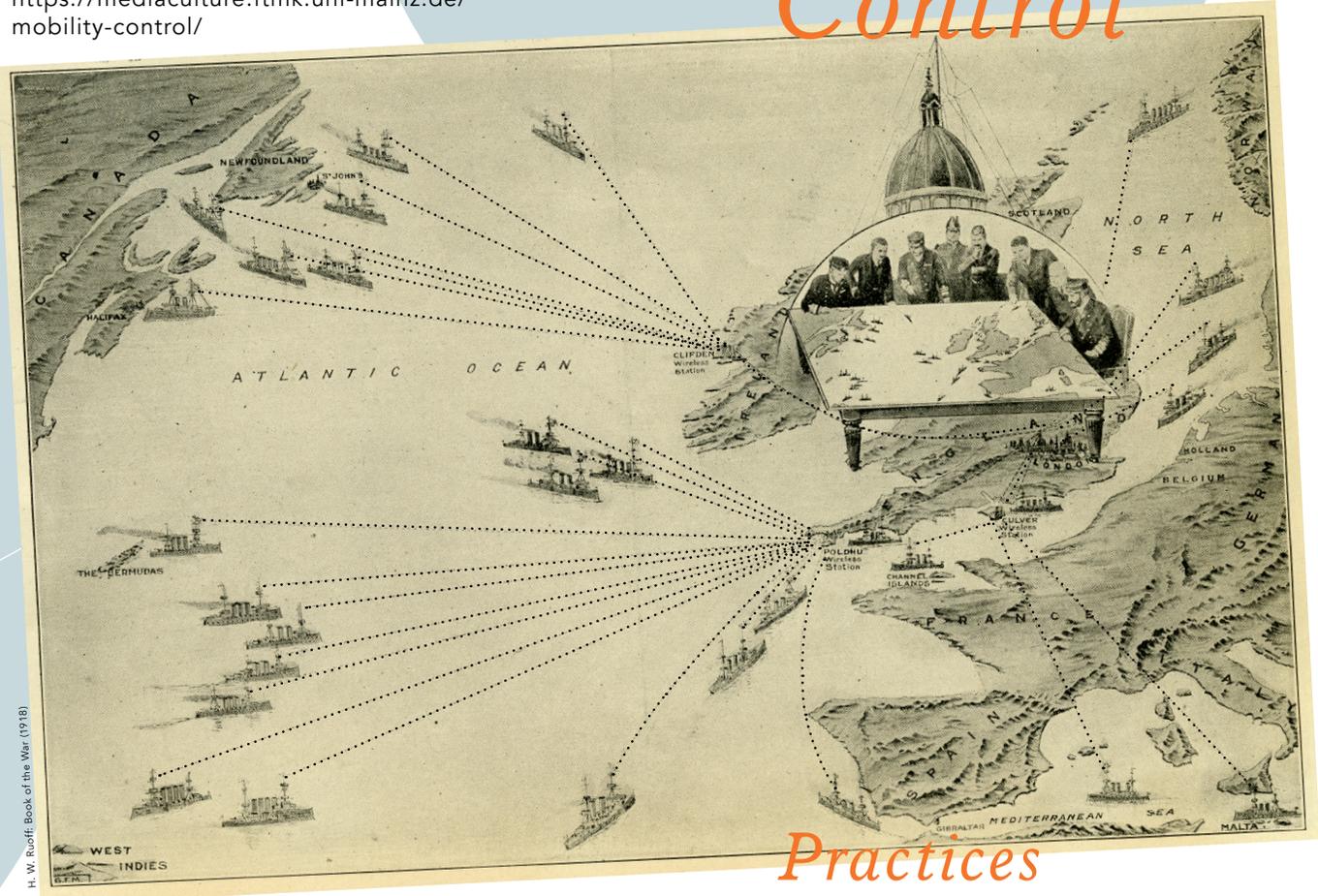
## Contact:

<https://mediaculture.ftmk.uni-mainz.de/mobility-control/>

international conference

May 25-26, 2023

# Regimes of Mobility Control



H. W. Ruff: Book of the War (1918)

## Organizers:

Gabriele Schabacher  
Asher Boersma  
Tom Ullrich  
Sophie Spallinger

## Practices & Promises

Helmholtz Institute Mainz (HIM)  
Staudingerweg 18, 55128 Mainz

# Program

**Thursday, 25th of May 2023**

13:00 – 13:30

Gabriele Schabacher (Mainz),  
Asher Boersma (Konstanz):  
Introduction

## MONITORING MOVEMENTS

13:30 – 14:30

Veronika Nagy (Utrecht):  
Late Modern Surveillance in Europe: Self-censorship in a Digital Asylum

14:30 – 15:00

Coffee Break

15:00 – 16:00

Willem Schinkel, Rogier van Reekum (Rotterdam):  
Accounting for Migration

16:00 – 17:00

Christina Reimann (Stockholm):  
Public discourses on mobility control? Newspapers and the making of public opinion about migration to and through the port cities of Antwerp and Rotterdam in the early twentieth century

17:00 – 17:30

Coffee Break

## OPERATING CONTROL ROOMS

17:30 – 18:30

Diane Vaughan (New York):  
Boundaries, Boundary Work and Repair: Resilience and Institutional Persistence in Challenging Times. The Case of Air Traffic Control

18:30 – 19:30

Asher Boersma (Konstanz):  
Tracking Santa and Sinterklaas: Operators, Folklore, and the Pedagogy of the All-knowing Center

**Friday, 26th of May 2023**

## ADMINISTERING CIRCULATIONS

9:30 – 10:30

Tom Ullrich (Mainz):  
"Regulation Mania": Rail Traffic and Station Control around 1850

10:30 – 11:30

Marta Macedo (Lisbon):  
Control on the ground and from afar: plantation written records across the Atlantic

11:30 – 12:30

Lunch Break

## IMAGINING FUTURE CONTROLLABILITIES

12:30 – 13:30

Sebastian Vehlken (Oldenburg):  
Virtual Ship-Bridges and Digital Dockyards: Digital Twins as Maritime Training and Construction Environments

13:30 – 14:30

Claudio Coletta (Bologna):  
The Moving of the World on Fire. A New Sensitiveness for the Circulation of Climate Objects and their "Control Rooms"

14:30 – 15:00

Closing Discussion