

Boersma, S., M. Hertoghs, R. van Reekum, W. Schinkel, & J. Bier (2015) Visualising society. Monitoring practices in migration policy and climate science. Paper Session at the Netherlands Graduate Research School of Science, Technology, and Modern Culture (WTMC) Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, 20 November.

This session focuses on the sociological study of institutions that contribute to forms of *social imagination*. Social imagination consists of representations (in the form of definitions, attributions, pictures, statistics, charts, graphs, etc.) that claim to describe (parts of) 'society'. In recent decades, such institutions (from regulatory bodies to auditing institutions and regimes of supervision, from monitoring agencies to surveillance apparatuses) have proliferated. The underlying idea of this session is that a lot can be learned about social life when the institutions it brings forth to observe that social life are observed sociologically. Its cases are drawn from the monitoring of migrants and migration processes, and the monitoring of climate change. One paper deals with the ways the EU attempts to monitor 'irregular migration'. Another paper discusses the ways European nation-states such as the Netherlands and Germany attempt to visualize the degree of 'integration' of immigrants. And a third paper zooms in on the work of comparison that renders the monitoring of climate change possible.

***Draft text not for citation or circulation ***