



Welfare, crime and society

Migration: the risks of surveillance

VOICEOVER COMMENTARY

A range of surveillance technologies and practices are being used to police external and internal borders. Sometimes legitimated by state security and crime control concerns, border control measures both watch over and watch out for migrants.

RAMON CORTES (SPANISH SPOKEN)

Every country has to keep controlling the borders because we need to know who is inside and who is outside. For example, if we know who is inside – even they are illegal – we know how many people there are and what services and welfare are necessary. If a national citizen is monitored through the census, health service records etc., it needs to be the same for foreign nationals.

LIZA SCHUSTER

The dangers of trying to control and monitor migrant populations are twofold. One is the danger with trying to control and monitor any population. What's this surveillance going to be used to do? Another difficulty is that it does tend to legitimate, if it's applied to a particular population, fears or worries or prejudices surrounding that particular population. If that group are being monitored or controlled, there must be a reason. Are they potential terrorists? Are they criminals? Are they traffickers? So it legitimates and creates a distinction between 'us' and 'them'.

SALIF (Spanish Spoken)

I feel I am a citizen of the world, I do not understand about borders. For me borders do not exist because universe is everyone's and I have my place in it, so I do not wait for permission to move around. I do it as being one more part of that universe and I move around with no curb nor frontier for me. I do not believe in those things. Those are barriers created to oppress people.