



PRESS RELEASE

Surveillance Blind

Exhibition and Accompanying Film Series Address Different Approaches to Privacy

September 14 – December 3, 2015

Goethe-Institut Washington
812 7th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

www.goethe.de/washington

Download Dropbox images [here](#).

(Washington, DC, September 10, 2015) – Transatlantic relations include a widely-held belief that privacy is a common Western value. But, as the tensions surrounding the so-called NSA-Scandal have revealed, that conviction can become a source of misunderstanding when dramatically different approaches to privacy come into conflict. ***Surveillance Blind***, an exhibition (September 17 – December 3) and accompanying film program (September 14 – 28) focusing on the demarcation of privacy and surveillance, explores this complex field. With this program, the Goethe-Institut aims to contribute to a better understanding of what privacy means within the context of social and political ideals among western democracies.

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Exhibition Opening: Surveillance Blind

Thursday, September 17, 6 – 9 pm

6 – 8 pm Discussion with artists Annie Laurie Erickson, John Vigg, Simon Menner, and Nate Larson

8 – 9 pm Reception

RSVP at

www.goetheinstitutwashington.eventbrite.com



Geolocation: Worth the Wait, 2011
© Nate Larson & Marín Shindelman

As technology has evolved, so have our fundamental ways of understanding the world. Data and information flows around us and is used to track our consumer habits, shape our identities, and mediate our relationships to our nation states. We are more connected than ever through online platforms and digital devices, and simultaneously the “data shadows” that we create reveal more about us to the world than we realize. Who controls and makes use of the information generated by our sharing society is a question being challenged and contested worldwide. The artists in this exhibition investigate the paradox of these connections, probing our relationship to data collection and interpretation.

Annie Laurie Erickson (New Orleans, Louisiana, USA) photographs server farms and other physical infrastructure that make the cloud possible.

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Nate Larson (Baltimore, Maryland, USA) and **Marni Shindelman** (Athens, Georgia, USA) collaboratively collect publicly available embedded GPS information in Twitter updates to track the locations of user posts and make photographs to mark the location in the real world.



© Jens Sundheim, RAI Congrescentrum Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2014

Simon Menner (Berlin, Germany) spent two years recovering the archive of the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Archives of the former German Democratic Republic (BStU) and reshapes it to reveal the underlying structures of control.

Jens Sundheim (Dortmund, Germany) extensively researches security cameras that have a public feed and then travels to those locations to record an imprint of the artist in the technological eye.

John Vigg (Asbury Park, New Jersey, USA) uses homemade drone technology and appropriated satellite images to map the remote area Pine Barrens region of southern New Jersey.

Curated by Nate Larson

Gallery hours: M-Th 9-5; F 9-3

Film Series: Surveillance Blind **September 14 - 28, 2015**

What are the consequences of uncovering stories government or industry would rather not have revealed to the public? The documentary and feature films in this series explore this issue from different perspectives. They illustrate the risks assumed by whistleblowers and investigative journalists, and the potential ramifications their families face.

Monday, September 14, 6:30 pm **The Lies of the Victors (Die Lügen der Sieger)**

Germany, 2014, 112 min., Director: Christoph Hochhäusler

Director Christoph Hochhäusler will participate via Skype in a discussion following the screening.



The Lies of the Victors © Martin Wenke

Renowned journalist Fabian Groys is working at a political news magazine, researching a politically-charged story about dubious government policies concerning the disabled in the army. The case of a veteran committing suicide leads him to a new story about toxic waste, which seems to be somehow connected. When he starts receiving anonymous threats, Groys realizes that some politicians and business leaders are trying to stop him from uncovering the story.

Christoph Hochhäusler (b. 1972) is a German film director and screenwriter. His film *The Lies of the Victors* premiered at the Film Festival Rome in 2014. The script to the movie was co-written by Hochhäusler and the psychologist and writer Ulrich Peltzer. Tickets \$7/\$4 at www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe

Monday, September 21, 6:30 pm

The Family (Die Familie)

Germany, 2013, 92 min., Director: Stefan Weinert

Director Stefan Weinert will be present for a discussion following the screening.

"A two-year suspended sentence for firing the fatal shot. Imagine that." Even today, more than a quarter of a century after the collapse of East Germany, family members of those shot along the Berlin Wall continue to suffer the trauma of their loss. This documentary contrasts the statements of those affected with parallel entries in the Stasi files - formulated in a cold, bureaucratic German - and shows how the two sides collide.

Stefan Weinert (b. 1964) is a German actor, director and producer. *The Family* is Weinert's second documentary about the GDR dictatorship. It premiered at the Montreal World Film Festival and won the 2014 Cinema for Peace Award.

In cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Reception follows the screening.

No charge. RSVP at www.goetheinstitutwashington.eventbrite.com

Monday, September 28, 6:30 pm

Silenced

United States, 2014, 102 min., Director: James Spione

Director James Spione will be present for a discussion following the screening.

In this documentary, three former American federal employees share their experiences of the consequences they faced for whistleblowing in the age of the War on Terror. Justice Department lawyer Jesselyn Radack and former CIA analyst John Kiriakou, both of whom denounced the torture methods used in the US army's and the CIA's interrogations, along with former agent Thomas Drake, who made the NSA's illegal recordings public, have faced job loss, legal battles, and prosecution for speaking out about what they believed was unethical.

James Spione is an Oscar-nominated director, producer and writer of documentary and fiction films. His short documentary *Incident in New Baghdad* (2011) was nominated in the category Best Documentary Short Subject at the 2012 Oscars.

Tickets \$7/\$4 at www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe

Made possible with support from Friends of the Goethe-Institut.

About the Goethe-Institut:

Mutual understanding among nations by promoting international cultural dialogue: this is the ambitious mission of the Goethe-Institut. On behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, cultural institutes around the world provide cultural programs, language courses, support to educators, and up-to-date information on Germany in the context of Europe.

Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language. From its location in the lively Downtown, the Goethe-Institut Washington reaches out to both individuals and organizations in the community, bridging the past, present, and future with a variety of high-quality events.

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