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The New Media of Securitization

This panel considers recent problematizations of what Michel Foucault has described as “security societies”—governance through multiple programs for administering the health and welfare of individuals and populations. The panel is particularly interested in the contradictions of enacting a security society in the U.S. in the current historical conjuncture. The three papers comprising the panel address various, though intersecting, programs and contradictions of securitization. Each paper underscores the importance of rethinking the typical practices and objects of media research (of what Media Studies understands as “media”), in part by asking how securitization and security societies call forth, refine, and are problematized by certain technologies and networks of government, such as information technology systems within administrative bureaus, “social networking” technologies, and the resources for personal financial management available through the television-web nexus.