Data migrations and migrations of data: how biometrics, the digital identity industry, and infrastructures shape migration policies

This open session invites scholars from all SHS fields (STS, history, sociology, anthropology) to share works on the biometric industry and infrastructures, and the role of data in management and control of flux and life of migrant populations. The session invites people working around European – especially Luxembourguish and the Greater Region – and all the postcolonial fieldwork (Africa, Asia, Caribbean). Focusing especially on the period between 1950 and 2000 when computers and information systems started occupying a central role in public administration and population management, the session aims to address the shift in migration policies and practices after their digitalisation, privatisation, and industrialisation.

- How have computers, the availability of data, IT migrants lists, the rise of biometrics and the digital identity industry shaped public management of migrations and border pratices ?
- How is the industry reshaping the States identification practices?
- How does personal data migrate between different public administrations and between countries for border control ?

If you are interested, please send a proposal to passantic@gmail.com by 23 March 2025, including a 150-word abstract as well as your name, title, affiliation, and e-mail address.