CALL FOR PAPERS
Workshop at the 10th Annual IMISCOE Conference
“Transformations of border control: The politics of (im)mobility in times of crisis”

We are currently accepting abstracts for our proposed workshop “Transformations of border control: The politics of (im)mobility in times of crisis”, to be organised across three workshop sessions at the 10th Annual IMISCOE Conference, 26-27 August, 2013.

The proposed IMISCOE three-session workshop will focus on the border itself as a locus of control, the control of border crossings (whether at the border or elsewhere) and recent transformations of border control, analysing these issues in the context of a perceived “crisis” of irregular immigration in comparison with the realities on the ground.

In doing so, the workshop will probe into the various contradictions of contemporary border management, including the contradiction between the stated objective to facilitate “legitimate travel” versus the objective to maintain absolute control about in- and, to a lesser extent, outflows; the contradictions emerging from the increasing shift towards risk analysis based and random selective control philosophies and the persistence of traditional control logics; and the contradictions emerging from the increasing use of human rights language by control actors and the exclusion of important aspects of control from the applicability of (enforceable) human rights.

A second line of enquiry will focus on new and emerging modes of border control, often linked to technologies of surveillance and large-scale ICT based systems and technological fantasies suggesting that technological solutions will help to overcome inherent contradictions of border control and surveillance.

A third line of enquiry will focus on the wide range of pre-border controls established to filter out “undesirable aliens” from “bona fide” travellers before actually reaching the physical border.

Submissions from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and theoretical perspectives are encouraged.

Please send paper abstracts of 300 words or less (along with name, contact information and affiliation) to the workshop organisers Albert Kraler (Albert.Kraler@icmpd.org), Maegan Hendow (Maegan.Hendow@icmpd.org) and Ferruccio Pastore (Ferruccio.Pastore@fieri.it) by 15 May, 2013. Selected panellists will also be eligible for funding for travel to the conference; if such funding is needed, please also send a brief reasoning for the request.

Selected panellists will be informed of the selection decision by 7 June 2013 at the latest, and expected to submit their full paper by 15 August, 2013.