

**Friction in a mobile world: Transmigrants, contested citizenship and human in/security  
– Panel 6: Contested citizenship in urban spaces**

**Title: Citizenship, participation, representation: the entanglement of infrastructures of care and control in urban spaces**

**Lieke van der Veer.** Department of Anthropology and Development Studies: Radboud University Nijmegen.\*

The paper centres on the observation that non-state individuals are increasingly in a position from which they may facilitate or instead hinder access to formal and informal infrastructures of reception. These individuals characteristically are ‘people among the people’, meaning that their role and status differs from street-level bureaucrats – the latter professionally operating as government actors in enforcing, contesting or cushioning migration policies. Instead, the non-state individuals that this paper attends to, are said to act as ‘brokers’. So-called brokers may develop their own initiatives - for example in (re)distributing resources and creating opportunities for particular publics towards increased social security – or instead respond to invitations by the local authorities to act as representatives of publics they are assumed to speak for. What will be explored in this paper, are the assumptions concerning such representations of publics as they are shaped in the city in relation to citizenship interpreted in a broader sense. Attention will be drawn to the imaginaries of citizenship that authorize a supposed broker to act, and vice versa, to the particular imaginaries of citizenship as well as of the state that a broker may promote. The often romanticized picture of brokers - who embody unproven dreams of bridging alleged gaps – will be problematized by the observation that boundaries of premised publics can instead be (re)inforced and that new boundaries can emerge by virtue of brokerage. Specifically, it will be asked how brokers that engage with issues of reception, interconnect what will be analysed as ‘infrastructures of care’ and ‘infrastructures of control’. In attending to the intertwinement of these infrastructures, the analysis moves beyond participation as discursive claim-making, and attends to the material configuration of participation in the city. Similar to the increasing attention to ways in which humanitarianism and securitization materialize in entanglement, it will be argued that the lens of brokerage as ethnographic starting point sheds new light on boundary making in relation to citizenship and challenges (state-centred perspectives to) representation. As such, it brings discussions of the changing nature of borders – e.g. in terms of privatization, localization, temporalization, fragmentation and differential inclusion – as well as the problems that undercut representation to the city.

*\* Lieke van der Veer (1989) is a PhD candidate working in an ERC funded research project on participatory urban governance and its implications for citizenship, representation and decision making. She holds two master's degrees from the University of Amsterdam, graduating cum laude in Conflict Resolution and Governance (2014), and graduating in Philosophy (2016) afterwards. The topics of her master theses include refugee-support and -*

*protest on the ground and the securitization of illegal residence. Lieke also graduated cum laude in her Philosophy bachelors (2013). As a research employee at the University of Amsterdam, she participated in research projects on non-deportable asylum seekers (2015) and the materiality of border infrastructures of care and control (2017).*