Introduction

Whistleblowing, the Snowden affair, the Chinese Social Credit System, *Black Mirror*, prison designs, the newly introduced Police Law in North-Rhine Westphalia or even Google as an unregulated data giant all have something to add to our understanding of transparency. Transparency is a concept that has been approached by surveillance theory and studies on privacy since the emergence of the field along with Bentham's development of the Panopticon[1]. By establishing a framework where surveillance is regarded as an omnipresent disciplinary tool, Bentham, together with Foucault's ensuing re-appropriation of the concept, established the blueprints of a continuously evolving theory that has caught the interest of many scholars. Some, such as Deleuze, Haggerty and Ericson or Zuboff have preferred to develop their thinking by stepping away from the Panoptic logic for they reproached its statism. Most of their research is thus dedicated to emphasising the dynamics of surveillance. Most scholars, like Alrbrechtslund, Andrejevic, Jansson or Lyon, have preferred to keep, yet modify panoptic features and adapt them to their own conceptualisation of surveillance, participatory/lateral surveillance being just one example here. Therefore, their intention was to modernise the field due to the development of social media as a new, and quite powerful, means of surveillance. Indeed, the emergence of social media is what gives transparency its significant topicality. This is why, over a period of several months, eight students participating in the MaRBLe programme "Transparency in Perspective" have developed seven unique research projects, which are all linked to the major topics of surveillance and privacy. Numerous individual as well as group meetings, countless hours of intensive reading, debating and summarizing, and differing theoretical as well as practical approaches have resulted in the following seven contributions to this volume.

Maria Czabanowska examines various media framing and (de)legitimization techniques used by British newspaper editorials in relation to the NSA Snowden revelations of 2013 about the global surveillance activities of the CIA and other intelligence agencies. The study sheds light on the differences in the narratives of the newspapers based on their core political ideologies. Czabanowska sought to answer how these media outlets aimed at shaping readers' minds by either claiming that mass-surveillance interferes with people's fundamental freedoms and challenges interstate relations or by ensuring security and protectionism against external threats. Using a critical discourse analysis, the corpus used for the analysis includes ninety articles, consisting of thirty per newspaper. The frames were identified using Entman's (1993; 2005) definitions of media framing, which are then explained using the (de)legitimisation techniques by Van Leuuwen and Wodak (1999). The study links to that of Rick and Ganapini which provides another perspective on whistleblowers and surveillance transparency.

Cecilia Ivardi Ganapini and Johanna Rick provide another perspective on the subject of whistleblowing by looking at transparency from a European angle. With the global digital developments, scandals regarding the wrongdoings of national as well as international governments increasingly aroused attention. While the internet facilitated this "blowing the whistle" the parties accused of wrongdoings, particularly states, retaliate quite harshly against whistleblowers. Hence, the EU proposed a directive offering protection to such whistleblowers in April 2018. The two authors start from the question of why no earlier legislation had been proposed, considering big whistleblowing scandals such as the Snowden affair emerged already in 2013. To solve this puzzle, they researched the complex and entangled way a current topic reaches the EU policy agenda. Taking Kingdon's (year) multiple-streams model and applying

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[1] All references to authors can be found in Béat's article.

it to several legal texts and news outlets, interferences are drawn to delineate the facets and timeline of the rise of whistleblowers protection on the EU agenda.

While Ganapini's and Rick's research is dedicated to the development of EU policies that are directed against the practice of whistleblowing, Jonas Bradtke focusses on controversial counterterrorist policy in Germany. The relationship between privacy and security appears to be one of the grand dichotomies of western thought. How much privacy a citizen is willing – and should be willing – to sacrifice for the sake of privacy has been long debated. Bradtke devotes his attention to the newly introduced Police Law in North-Rhine Westphalia (PolG NRW). He employs a rather unique political science approach in the form of a taxonomy. In a careful manner, Bradtke categorises and evaluates sections of the newly introduced bill in North-Rhine Westphalia. He was concerned to know how privacy is perceived throughout the newly introduced law and whether that definition is at odds with citizens' perception of privacy. His work identifies potentially harmful activities for personal privacy within the PolG NRW and chases back shortcomings to an incomplete understanding of privacy.

A directly experienceable form of the broader phenomenon of transparency is physical surveillance. Maximilian Grönegräs examines how architecture can be employed in order to monitor humans and gain control over their behaviour. The author focusses on the architectural example of the prison, which is designed in fundamentally different ways in Germany and the United States (US). With the aim of finding out to what extent German prison architecture can serve as a model for the improvement of prison architecture in the US, the author conducts an international comparison between the two countries. He closely considers the German perspective on prison design by interviewing three architects, who either have been or still are responsible for undertaking structural changes within two different German prisons. Among the main findings of Grönegräs' research is the observation that in both Germany and the US prison architecture is primarily determined by the country's respective dominant political and societal values. While Germany attempts to reduce the architectural surveillance of prisoners and increase their chances of becoming valuable members of society, US prisons deprive inmates of the majority of their former rights as citizens and allow their exploitation as a source of cheap labour.

Just like Grönegräs, Emma Béat takes up the subject of physical surveillance by making use of a novel approach. Wishing to explore the relationship between academic writings on surveillance and elements of popular culture that concern themselves with the modern dimension of surveillance, Béat used the opportunity offered by the MaRBLe programme to illustrate such relationship in a creative and pedagogical way. To do so, she prepared an audio-guide companion to Nosedive, one of the most illustrative episodes of *Black Mirror* pertaining to surveillance theories. This episode displays what appears to be fertile ground for the illustration of surveillance theories as it unfolds in a general atmosphere where the norm is to watch, as much as being watched. Béat's paper, in the form of a written reflective note, is thus dedicated to the emphasis of this project's academic and societal relevance through the display of a thorough literature review on the field of surveillance theory, as well as the methodological logic behind the project.

A real-life example of the societal surveillance mechanism, which Béat sees in Nosedive, can be found in the Chinese Social Credit System. The system even made headlines in the West for being a "Black Mirror episode come true". Nadja Aldendorff's contribution examines this fascinating political experiment while looking at the relationship between public sentiment and modern surveillance technology. In 2014, the Chinese government launched an initiative for the construction of a Social Credit System (SCS) by 2020. Chinese citizens would be ranked and blacklisted according to their behaviour on- and offline with

the goal of improving the sincerity and behaviour of citizens. The inspiration for this research stems from the surprising fact that the majority of the Chinese public supported the initiative. Through a variety of sources, from translated government documents to tabloid articles, this paper explains the functioning of the SCS and the causes for the positive public reaction. In doing so, the study adds to our understanding of new surveillance technologies, the design processes behind the SCS as well as Chinese public opinion. Moreover, it addresses an important question in surveillance theory, namely why people at times willingly submit to certain forms of surveillance and perceive it as beneficial to society.

As the introduction of this volume has already suggested, transparency often seems to come at a cost; namely the loss of privacy and increased surveillance. Especially in the private sector, this assumption has become part of the public consciousness. "Google", as the most vivid example, is not only associated with a globally successful search engine but also carries the reputation of an unregulated data-mining giant. Therefore, it is important to examine closely such companies, their origin, growth and eventually their relationship with our data. The research by Julian Schäfer takes the Google company as a case study and, for the first time, puts its development into the larger frame of the large technical system approach developed by Thomas Hughes (year). This theoretical approach provides insights into the extraordinary significance of voluntarily provided data for Google's existence and additionally evaluates the perception of momentum which Google has acquired in the last two decades.

The authors of this volume would like to give special thanks to Prof. dr. Sally Wyatt, who has been the coordinator of this MaRBLe project. Her extensive knowledge and experience in the field of science and technology studies have enabled her to offer her students deeper insights into the fascinating topic of transparency, than any of them ever had the chance to gain before. The great chemistry and productivity this MaRBLe group was able to work with could only develop due to Wyatt's patience, kindness and interest in each student's individual ideas.