

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ORGANISED BY LUISELLA FARINOTTI,
ANNALISA PELLINO, AND FEDERICO SELVINI
SALA DEI 146, IULM UNIVERSITY, MILAN
30-31 OCTOBER 2025

Surveillance has become a defining feature of late modernity, shaping social interaction and fueling widespread anxieties—both personal and collective—concerning the precarious balance between the protection of democratic values and the erosion of civil liberties. Surveillance Studies are an exceptionally broad and varied field, and interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity have become fundamental traits. Yet, despite the diversity of approaches, scholars in this field remain connected by a shared set of core concerns, which revolve around the restriction of individual freedom on the one hand, and the broader social effects on the other, both resulting from the spread of a complex and constantly evolving technological infrastructure. Out of these tensions arises a cultural space of negotiation, in which competing—and frequently contradictory—conceptions of politics, identity, and ethics are debated and re-envisioned, producing what J. MacGregor Wise has termed the “surveillant imaginary”, emphasising the reciprocal relationship between cultural dynamic and the socio-technological transformations driven by surveillance. In this context, cultural texts and media artifacts emerge as key objects of investigation, as

they influence not only our understanding but also everyday behaviors and social interactions. Surveillance studies examine how these works inform and shape perceptions of surveillance, analysing the ways control is portrayed, internalised, and lived. In particular, audiovisual media and artistic practices play an essential role in interrogating and interpreting the forms of control and disciplinary power offering powerful conceptual tools—whether by exposing dystopian visions and critical perspectives or by imagining speculative worlds and alternative possibilities. The conference aims to investigate how surveillance has been represented, mediated, and contested within the landscape of Italian audiovisual culture. It hosts scholars, artists and researchers that engage with cinema, crime and detection TV series, video art, and contemporary art practices, focusing on issues like predictive control, extrajudicial monitoring, labour surveillance, interspecificity, borders, gender, and fashion. The keynote speeches will delve into fundamental ethical and political aspects—such as cinema as a privileged site for articulating the practices and imaginaries of surveillance, the reconfiguration of human agency under data-intensive surveillance, and the emergence of a “neoliberal ear” shaped by sound-based surveillance systems—thereby providing a crucial framework for analysing the contemporary transformations of surveillance and control systems and their related counter-practices.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Simone Arcagni, Matteo Bittanti, Laura Cesaro, Miriam De Rosa, Luisella Farinotti, Chiara Grizzaffi, Andrea Miconi, Annalisa Pellino, Federico Selvini, Deborah Toschi.

Image: Irene Fenara, *Supervision*, 2024.
Courtesy of the artist and Galleria ZERO.

SURVEILLANCE AND

CONTROL 30-31
OCTOBER
2025



IN ITALIAN AUDIOVISUAL CULTURE

THURSDAY 30
OCT 2025

14.00

Institutional
greetings

14.30

Keynote
Sébastien Lefait
Université Aix-Marseille.
Truth, Lies, and CCTV: The Evolution of the Surveillance Imaginary in a Post-Veridical World

15.00

Roundtable
Sébastien Lefait
Université Aix-Marseille
in conversation with
Alessia Cervini
Università degli Studi
di Palermo and
Emiliano Morreale
“Sapienza”
Università di Roma

16.00

Coffee break

16.30

Panel
**Screening Surveillance,
and Beyond**

Chair: Chiara Grizzaffi
Università IULM, Milano

**Francesco De Lio /
Tatiana Lysova**
Università degli Studi
di Milano–Bicocca.
*Between Legality
and Necessity. The
Normalization of
Surveillance in Rocco
Schiavone*

Arianna Lodeserto
“Sapienza”
Università di Roma.
Ronde de jour. *Smart
Cities, Border Control,
and Documentary
Issues*

Maria Doina Mareggini
Università di Modena e
Reggio Emilia.
*The Panopticon of
Labour: Spectacle and
Surveillance in Tutta la
vita davanti by Paolo
Virzì (2008)*

Matteo Bonfiglioli
Università IULM, Milano.
*Metamorphoses of
Surveillance in Italian
Reality Television
(2000–2025)*

18.30

Screening
Emily Jacir
Letter to a friend, 2019

19.30

Light Dinner

FRIDAY 31
OCT 2025

10.00

Keynote
Anders Albrechtslund
Aarhus University.
*Performing Agency in a
World of Data: Perspectives from
Surveillance Research.*
Discussant:
Federico Selvini.
Università IULM,
Milano

11.00

Panel
**Bodies of Control /
Controlled Bodies**

Chair: Miriam De Rosa
Università Ca’ Foscari,
Venezia

Matteo Citrini
Università degli Studi di
Bergamo.
*Italian Forms of
Predictive Control and
Their Narratives. A
Preliminary Study of
National Visual
Strategies for Crime
Forecasting*

**Rossana Galimi /
Maria Teresa Soldani**
Università degli Studi di
Milano /
University of Warwick.
*Gendered Surveillance
and Domestic Space:*

*The Work of Female
Artists in Italy between
Performance and Video*

Irene Calvi
“Alma Mater
Studiorum” Università di
Bologna.
*Unidentified Fashion
Objects: When Clothing
Disrupts Machine Vision*

12.30

Light lunch

13.30

Keynote
Audrey Amsellem
Columbia University,
New York.
*The Neoliberal Ear: Frameworks for
Studying Sonic
Surveillance and the
Datafication of Sound.*
Discussant: Annalisa
Pellino. Università IULM,
Milano

14.30

Panel
**Counter-Surveillance
and the Limits of
Visibility**

Chair: Deborah Toschi
Università degli Studi
dell’Insubria

FRIDAY 31
OCT 2025

Meral Özçınar
Manisa Celal Bayar
University, Türkiye.
*Listening to Emptiness: Surveillance, Silence,
and the Sonic
Landscapes of
Antonioni*

Lorenzo Donghi
Università di Pavia.
*Monitoring Bodies in the
Non-visible Spectrum: Two Italian Case
Studies*

Francesca Ceccherini
Università IULM, Milano.
*Earworm Control and
Sonic Disarmament: The
Case of Superimposition
by Polisonum*

Ilaria Gadenz
Politecnico delle Arti
di Bergamo.
*Listening Beyond
Control. Surveillance,
Speculation, and Sonic
Capitalism in Life
Chronicles of Dorothea
İesj S.P.U.*

16.30

Coffee break

17.00

Artist Talk
**The Opacity of Control:
Automated Vision
and Interspecies
Technologies**

**Irene Fenara and
Greta Maria Gerosa**
in conversation with
Francesca Ceccherini
and Annalisa Pellino

18.00

**Final Remarks and
Conclusion**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ORGANISED BY LUISELLA FARINOTTI,
ANNALISA PELLINO, AND FEDERICO SELVINI
SALA DEI 146, IULM UNIVERSITY, MILAN
30-31 OCTOBER 2025

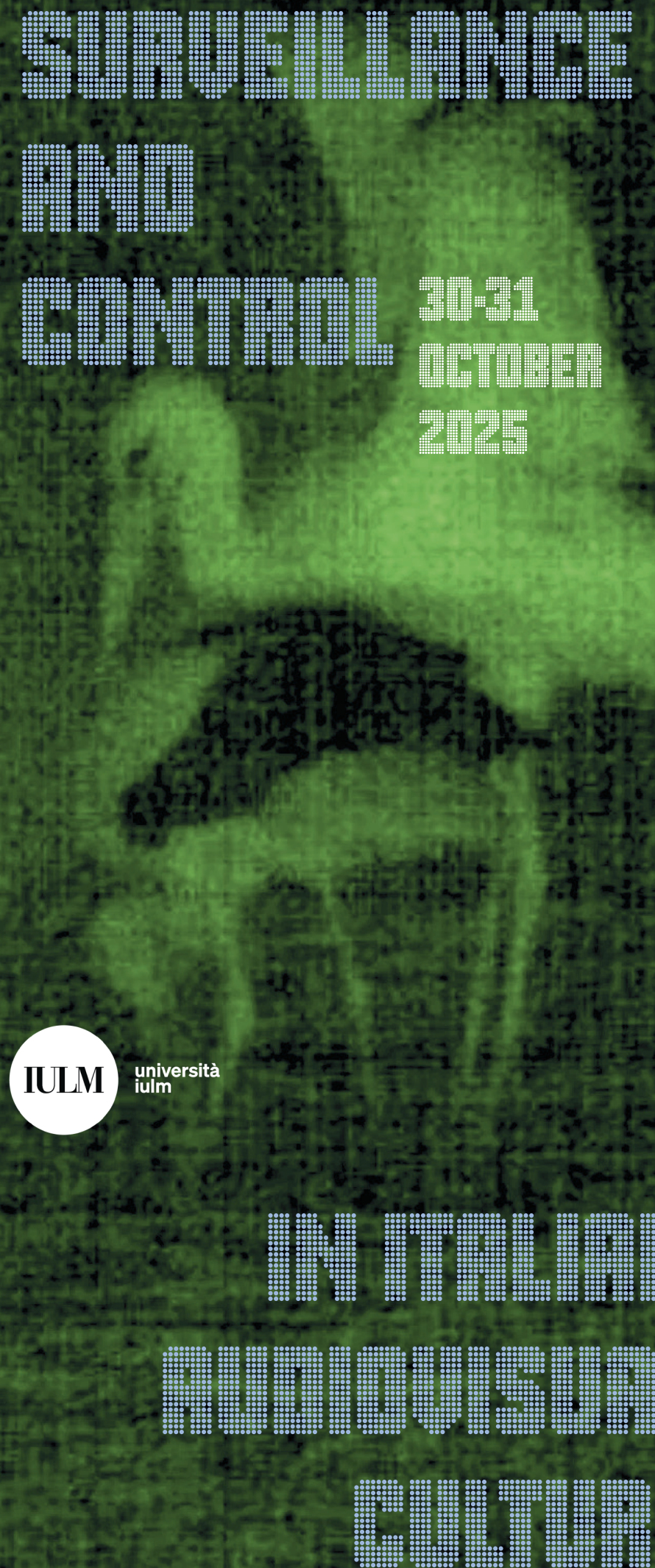
Surveillance has become a defining feature of late modernity, shaping social interaction and fueling widespread anxieties—both personal and collective—concerning the precarious balance between the protection of democratic values and the erosion of civil liberties. Surveillance Studies are an exceptionally broad and varied field, and interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity have become fundamental traits. Yet, despite the diversity of approaches, scholars in this field remain connected by a shared set of core concerns, which revolve around the restriction of individual freedom on the one hand, and the broader social effects on the other, both resulting from the spread of a complex and constantly evolving technological infrastructure. Out of these tensions arises a cultural space of negotiation, in which competing—and frequently contradictory—conceptions of politics, identity, and ethics are debated and re-envisioned, producing what J. MacGregor Wise has termed the “surveillant imaginary”, emphasising the reciprocal relationship between cultural dynamic and the socio-technological transformations driven by surveillance. In this context, cultural texts and media artifacts emerge as key objects of investigation, as

they influence not only our understanding but also everyday behaviors and social interactions. Surveillance studies examine how these works inform and shape perceptions of surveillance, analysing the ways control is portrayed, internalised, and lived. In particular, audiovisual media and artistic practices play an essential role in interrogating and interpreting the forms of control and disciplinary power offering powerful conceptual tools—whether by exposing dystopian visions and critical perspectives or by imagining speculative worlds and alternative possibilities. The conference aims to investigate how surveillance has been represented, mediated, and contested within the landscape of Italian audiovisual culture. It hosts scholars, artists and researchers that engage with cinema, crime and detection TV series, video art, and contemporary art practices, focusing on issues like predictive control, extrajudicial monitoring, labour surveillance, interspecificity, borders, gender, and fashion. The keynote speeches will delve into fundamental ethical and political aspects—such as cinema as a privileged site for articulating the practices and imaginaries of surveillance, the reconfiguration of human agency under data-intensive surveillance, and the emergence of a “neoliberal ear” shaped by sound-based surveillance systems—thereby providing a crucial framework for analysing the contemporary transformations of surveillance and control systems and their related counter-practices.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Simone Arcagni, Matteo Bittanti, Laura Cesaro, Miriam De Rosa, Luisella Farinotti, Chiara Grizzaffi, Andrea Miconi, Annalisa Pellino, Federico Selvini, Deborah Toschi.

Image: Greta Maria Gerosa, *Is it a bird, watching?*, 2022.
Courtesy of the artist.



THURSDAY 30
OCT 2025

14.00

Institutional
greetings

14.30

Keynote
Sébastien Lefait
Université Aix-Marseille.
Truth, Lies, and CCTV: The Evolution of the Surveillance Imaginary in a Post-Veridical World

15.00

Roundtable
Sébastien Lefait
Université Aix-Marseille
in conversation with
Alessia Cervini
Università degli Studi
di Palermo and
Emiliano Morreale
“Sapienza”
Università di Roma

16.00

Coffee break

16.30

Panel
Screening Surveillance, and Beyond

Chair: Chiara Grizzaffi
Università IULM, Milano

Francesco De Lio / Tatiana Lysova
Università degli Studi di Milano–Bicocca.
Between Legality and Necessity. The Normalization of Surveillance in Rocco Schiavone

Arianna Lodeserto
“Sapienza”
Università di Roma.
Ronde de jour. *Smart Cities, Border Control, and Documentary Issues*

Maria Doina Mareggini
Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia.
The Panopticon of Labour: Spectacle and Surveillance in Tutta la vita davanti *by Paolo Virzì (2008)*

Matteo Bonfiglioli
Università IULM, Milano.
Metamorphoses of Surveillance in Italian Reality Television (2000–2025)

18.30

Screening
Emily Jacir
Letter to a friend, 2019

19.30

Light Dinner

FRIDAY 31
OCT 2025

10.00

Keynote
Anders Albrechtslund
Aarhus University.
Performing Agency in a World of Data: Perspectives from Surveillance Research.
Discussant:
Federico Selvini.
Università IULM, Milano

11.00

Panel
Bodies of Control / Controlled Bodies

Chair: Miriam De Rosa
Università Ca’ Foscari, Venezia

Matteo Citrini
Università degli Studi di Bergamo.
Italian Forms of Predictive Control and Their Narratives. A Preliminary Study of National Visual Strategies for Crime Forecasting

Rossana Galimi / Maria Teresa Soldani
Università degli Studi di Milano /
University of Warwick.
Gendered Surveillance and Domestic Space:

The Work of Female Artists in Italy between Performance and Video

Irene Calvi
“Alma Mater Studiorum” Università di Bologna.
Unidentified Fashion Objects: When Clothing Disrupts Machine Vision

12.30

Light lunch

13.30

Keynote
Audrey Amsellem
Columbia University, New York.
The Neoliberal Ear: Frameworks for Studying Sonic Surveillance and the Datafication of Sound.
Discussant: Annalisa Pellino. Università IULM, Milano

14.30

Panel
Counter-Surveillance and the Limits of Visibility

Chair: Deborah Toschi
Università degli Studi dell’Insubria

PROGRAM

Meral Özçınar
Manisa Celal Bayar University, Türkiye.
Listening to Emptiness: Surveillance, Silence, and the Sonic Landscapes of Antonioni

Lorenzo Donghi
Università di Pavia.
Monitoring Bodies in the Non-visible Spectrum: Two Italian Case Studies

Francesca Ceccherini
Università IULM, Milano.
Earworm Control and Sonic Disarmament: The Case of Superimposition by Polisonum

Ilaria Gadenz
Politecnico delle Arti di Bergamo.
Listening Beyond Control. Surveillance, Speculation, and Sonic Capitalism in Life
Chronicles of Dorothea Iesj S.P.U.

16.30

Coffee break

17.00

Artist Talk
The Opacity of Control: Automated Vision and Interspecies Technologies

Irene Fenara and Greta Maria Gerosa
in conversation with
Francesca Ceccherini
and Annalisa Pellino

18.00

Final Remarks and Conclusion