

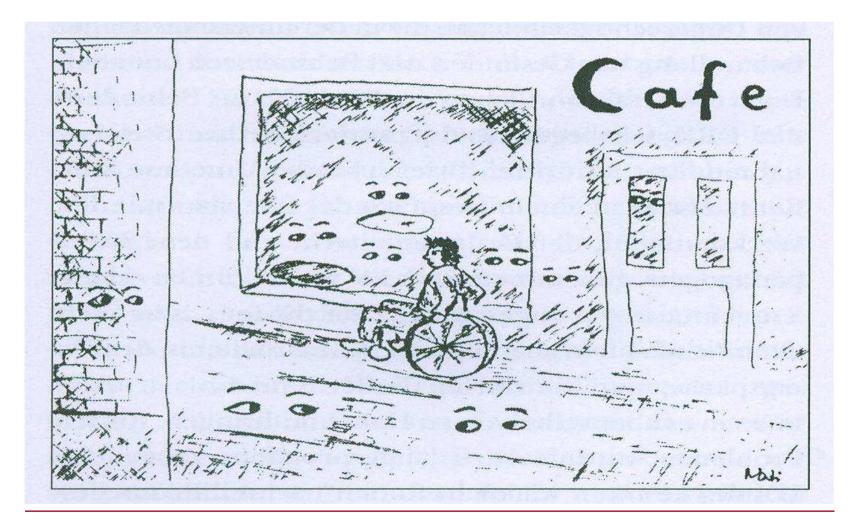
International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW)

# **Exclusive security.** On the discriminatory potential of security

Security, Ethics, and Justice 23.6.2012 - Heidi Schäfer

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#### **Security Technologies and Exclusion**

Security technologies for example the body scanner exclude people belonging to salient groups. But they are not only excluded, but stigmatized, labeled as not-normal and - in this context - as dangerous.



#### Security technologies and structural discrimination

Structural discrimination must be assumed, "when the rules of a society's major institutions consistently produce disproportionately disadvantageous outcomes for the members of certain salient social groups and the production of such outcomes is unjust [...] apart from any direct discrimination in which the collective or individual agents of the society might engage." (Altman 2011)

=> key factor is not the intention but the effect



### Human Security

• "Human security refers to the quality of life of the people of a society or polity. Anything which degrades their quality of life [...] is a security threat."

(Ramesh Thakur, Vice Rector, Peace and Security, United Nations University)

 "A second element is that people should enjoy without discrimination all rights and obligations - including human, political, social, economic and cultural rights - that belonging to a State implies. A third element is social inclusion - or having equal access to the political, social and economic policy making processes, as well as to draw equal benefits from them. " (Sadako Ogata, (former) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)



## **Exclusive Security**

- Threats to security are diverse. They can be political and military, but also social.
- Exclusion and discrimination by security technologies increases a person`s uncertainty and will have consequences on his or her quality of life.
- For salient groups the implementation of security technologies like the body scanner is not necessarily enhancing security, in the contrary, its producing more social insecurity.

=> "Exclusive security"

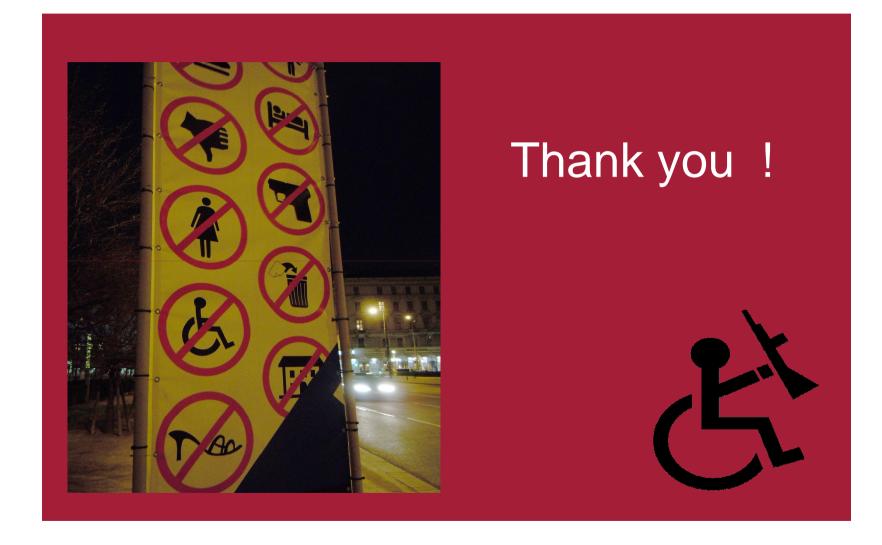




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