

Keynote of the annual STS MIGTEC Paper Workshop
Beyond Borders: Postcolonial Flows and Forensics as an Art of Paying Attention

Amade M'charek

February 16, 14.-16.00 CET, Online

Abstract: In this talk I want to narrate several stories that can help us grasp that magnitude of death and dying in the Mediterranean Sea. An attempt to narrate the *crisis* away, and to attend to the *chronicity* of Europe's ongoing (post)colonial involvement on the African continent. In these stories of encounters on the beaches of Zarzis, a town in the south of Tunisia, my entry point is (traces) of bodies that wash ashore. Traces, such as, worn-out sneakers and slippers, or clothing and toys. However, since the place matters, these traces will take us in different directions as well. Through a loose connection between a diversity of material traces, I suggest a shift and broadening of the notion of forensics. From a practice of delivering evidence about a single event, to an art of paying attention. The latter is a move towards materiality and material traces that could help us to re-configure the realities of death and dying and articulate the ambivalences and politics of persistent colonial relations.

Attending to death and dying beyond Europe's border management regime I argue that what we are facing is not simply a *humanitarian* problem but a *political* problem, one that implicates *us* in intricate ways.

Amade M'charek is Professor of Anthropology of Science at the Department of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam, where she acts as the director of the research group Health, Care and the Body. M'charek is PI of the RaceFaceID project, an ERC-consolidator project on forensic identification and the making of face and race, and co-PI of the NWA project Pressing Matter: Ownership, Value and the Question of Colonial Heritage in Museums. Her work has centred on the ir/relevance of race in science and society and the material semiotics of identities. Through her recent research on migrant death, she has developed an interest in forensic methods for studying (post)colonial relations, circulations and extractions.

The session will be chaired by Nina Amelung, Institute of Social Science, University of Lisbon.

Registration: Please register to receive the zoom-link via sending an email to migtec.website@gmail.com with the subject "Keynote: Amade M'Charek" until February 13.

About STS-MIGTEC: STS-MIGTEC is an independent network of scholars at the intersection of science and technology studies (STS) and critical migration, security and border studies. It seeks to bring researchers from different disciplines and around the world together and to initiate scientific exchange to produce synergies for relevant knowledge production. It is open to new members, including scholars and activists, and in particular migrants. Find out more [here](#).

An **online meeting "Getting to know STS MIGTEC"** with Silvan Pollozek, European New School of Digital Studies (ENS), European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) & Maria Ullrich, Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies (CASSIS), University of Bonn, will take place on February 15, 17.-18.00 CET. Registration also via migtec.website@gmail.com with the subject "Getting to know STS MIGTEC" until February 13.

