

Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Centre for BOLD Cities presents

the POLITICS *of doorbells*



26.02.26
14:00-16:00
TU DELFT / IDE

With the rise of so-called “smart” doorbells, surveillance cameras have become fully domesticated in our cities, towns and villages. More than a million of these devices have appeared in Dutch streets in recent years. Whether or not they face public streets, they record images and audio with every movement, typically without any form of consent.

Popular for enabling specific forms of interaction and control, the smart doorbell is also a source of social friction as its affordances build on a dichotomy between the watcher and the (unwittingly) watched – whether neighbours, pets or family members. Tensions also arise between manufacturers and privacy watchdogs, as well as police and citizens, as many devices – and the ways they are utilized – do not comply with Dutch regulations on camera use. In doing so, these artefacts reshape relations and power dynamics in our living environments, setting new behaviors, expectations, and experiences in motion.

Understanding the smart doorbell as a political object in both design and use, we warmly invite you to join our interdisciplinary workshop that will bring together students from industrial design and the social sciences. Together, we will disentangle the perspectives, practices and behaviors that have emerged around the smart doorbell!

Thursday February 26 from 14.00 - 16.00 at TU Delft’s faculty of Industrial Design Engineering (IDE), we will collectively explore and prototype the (potential) behavioural consequences of smart doorbells. Please join us by sending an email to Arthur De Jaeger (dejaeger@essb.eur.nl) or Laurens Kolks (La.g.kolks@tudelft.nl). See you on February 26 @ IDE in Delft!

This workshop is part of Start Making Sense, a research project exploring the presence and role of surveillance cameras in the urban environment. If you’re interested in learning more, you can find additional information [here](#).

Organized by Centre for BOLD Cities, TU Delft/IDE, Erasmus University Rotterdam/ESSB