**EWIS 2020 call for pAPERS**

**Workshop convenors:**

Hager Ben Jaffel, National Center for Scientific Research (hager.benjaffel@yahoo.fr)

Sebastian Larsson, Stockholm University (sebastian.larsson@ekohist.su.se )

**Intelligence in contemporary times: Towards a transversal research agenda**

What would it mean to reflect on intelligence as a social phenomenon, indeed, as a ‘peopled’ and practical world? This workshop proposes to open up the study of intelligence by taking seriously its transversal logics as both an academic and professional field in increasing contact with other occupational fields, multiplying the empirical sites and actors that have a stake in intelligence practices.

The transition from post-Cold War concerns to a broadening range of multifaceted stakes, including counterterrorism, mass surveillance, and new security legislation has profoundly challenged the conventional ‘problematisation’ of intelligence within Intelligence Studies (IS), which has been predominantly concerned with improving the performance of intelligence services in assisting state security and policy-making. In fact, intelligence is no longer just about espionage, foreign spies and state secrets but has become increasingly dispersed to affect daily life, including unconventional sites like prisons, banks, hospital environments, and the internet, thus extending the scope of its ‘targets’ to cover so-called ‘suspicious’ activities, mobilities and behavioural patterns. Simultaneously, the practice of intelligence is no longer restricted to explicit intelligence services, nor to the type of equipment intelligence professionals have traditionally employed, but today it also involves the everyday occupations of other public and private actors, such as the police, internet providers and social care institutions. This ever-growing rationale of intelligence, increasingly intersecting with (mass) surveillance practices and affecting the ‘everyday’ in various empirical sites, cannot be adequately analysed within the traditional IS lens, pointing towards a crucial question that has yet to be substantially addressed: What is intelligence today, and how do we study it?

To address this puzzle, this workshop invites scholars working from distinct epistemological and ontological perspectives to build a renewed understanding of intelligence in contemporary times. It expects papers to unsettle the notion of ‘intelligence’ and reflexively examine the actors and practices that have a stake in intelligence to render visible the relationships and struggles involved in ‘doing’ intelligence. In opening up for alternative research avenues, this workshop therefore aims at building transdisciplinary, reflexive, and ‘critical’ approaches to contemporary intelligence in order to challenge how knowledge on intelligence has been structured and understood thus far in its traditional scholarly field. This is necessary for two reasons. First, because the scholarly understanding of what and who constitutes contemporary intelligence has remained hindered by a discrepancy between actual people and practices on the ground and the ‘usual’ analytical tools developed in IS to study and ‘improve’ them. Second, because while the most promising reflections on contemporary intelligence have been developed by ‘others’ in areas like criminology, critical security studies, and surveillance studies, these alternative inquiries remain separated by arbitrary disciplinary divisions.

To achieve this objective, this workshop therefore invites participants to address one or more of the following questions in their contributions:

* What is the ‘problematisation’ of intelligence today? Who, or what, is targeted?
* In which ‘new’ empirical sites is contemporary intelligence work done?
* Who are the professionals and what are the practices of intelligence?
* What are the transnational dimensions of intelligence?
* How can we disrupt the conventional ways in which intelligence is studied?