

## DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC – TATAS

One of the most pressing issues facing European and American societies today is the apparent trade-off between government trust, transparency, and security. Trust in government is at record lows across many countries, demands for government transparency are rising, and at the same time governments are under pressure to react to security challenges (particularly terrorism) by increasing surveillance and secrecy. Revelations about the US National Security Agency's surveillance practices, for example, are widely perceived as having eroded both citizens' trust in the US government and foreign governments' trust in the US. And yet, there is hardly any scholarship on the relationship between public trust in government, government transparency, and security surveillance.

The purpose of this project is to develop a critical European perspective on the relationship between surveillance, trust, and transparency, specifically at the intersection of foreign security politics and legal studies. Guiding questions include: How do trust and transparency limit or enable the expansion of a technology of governance, both domestically and internationally? What are the transatlantic effects surveillance of American surveillance policies? And how can we explain these?

The research objective is to better understand the theoretical and empirical relationship between public trust, government transparency, and security surveillance policies. These three topics have been addressed in various literatures but they have never 1) been studied together, in their intersection, and 2) have rarely been addressed with respect to foreign policy and international relations. Nevertheless, these are highly relevant political issues for both domestic and international relations. The originality of this project rests in addressing the way that these issues are mutually implicated, applying them to questions of international politics, and joining the perspectives of politics and law in answering the core questions. In addition, although we take US policy and experience as a reference point because of their fundamental centrality, we bring a distinctively European, and especially German and Polish perspective to these questions, which has so far been underrepresented in the literature.