MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

OPEN SOURCE JUSTICE. DIGITAL ARCHIVES AND THE CRIMINAL STATE

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This presentation discusses how digital archiving is reshaping the knowledge foundations of international criminal law. Forensic NGOs are gathering visual evidence of mass crimes in a new information landscape of contested knowledge, with the state-sanctioned weapons of disinformation, censorship, and hacking pitted against digital witnessing, meta-data analysis and authentication, and legally-oriented digital archiving. The NGO Mnemonic and its subsidiary Syrian Archive are prominent among these forensic organizations. They are engaged in a pitched contest with Syria and its close ally, Russia, oriented toward documentation and narrative control of the Syrian conflict. The main reference point for this contest is a future criminal trial that assembles competing stories of guilt and innocence, victim and perpetrator. But the states' defense against these efforts is already taking place, in this case through Syrian and Russian disinformation campaigns, oriented toward sowing confusion and polluting the knowledge ecosystem, ultimately making it all but impossible for public consumers of information to distinguish criminal responsibility from victims of mass crime. *(Speaker's abstract)*

1 FEB 2021
16:15–17:45
(CET)

Location: Online
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to attend the meeting write to
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