

**The International Organization for Migration and the
surveillance technologies of the displaced populations of the South:
the case of the International Organization for Migration**

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The International Organization for Migration (IOM) advocates for the use of data to stabilize the displaced populations of the global south. During the 2010s, it developed and enhanced three digital technologies: the Displacement Tracking Matrix, the border surveillance system MIDAS, and the mobile application MigApp. This paper argues that these technologies converge into a surveillant assemblage that seeks to discipline displaced people according to a biopolitical rationality and the technocratic production of data. This assemblage delineates cognitive and physical spaces to capture and release displaced people and their data through a five-step surveillance: observation, standardization of data, application of security mechanisms, disciplinary capture, empowering capture. While the assemblage produces data of uncertain usefulness and ignores the securitization policies of the global north, it legitimizes the authority of the IOM within a humanitarian field that falls outside its historical prerogatives.