


# Chapter 18


## Borders and Control: Negotiating Mobility, Security, and Rights in Digital Regimes

**Maanyaa Anand**

 <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-9390-0239>

*Christ University, India*

**Ipsita Ray**

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2064-8683>

*Christ University, India*

### ABSTRACT

*Despite millions crossing the border, the right of mobility has been restricted in lieu of states' discretion based on their sovereignty. This brings the authors to the age-old debate on mobility and border control. Amidst the tussle between the human right of mobility and the sovereign right of nation-states, the role of technology continues to influence the security lens of nation-states' borders. Recently, the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and other host countries installed digital border measures. A cross jurisdictional study of the above mentioned four jurisdictions highlight the surveillance and information-sharing system deployed at borders. The aim of the chapter is to assess the systemic efficiency of Digital Border Governance in Global North and South as means of securitization. Digital border governance brings an inevitable risk of abuse of data obtained at borders which can be remedied only via means of an inclusive regime built on the three pillars of fairness, transparency, and cooperation.*

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-2592-7.ch018

Copyright © 2026, IGI Global Scientific Publishing. Copying or distributing in print or electronic forms without written permission of IGI Global Scientific Publishing is prohibited. Use of this chapter to train generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies is expressly prohibited. The publisher reserves all rights to license its use for generative AI training and machine learning model development.

## INTRODUCTION

The connection of migration and security issues has been a phenomenon of interest to normative theorists, especially for the multidimensional practices that are involved in managing the migration of people in the present-day securitization. Nations not only control migration to settlements but also attempt to control movements globally to mitigate any possible attempts to settle (Saunders, 2025). The political and social systems in migration studies manifest a unique interplay of rules, regulations, customs, and devices, which provides us with two sides of the story: inclusion and exclusion of Migrants. The normative theorists have decided to use the ‘principle of exclusionary logic’ in migration by classifying migrants as “outsiders” without scrutinizing real security threats (Foblets et al., 2018). The digitalization of physical border controls has opened new political dimensions of balancing sovereign rights and individual rights over identity control, instead of security. The smart borders have proliferated across the developed economies (Maze & Perret, 2021). Mignolo (2011) says decolonial thoughts arising from the shared experiences are raising new challenges against Western-centric epistemologies. The practice of border thinking challenges the tenet of there being no alternative ways of thinking outside Western epistemology. These borders have turned into ‘liquid border’ moving beyond solid walls to operate as filters of labor through networked forms of control (Mezzadra, 2021).

The recent phenomenon of control mechanisms exemplifies a transition from older forms of border control, wherein the focus of border control has shifted from territorial considerations to populations, to maximize the good and diminish the bad circulation. As a result, the State regains control via the newer mechanisms and techniques of borders (Trauttmansdorff, 2023). This transition is deeply rooted in the notion of Foucault’s (2009) concept of Biopolitics; biopolitical tools solidify personal or group identity by connecting them to physical discourses in terms of diet, medicine, reproductive behavior, demographic policies, and food security (Makarychev & Yatsyk, 2017). The ideological neutrality of character often changes into a manipulative tool of the state (Blake, 2023). In this context, Colman (2016) emphasized that Digital biopolitics exhibits the growing union of human body and digital technology, allowing us to understand the mechanisms of Digital Border Control governing the interaction between human agency and technology as a privileged instrument of the West to dominate border control debates. Digital Border Governance is enforced through techniques and mechanisms, characterized by technological features, such as traceability, hyper-documentation, and Risk Profiling. These features make physical borders ironically delocalized and spatially diffused. However, these smart borders are primarily dominated by the Globalization of Control wherein the border control policies reflect surveillance capitalism

22 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: [www.igi-global.com/chapter/borders-and-control/395024](http://www.igi-global.com/chapter/borders-and-control/395024)

## Related Content

---

### Laughter Across Walls: How Digital Humor Connects African Immigrant Mothers

Iye Ogbeand Nadia Nartey (2026). *Digital Narratives of Trauma Among Immigrant and Refugee Women* (pp. 73-126).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/laughter-across-walls/383587](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/laughter-across-walls/383587)

### Evaluating Lebanon's Economic Policy Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis: Challenges and Alternatives

Mohamad Zreik (2024). *Media Representation of Migrants and Refugees* (pp. 49-67).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/evaluating-lebanons-economic-policy-response-to-the-syrian-refugee-crisis/349470](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/evaluating-lebanons-economic-policy-response-to-the-syrian-refugee-crisis/349470)

### Beyond the Screen: Orientalism and Neo-Orientalism in Modern Video Games - Case Studies of FPS and Prince of Persia

Jihad Elkhalfand Youssef Charbati (2026). *Identity and the Dynamics of Border Crossing* (pp. 409-438).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/beyond-the-screen/395025](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/beyond-the-screen/395025)

### The Economic Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Turkiye, Lebanon, and Jordan

Nourhan El-Bayaaand Yehia Ibrahim Alzoubi (2026). *Migrant Contributions to Global Frontline Sectors* (pp. 247-268).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/the-economic-impact-of-the-syrian-refugee-crisis-in-turkiye-lebanon-and-jordan/397819](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/the-economic-impact-of-the-syrian-refugee-crisis-in-turkiye-lebanon-and-jordan/397819)

### Kananjar "Kan" Shivaram Shetty

(2022). *Exploring the Economic Opportunities and Impacts of Migrant Entrepreneurship: Success Stories and Case Studies* (pp. 87-99).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/kananjar-kan-shivaram-shetty/308415](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/kananjar-kan-shivaram-shetty/308415)