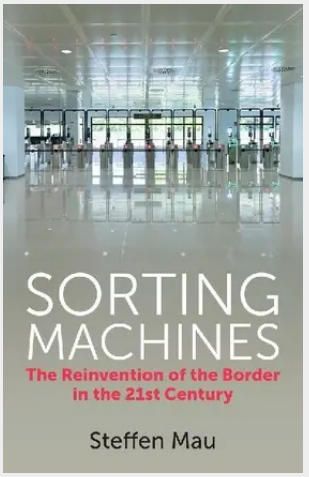
Mau

Sorting Machines

The Reinvention of the Border in the 21st Century

It is commonly thought that, thanks to globalization, nation-state borders are becoming increasingly porous. Steffen Mau shows that this view is misleading: borders are not getting more permeable today, but rather are being turned into powerful sorting machines. Supported by digitalization, they have been upgraded to smart borders, and border control has expanded spatially on a massive scale. Mau shows how the new sorting machines create mobility and immobility at the same time: for some travellers, borders open readily, but for others they are closed more firmly than ever. While a small circle of privileged people can travel almost anywhere today, the vast majority of the world’s population continues to be systematically excluded. Nowhere is the Janus nature of globalization more evident than at the borders of the 21st century.

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63,00 €
63,00 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Nicht mehr lieferbar

Artikelnummer: 9781509554348
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-1-5095-5434-8
Verlag: Polity Press
Erscheinungstermin: 12.12.2022
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: 1. Auflage 2022
Produktform: Gebunden
Gewicht: 336 g
Seiten: 174
Format (B x H): 140 x 218 mm

Kundenservice Verlag Dr. Otto Schmidt KG
Neumannstraße 10, 40235 Düsseldorf | kundenservice@otto-schmidt.de | 0221-93738-997 (Inland)