With the rise of Internet behemoths and the surveillance of increasingly personal domains there is a trend of questioning life online. This talk draws attention to hacking practices that interrogate the diverse faces of online veillance. I will first introduce current debates about hackers as interrogators of surveillance. Instead of portraying hacking as a simple counterculture I seek to complicate dichotomies of power vs. resistance, online vs. offline, and technological system vs. social practice. Based on qualitative interviews I introduce the diverse sometimes ambiguous hacking practices that question online surveillance. I will then develop the concept of dispute as capturing exactly these multiplicities. The small, but constitutive dynamics of disputing online surveillance not only create political momentum but call for a re-thinking of the totality of surveillance metaphors used today. The talk is part of larger project that explores dataveillance and answers to dataveillance.

Weizenbaum Fellow Talk
Dr. Mareile Kaufmann
"Hacking as a practice of disputing online surveillance"