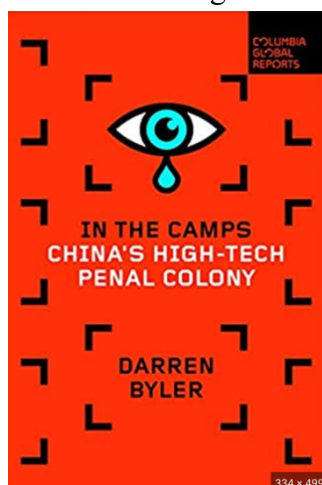


Darren BYLER
**“Producing Uyghur Unfreedom: Mass Internment
and Surveillance in Northwest China”**

Online seminar Tuesday, March 14, at 6:00 PM CET
<https://bbb.upol.cz/b/ste-ulx-lwh-mys>
Access Code: 413737

A high-tech enclosure system has been unfolding over the past decade in China’s vast northwestern region of Xinjiang, where hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs, Kazakhs and Hui have vanished into high-security camps and associated factories.



Anthropologist Darren Byler draws on a decade of research on the region, examining thousands of government documents and conducting many hours of interviews with both detainees and camp workers. Byler tells the stories of people like U.S. college student Vera, police contractor Baimurat, camp instructor Qelbinur, Kazakh farmer Adilbek, and truck driver Erbakyt, who show how a sophisticated network of facial surveillance, voice recognition, and smartphone tracking technology, built by private corporations, are utilized by authorities to justify detaining “untrustworthy” Muslims. Their stories narrate a process of surveillance overwhelming life, and push Byler to examine how technological tools that are being built in locations from Seattle to Beijing are being adapted to create forms of unfreedom for vulnerable people around the world.

Darren Byler is Assistant Professor of International Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is the author of *In the Camps: China’s High-Tech Penal Colony* (Columbia Global Reports 2021) and an ethnographic monograph titled *Terror Capitalism: Uyghur Dispossession and Masculinity in a Chinese City* (Duke University Press 2022). His current research interests are focused on policing and carceral theory, infrastructure development and global China.

The seminar is organized by Abduweli AYUP (Uyghur Hjelp), Cloé DRIEU (ANR Shatterzone, ANR-19-FGEN-0001) and Inner Asia Colloquium (Remote Ethnography of XUAR)

Image credit: Nicola Zolin