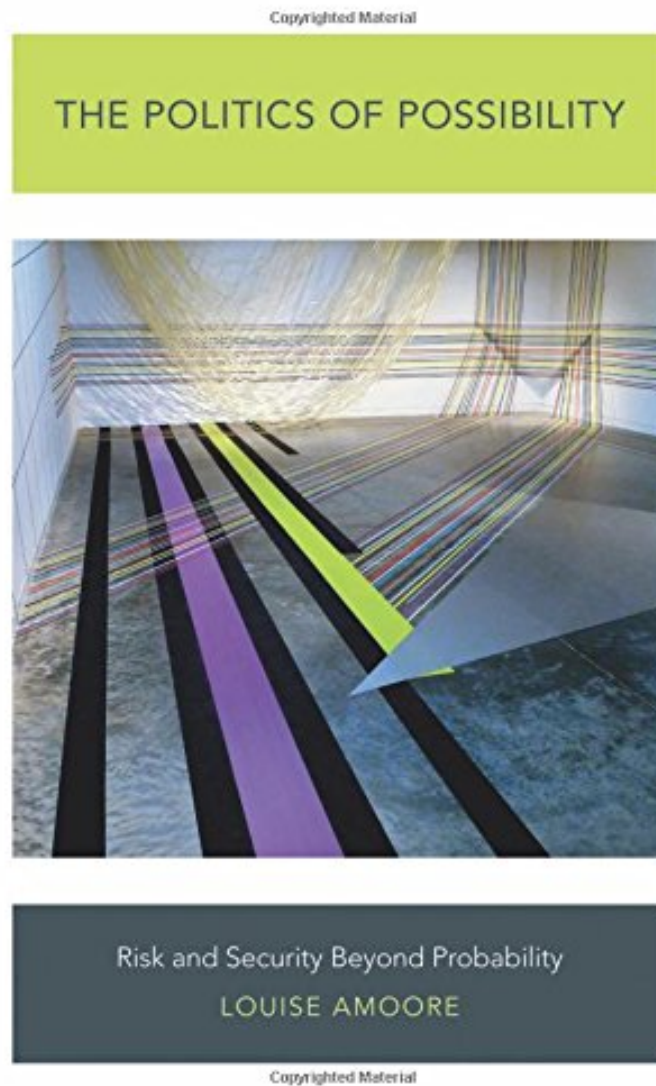


(Download pdf) The Politics of Possibility: Risk and Security Beyond Probability

The Politics of Possibility: Risk and Security Beyond Probability

Louise Amoore

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Since September 11, 2001, the imagination of "low probability, high consequence" events has become a distinctive

feature of contemporary politics. Uncertain futuresdevastation by terrorist attack, cyber crime, flood, financial market collapsemust be discerned and responded to as possibilities, however improbable they may be. In *The Politics of Possibility*, Louise Amoore examines this development, tracing its genealogy through the diverse worlds of risk management consulting, computer science, commercial logistics, and data visualization. She focuses on the increasingly symbiotic relationship between commercial opportunities and state security threats, a relation that turns the trusted, iris-scanned traveler into "a person of national security interest," and the designer of risk algorithms for casino and insurance fraud into a homeland security resource. Juxtaposing new readings of Agamben, Foucault, Derrida, Massumi, and Connolly with interpretations of post9/11 novels and artworks, Amoore analyzes the "politics of possibility" and its far-reaching implications for society, associative life, and political accountability.

"*The Politics of Possibility* addresses a topic that has been crying out for just this kind of novel analysis. Louise Amoore scrutinizes how the security state has shifted its focus from probability to possibility. Combining theoretical sophistication with an eye for the telling detail, she offers new ways of thinking about the practices of sovereign power and the making of security decisions."Michael Dillon, author of *Biopolitics of Security in the 21st Century: A Political Analytic of Finitude*