

Preliminary title:

**Unboxing digital evidence**

**-The digital forensic examiner's role in the construction of digital evidence in criminal investigations**

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**Abstract:**

Digital evidence play an important role in criminal investigations. There are several technical and non-technical uncertainties associated with digital evidence, but paradoxically, they are still often perceived as objective and neutral, constituting the undisputable facts of criminal investigations. To explore how the factual status is obtained, Actor-Network Theory is used to analyse the journey from data to evidence through the digital forensic process. A fictitious crime incident is used as an illustration. The analysis shows that a possible explanation of the factual status may relate to the perception of the digital forensic examiners as intermediaries, while they in fact act as mediators when digital evidence is constructed.