The purpose of this intervention is to put into resonance and to discern various cartographic performances, practices and operations at work in governmental agencies as well as in counter-mapping projects related to migration and border crisis in the Mediterranean Sea, by disputing the ‘apparent’ simplification of the complex regimes of visibility and invisibility that they enact. Indeed, acts of mapping emerging in the physicality of the media by which they are framed have the ability to simultaneously distance and engage their viewers as well as to offer persuasive visual evidences which might influence political debates. For this reason, it is important, at first stance, to define the theoretical and social space – namely numeric and algorithmic (Elden 2006) – subtly defined by these cartographic operations. The calculative politics imbricated in such projects (from charting migration fluxes to the endless counting of its dead bodies) materializes an ambiguous spatial practice. From one hand, a sort of haptic space (spazio prensivo), dictated by mechanisms of migration trapping, monitoring and containment. In a Deleuzian perspective, the haptic becomes a word better than tactile because it does not oppose two organs of sense but supposes that the eye itself could enact a function which is not merely visual; from the other hand, the numeric spatial culture unleashes a apprehensive space (spazio ap-prensivo) in the attempt to re-floating with a forensic gesture (Weizman 2014) the human costs of the era of border control; hence committing activists, artists and academics in counter-visualizations (often highly aesthetical) animated by a parrhesiastic attitude: to tell (or make visible) the truth in spite of the power. Within which scopic, social and ethical regime as well as cultural universe of practices are these mapping projects framed? What effects do they aim to silence or, reversely, provoke and trigger in the political debate?

**Key words**: contemporary mapping; migration; borders; visual culture; aesthetics.