Photo by Tim Forbes

SSC Newsletter

Issue 5, December 2016

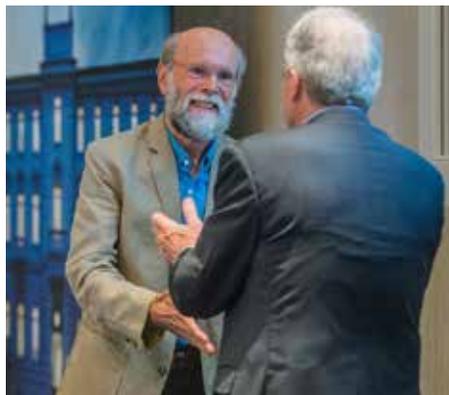## In this issue:

From the Director

By David Lyon- Research at the SSC continues to expand, although the multitude of issues for us to investigate grows much faster! Work is focused at present on preparing for the launch of a report on Big Data and National Security, in Ottawa, at the end of May 2017. This is in tandem with a research workshop for Stream One, addressing more fully the same questions. We are also making plans for the Surveillance Studies Summer Seminar at Queen's University, June 5-10 2017. We also welcomed new PhD and MA students to the SSC this fall – and saw Sachil Singh and Tabasum Akseer graduate with their PhDs, directly into postdocs at the University of Ottawa (Social Sciences) and Queen's University (Policy Studies), respectively. All these and more make for not only a busy SSC but also for important contributions to knowledge and to the common good, which make it all worthwhile.

Meanwhile, on a personal note, 2016 offered among other things the chance to participate in some welcome developments elsewhere. For example, speaking at the Institute for Graduate Studies, Doha, Qatar, reading the citation for Oscar Gandy's Outstanding Contribution Award at the Surveillance Studies Network conference, Barcelona (each in April), advising the Big Data and Human Rights project at Essex University, UK (May), keynoting for the inaugural event of the new network on Religion and Surveillance, Birmingham UK, (October) and at the conference of the Latin American Surveillance Studies Network (LAVITS) in Buenos Aires (November), including participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

David Lyon being awarded the *Doctor honoris causa*, at the Università della Svizzera Italiana.

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SSHRC Partnership Grant: Big Data Surveillance

In Fall 2015 the SSC was been awarded $2.5 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's Partnership Grant program to study Big Data Surveillance. This project continues to be led by SSC director David Lyon, along with a team of five co-investigators, ten collaborators and ten national and international academic and non-academic partners from public policy and activism groups (listed right). This partnership presents an exciting new opportunity for the SSC to research the vulnerabilities generated by big data surveillance.

This new partnership will contribute to an updated grasp of emerging surveillance practices and trends and to ethical and policy engagement through its three main research streams: security, marketing and governance. More information can be found at our new Big Data Surveillance website: **www.bigdatasurveillance.org**

Project Director:
David Lyon, Queen's University

Co-Investigators:
Kirstie Ball, University of St. Andrews
Colin Bennett, University of Victoria
Kevin Haggerty, University of Alberta
David Murakami Wood, Queen's University
Valerie Steeves, University of Ottawa

Collaborators:
Mark Andrejevic, Pomona College, USA
Office of the Information and
   Privacy Commissioner of BC
Andrew Clement, University of Toronto
Stéphane Leman-Langlois, Université Laval
Alice Marwick, Fordham University, USA
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group
Torin Monahan, University of North Carolina, USA
Christopher Prince, Office of the Privacy Commissioner of
   Canada
William Webster, University of Stirling, UK
Micheal Vonn, BC Civil Liberties Association

Partners:
BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA), Vancouver, BC
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG),
   Ottawa ON
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
   (OIPC BC), Victoria, BC
Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC),
   Ottawa, ON
Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and
   Privacy (CRISP), UK
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB
University of Ottawa, ON
University of Victoria, BC
University of St. Andrews, Scotland
University of Stirling, UK

Photo: Joan Sharpe

David Murakami Wood, Kirstie Ball, 'Manic Breeze', William Webster and Joan Sharpe at the Kingston Roller Derby

Key Issues in Big Data Surveillance:
A Research Workshop

On May 12-14 2016 we came together for our first BDS research workshop. 'Key Issues in Big Data Surveillance' served as our first Annual Partnership Meeting and provided an opportunity for the whole team to review the partnership's research goals, identify common cross-stream issues (analytic and practical), consider modes of dissemination and publicity, work towards a distinctive contribution and become aware of other initiatives.

Over the course of three days we heard from all research streams, collaborators and partner organizations. This event consolidated the team activities and set out the research agenda for subsequent years.

Our next workshop(May 25-27, 2017) will specifically focus on the research of Stream One. This workshop will also be the context within which we publicly launch a report on 'Security Intelligence in Big Data Age' and intensively discuss its implications.

Big Data: The 3-Ds: Define, Describe, Debate

The SSC is pleased to announce its participation in the 175th Anniversary of Queen's University with a series of events called "Big Data: The 3-Ds: Define, Describe, Debate". The series celebrates Queen's contributions to Big Data innovations nationally and internationally, and debates and contributes to the historic and future role of Queen's in fostering such open dialogue within the University and the City of Kingston.

We will open the black box of Big Data, explore what's being done with Big Data on campus, and argue about the pros and cons of Big Data in fields from healthcare to marketing to national security and beyond. External speakers, along with Queen's professors and students, will address the 3-Ds of Big Data through lectures, seminars panel discussions, video showings, film discussions, art exhibits and other media.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 4, 2016
Paul Zikopoulos – IBM Data Analytics, Toronto
"What is Big Data and Why Does it Matter?"
Venue: Goodes Hall Commons, 6:30pm

OCTOBER 5, 2016
Colin Bennett – University of Victoria
"Is your Neighbour a Liberal or a Conservative? Voter Surveillance and the Data-Driven Election Campaign"
Venue: Stirling Hall, Room 401, 12:30 pm

JANUARY 16, 2017
Film Screening and Discussion
with David Lyon
Venue: The Screening Room, 120 Princess Street, 6:45 pm

FEBRUARY 7, 2017
Denise Anthony – Dartmouth College
"Big Data, Cyber Security and Healthcare"
Venue: The School of Medicine Building, Room 132A, 6:30 pm
Reception 5:30 pm in the Atrium

MARCH 2017 (Date TBA)
Shoshana Zuboff – Harvard School of Business
Venue: Goodes Hall Commons, 6:30 pm

MARCH 23, 2017
"Big Data Futures" - A Panel Discussion
Evelyn Ruppert – Goldsmiths, University of London
Frank Pasquale – University of Maryland
Venue: Biosciences 1102, 6:30 pm

UNTIL DECEMBER 22, 2016
Big Data-related artworks in The Agnes atrium

Reflecting on Edward Snowden's Keynote Address

By Kyle Curlew

"I am just a citizen. I was the mechanism of disclosure. It's not up to me to say what the future should be — it's up to you," NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden told a crowd of Queen's spectators at Grant Hall on November 12th, 2015.

Snowden was invited as the keynote speaker for Queen's Model United Nations Invitational (QMUNi) for the Queen's International Affairs Association (QIAA). The talk was also live-streamed to a host of interested guests who couldn't fit in Grant Hall.

It was moderated by our very own David Lyon—who posed a series of questions to explore Snowden's beliefs, insights, and calls to action.

It was a bombshell of a talk, given over Google Hangout and projected on a big screen—Edward Snowden, the controversial whistle blower of countless NSA documents. The man who revealed the deep extent of government domestic surveillance and shook the foundations of the Intelligence community.

He was also the man responsible for providing the academic and journalistic community with primary data that exposed the logics and operations behind security surveillance.

Snowden gave an account of his life—detailing his past and how he eventually came to be motivated to blow the whistle on the NSA mass surveillance programs. When he started working for the Intelligence community, he held that he truly believed that they were protecting the American people. The longer he worked there, the more it became clear that system was less about protecting and more about control. The government was breaking the law through mass domestic surveillance, and no one was there to police them.

"The most important part is the fact that these decisions were made without our knowledge or consent", explains Snowden. He believed that divulging these secrets forward to the press, and ultimately to the public, would bring accountability. He wanted to let the public decide whether or not this kind of Orwellian surveillance should exist.

He also addressed issues that were based in Canadian politics. When asked about the controversial terror bill in Canada, Bill C-51 (now the Anti-Terrorism Act), Snowden said "terrorism is often the public justification, but it's not the actual motivation" for the bill.
He continued to say that if you strip the bill of the word "terrorism", you can see the extent to which the policy makes fundamental changes that affect civil rights. He warns that "The true danger of mass surveillance is not just being powerless—it's the fact that it means perfect protection of the law."

Snowden points to how surveillance bills only serve to dismantle our ability to challenge the state, stating that "Any political effort can be smothered."

Snowden's talk is still relevant today in the current climate of soft amendments to the Anti-terrorism Act (2015). The Liberal government has been accused of delaying changes to the Act by creating a process of public consultations. Though it is an impressive orchestration of democratic participation, some are calling it an optic of public relations.

"Once the precedent is set, it's very difficult to take away."

Kyle Curlew is a MA candidate at Queen's University studying under Dr. David Murakami-Wood. His research focus is in new media, surveilance and social control.

Spotlight on a PhD: Thomas Linder

Thomas Linder joined the Queen's Department of Sociology and the SSC in September 2016 as the Big Data and Society fellow. Drawn by the rich network of surveillance and security scholars represented in the SSC, he decided to pursue a PhD position at Queen's under the supervision of Professor David Murakami Wood. His interest in the field of government surveillance and domestic security crystallised after the Snowden leaks in 2013. While doing a Master's Degree at the University of Zurich in Cultural Studies and Political Science, he was interested in combining a passion for critical theory and political sociology, and the revelations of the domestic and international surveillance regimes provided a fascinating direction.

He wrote his MA thesis on the antagonistic conceptions of surveillance present in the post-Snowden media debate in order to explore how different concepts were instrumentalised to paint different pictures of the practices Snowden had revealed. Eager to move from media and discourse analysis to an investigation of surveillance regimes within domestic counter-terrorism, he seized the opportunity to do so with the SSC in Queen's. He is particularly interested in rationalities of pre-emptive security and their deployment via different technologies and practices across a wide range of security actors, from private security in urban settings to local and federal police as well as on the national level by national security agencies.

Thomas Linder

Photo coutesy of Thomas Linder

Thomas is looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that the next few years will bring, especially in terms of collaboration with fellow scholars and students, the Big Data Surveillance project in which he is part of the Security stream focusing on Canadian national security agencies and their use of big data, as well as in pursuing his own PhD project wherever it may lead.

Thomas Linder can be reached at thomas.linder@queensu.ca

SSC social event

Photo courtesy of Midori Ogasawara

Working on a New Tool For Research: An ATIP/FOI Repository

Photo by Midori Ogasawara

Scott Thompson

By Scott Thompson

In my own work, I have used ATIP and FOI releases in order to discover how government agencies and departments in Canada are regulating, adopting, and applying surveillance technologies to their everyday work. An ATIP or FOI release makes reference to the documents that are given out when a specific request, or question, is asked of a government organization. **ATIP is an acronym for the federal Access to Information and Privacy Act while FOI is an acronym for the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.** Under these legislation, Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and any individual present in, or corporation in Canada, can make a request to any government organization for any held records. The legislation requires, for the most part, that these documents be released to the person making the request (you can place your own request here - https://atip-aiprp. apps.gc.ca/atip/welcome.do?lang=en). I have found this method of research to be incredibly effective, although it leaves you with a large pile of documents at the end of your research.

For example, within the Centre's previous project on Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs), or drones, as they are more commonly called, done in partnership with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, ATIPs were crucial in producing the first descriptive statistics in Canada regarding who was using UAV and for what purpose (see Thompson and Saulnier 2015). As part of that project, thousands of pages of documents related to UAV were delivered to our team, and as that project came to a close with the final report to the OPC, we were left with a trove of documents, saved only on my personal computer. Our thoughts were that these data could certainly be of use to other researchers.

Currently there is not a repository for Canadian ATIP/FOI requests, and no formal way for the community to share the documents have been released to them as part of past ATIP or FOI requests. We are now looking to change this. This project is just getting started, and we are still working through the legality and logistics of collecting these releases, cataloging them, and making them searchable, but the current goal is to create an online repository for all ATIP and FOI requests related to surveillance issues that would allow other researchers and the general public the ability to easily find and read digital copies of the original ATIP documents without having to make their own lengthy ATIP or FOI requests. This tool would enable researchers by allowing them direct access to previous requests, it would also open up these datasets to be used as for education in the classroom, as well as allow for more impactful undergraduate and graduate student research on these topics – since these students currently do not have the time to wait for ATIP/FOI requests to be completed. This project is still in the planning stage, but watch this space for news!

Wearables in the Workplace

By Steven Richardson & Debra Mackinnon

In April 2016, the Surveillance Studies Centre (SSC) at Queen's University was awarded a 2016-2017 Contributions grant from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC) to study privacy implications of wearable technology in Canadian workplaces. One of the main goals of the study is help start the conversation on how enterprises are adopting and implementing wearable technologies in Canada, and the implications this may have for regulatory and privacy frameworks.

To accomplish this goal, our initial work has focused on wearable technologies currently entering Canadian workplaces, and the trends fueling their adoption. While wearables continue to be developed for a surprising variety of purposes, the current landscape suggests that Canadian businesses are mostly interested in the potential of these sensors to improve areas such as: occupational health and safety, employee identification and authentication, motion sensing and smart fabrics, virtual and augmented reality headsets, and personnel tracking and remote monitoring.

By gathering more information about the practices associated with the use and analysis of data sourced from wearable devices, our aim is to raise awareness about potential privacy issues and improve Canadians' ability to better exercise meaningful consent and control of their personal information.

Accordingly, we have engaged in numerous conversations with C-level executives and senior managers, occupational health researchers, union representatives, and privacy experts in order to better understand the importance of privacy to their current (wearable) initiatives.

Photo courtesy of Debra Mackinnon

Debra and Steve at 4S/EASST in Barcelona Spain

We were lucky enough to present some of our initial findings at the 4S-EASST conference in Barcelona in August 2016, where we discussed the example of workplace wellness programs that use wearables and self-tracking to motivate participants. The audience included noted experts in this field, Deborah Lupton, Minna Ruckenstein, Kate Weiner and Christopher Till, whose comments and feedback were tremendously helpful and much appreciated.

We are hoping to have many more insightful conversations such as these over the coming months as we continue stakeholder outreach and interviews. We will also be attending the annual Privacy and Security Conference in Victoria, BC in February 2017. This will be an opportunity for us to pilot some of our early findings from this study as well as a final opportunity for industry experts to weigh-in on this issues.

The final report will be delivered on March 31st, 2017 and available online in April.

David Murakami Wood, Pete Fussey and
David Lyon in Brussels

SSC Alumni: New Projects

Digital Vigilantism: Mapping the terrain and assessing societal impacts

Daniel Trottier has been awarded a 5-year Vidi grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). Along with two PhD researchers, Daniel will consider how practices of online policing and shaming are rendered meaningful through both news and digital media, but also the experiences and motivations of those whose personal and professional lives have been impacted by such campaigns. The project will consider case studies in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Russia and China.

Mapping Privacy and Surveillance Dynamics in Emerging Mobile Ecosystems: Practices and Cotexts in the Netherlands and US

Jason Pridmore, Daniel Trottier (alumni of the Surveillance Studies Centre – both now at Erasmus University Rotterdam), Jessica Vitak (University of Maryland) and Michael Zimmer (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) have been awarded a collaborative research grant from a joint call on privacy research by the NSF (EAGER) and the NWO (PRICE). The project focuses on how mobile users in the U.S. and the Netherlands evaluate and make decisions about their privacy and personal data. The project's primary goal is to inform ways of thinking about privacy in the digital age, with an emphasis on tensions between privacy, disclosure, mobility and surveillance.

SSC Seminar Series 2015-2016: The Year in Review

By Özge Girgin

The biweekly SSC Seminars continued at full pace during the 2015-2016 academic year. It has been a very rewarding time for the seminar series with the participation of 14 speakers from six countries over 12 seminars. Our speakers came from a variety of disciplines (including Political Science, Cultural Studies, Law, Computer Science, Geography, Anthropology and Sociology), and inspired listeners to participate in lively dialogue.

Government, police and military classification and profiling were areas studied by many of our speakers in various countries. In their joint seminar, **Jeffrey Monaghan** (Carleton University) and **Adam Molnar** (Deakin University) demonstrated the ways radicalization indicators reproduce discriminatory police practices in Canada through their study of counter-terrorism training programs. **Sachil Singh** (Queen's University) described the consequences of categorization and surveillance by explaining how historical racial disadvantages are reproduced in the contemporary higher education system in South Africa through racial sorting of students. **Yasuhiko Tajima** (Sophia University) and **Midori Ogasawara** (Queen's University) addressed negative repercussions and the possible totalitarian tendencies of identification systems by discussing the new national identification system and the State Secrecy Law in Japan. As part of a week of events collaboratively sponsored by academic departments in Queen's University, **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian,** (The Hebrew University

Sachil Singh

Photo by Özge Girgin

of Jerusalem) highlighted the ways in which militarized surveillance shape Palestinian children's experiences. **Fredy Peccerelli,** (Director of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation in Guatemala City), in a co-sponsored seminar with the Department of Geography, talked about the destructive and fatal consequences of targeted military surveillance practices in Guatemala, and how this same collected information has been utilized positively to identify the disappeared by using forensic sciences and the Multidisciplinary Human Identification System.

Adam Molnar & Jeffrey Monaghan

Photo by Özge Girgin

Big Data was a prevalent theme within this past year's seminars. **Don Aldridge** (Centre for Advanced Computing at Queen's University) informed us about real-time data surveillance, and the predictive predictive usage of big data in health care. **Kristin Veel** (The University of Copenhagen) offered us an understanding of surveillance through the lens of cultural theory. She explained how visibility and invisibility become negotiated in contemporary culture and the ways big data archives manifest uncertainties.

Our speakers have also drawn attention to the commercial collection of personal data and its implications for privacy and security. **Val Steeves** (University of Ottawa) highlighted the ways in which the corporate collection of children's information (and artificial intelligence technologies) impact children's privacy and interactions, by focusing specifically on the artificial intelligence toy Hello Barbie. **David Murakami Wood** (Queen's University) explained smart cities by emphasizing security and corporate links. He referred to the understand-

ing of participation, privacy and diversity needs to be reconsidered under pervasive surveillance systems within cities. Former Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, **Ann Cavoukian** (Ryerson University), underlined the need to incorporate privacy considerations to the design of the technologies in a world of connected devices and drew attention to the Privacy by Design framework.

Photo by Ozge Girgin

Norma Möllers

Focusing on the design of technologies, **Norma Möllers** (Queen's University) highlighted the misalignments experienced during the design of technologies due to diverse commercial and academic expectations and their impact on knowledge production, by drawing on her ethnographic work of a government-funded project for development of a CCTV system. Focusing on the experiences of surveilled subjects, **Alana Saulnier** (The University of Illinois at Chicago, and a recent PhD graduate from Queen's University) explained how surveilled subjects recognize and define surveillance in Pearson International Airport and in daily life, in order to unveil the consistencies and continuities of their experiences across contexts.

Photo by Ozge Girgin

Ann Cavoukian

Photo by Ozge Girgin

Fredy Peccerelli

We would like to thank all our speakers who participated in our seminars over the course of the past year. We have been very lucky during the Fall semester of 2016-2017 to host speakers including **Elia Zureik** (Queen's University), **Adam Molnar** (Deakin University), **Colin Bennett** (University of Victoria), **Jennifer Whitson** (University of Waterloo), **Susan Cahill** (University of Calgary) and **Martin French** (Concordia University). The details of these seminars will be covered in the next annual newsletter.

Organizing the SSC seminars and engaging with surveillance studies scholars from a variety of specializations gives me great joy and pleasure. I am very excited every term to plan these events, interact with, and learn from the amazing speakers. It is my privilege to be the convenor of the SSC seminar series, and I look forward to organizing the 2017 seminars. I would like to thank Emily Smith, Ellie Rodgerson, Joan Sharpe, David Murakami Wood and David Lyon for their continuous guidance and support every step of the way. I also would like to thank Sachil Singh, who handed over this responsibility in September 2015 and has always been very supportive.

If you would like to suggest speakers or to present at our Seminar Series, please email 14og@queensu.ca

You can find details about upcoming seminars on the SSC Website and on Facebook.

Özge Girgin is a PhD Student in the Department of Sociology, working on smartphone surveillance.

Congratulations!

Photo by Ozge Girgin

Congratulations to SSC member **David Murakami Wood**, who is one of five Queen's University faculty members that have been named to the Royal Society of Canada's (RSC) College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists

Photo courtesy of the Surveillance Studies Network

Congratulations also to **Oscar Gandy** who was honoured at the SSN 7th Biennial Surveillance & Society Conference with the 2016 Surveillance Studies Network Outstanding Achievement

Congratulations to **David Lyon** on being awarded to 2016 SSHRC Insight Award

Photo by Martin Lipman

Congratulations to **Midori Ogasawara** who has just completed a series of five articles based on an interview she had with **Edward Snowden** regarding the details of the NSA's involvement in Japan. This article series is written for the Japanese weekly magazine *Sunday Mainich*, which is published by the national newspaper Mainichi Shimbun. The articles reveal how the NSA uses telephone and internet surveillance in Japan, and how it undermines Japanese freedoms of speech, press and expression, as well as shedding a light on the unilateral and unequal relationships between the American and Japanese governments. This article series is currently only available in Japanese.

Congratulations to **David Lyon** on being awarded the Doctor *honoris causa*, at the Università della Svizzera Italiana. The citation for this honorary doctorate describes David Lyon a "trailblazer," a "visionary" and "founding father" of Surveillance Studies and "one of the most authoritative social scientists -- perhaps THE social scientist" academically and politically, in the field.

Photo coutesy of David Lyon

Congratulations to **Alana Saulnier** who successfully defended her PhD thesis "Surveillance Studies and the Surveilled Subject".

Congratulations to **Sachil Singh** who successfully defended his PhD dissertation, "The Reproduction of Social Disadvantage in South Africa: mapping consumer credit scoring onto the ANC's policy of `social transformation'".

Congratulations to **Tabasum Akseer** who successfully defended her PhD dissertation "Understanding the Impact of Surveillance and Security Measures on Canadian Muslim Men: A Mixed Methods Approach".

Photo courtsey of Emily Smith

Hazel

Congratulations to **Emily and Luke Smith** on the arrival of their daughter Hazel Agnes Smith, born on December 15, 2015.

Congratulations to **Scott Thompson and Sarah Perrin** on the arrival of their daughter Tess Winter Perrin Thompson, born January 29, 2016.

Photo courtsey of Scott Thompson

Tess

Events

SSC Seminar Schedule, available at:
http://www.sscqueens.org/research/seminar

BDS Stream One Research Workshop Workshop:
May 25-27, 2017 at the University of Ottawa

Surveillance Studies Summer Seminar (SSSS):
June 5 - 10, 2017 at Queen's University

Photo by Ozge Girgin

SSC social event

The SSC Newsletter was compiled and edited by Ellie Rodgerson