



Photo by Tim Forbes

SSC Newsletter

Issue 3, August 2014

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From the Director

By David Lyon -- The revelations from Edward Snowden about mass surveillance continue to make news and, politically, to make waves. They are important because now evidence is available for some practices that many suspected were occurring, which allows those in surveillance studies to get to grips with the new questions now raised about contemporary surveillance at a number of levels. The most obvious have to do with government surveillance of citizens by security and intelligence agencies but this in turn prompts queries about commercial surveillance by internet companies and the everyday use of social media and cellphones. The idea that ordinary people are more transparent than ever to organizations – the theme of the large-scale research program that has been central to SSC activities over the past 6 years – has become even more relevant since Snowden.

Our key research findings from the New Transparency program are highly germane to the Snowden disclosures. These findings were published in the accessible book, *Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada / Vivre à nu: la surveillance au Canada*, and launched in Ottawa in May 2014 (see page 6 for launch and link details). But at the same time, what we now know from Snowden sparks further pressing questions about how surveillance is carried out, by whom and with what consequences for which groups. The work of the SSC continues to probe these issues in a number of different ways. PhDs and postdocs contribute essential primary surveillance research on borders, in welfare, by drones, through identification practices and credit scoring systems, and in the civilian use of military techniques. To keep abreast of current controversies we are also stepping up our research on the “big data” aspects of today’s surveillance and their associated power dimensions.



David Lyon speaking at Politics of Surveillance Workshop, May 2014. Photo by Midori Ogasawara.

SSC Seminar Series (2013-2014): Themes in Review

“Thirteen seminars, seventeen speakers, and scholarly contributions to surveillance studies from eight universities around the world - what a year!”

By Sachil Singh

Thirteen seminars, seventeen speakers, and scholarly contributions to surveillance studies from eight universities around the world - what a year! The difficulty of scheduling so many speakers into a limited number of seminar slots bears testament both to the growth of the field as well as to the increasing ways in which surveillance affects our everyday lives.

A number of seminars examined how surveillance policy is translated into the 'every day'. For example, Scott Thompson (Queen's) explained the workings of social sorting by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario that were used to manage First Nations populations between 1927 and 1952. Krystle Maki (Queen's) explored how caseworkers behind Ontario Works' surveillance apparatus negotiate welfare surveillance. Anthony Amicelle (Université de Montréal) showed that the configuration of financial surveillance works on the basis of a misapprehension rather than on the basis of effectively combating financial crimes.

The corporate interest in big data was another important theme. Alexander Mitchell

(Queen's) detailed the surveillance aspects of contemporary marketing practices through a discussion of the experiences of marketers. Alice Marwick (Fordham University) showed how the availability of consumer data is based on the marketing of social technologies in ways that push the boundaries of traditional understandings of privacy. This availability, as Agnieszka Leszczynski (Queen's) highlighted with respect to location-aware information and communication technologies, often has consequences that are gendered and most detrimental for people of specific socio-economic positions.

Edward Snowden's NSA revelations also inspired two of our seminars that drew the largest audiences. Peter Marks (University of Sydney) assessed the cultural turn in surveillance studies that resulted from increases in sales of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in the months following Snowden's revelations. Didier Bigo (King's College London) and Elspeth Guild (University of London) examined the legality and legitimacy of the NSA's spy programmes as well as the fears that emerge from the growth of cyber mass surveillance.

If the NSA revelations spark concern, so does the rise of drones. Members of the SSC's Drone Surveillance Research Group at Queen's provided two seminars (the first by Adam Molnar*, and the second by Ciara Bracken-Roche, David Lyon, Mark Mansour and Alana Saulnier) focused on how the proliferation of drones shapes policy contours, militarizing currents, concerns over privacy, and levels of public knowledge. Also on the rise,



Scott Thompson giving seminar at Politics of Surveillance workshop, May 2014. Photo by Midori Ogasawara.

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as Benjamin Muller (Western University) explained, is the extent of border security surveillance and identification technologies that are reconstructing and rearticulating the architectures of the Arizona-Sonora border.

The multiple ways in which surveillance is increasing not only forces us to reassess, as Mark Salter (University of Ottawa) argued, the role of the intellectual in the realm of political engagement, but also to equip ourselves (as contributors to surveillance studies) with the skills to effectively engage with journalists and the media. Adam Molnar and David Murakami Wood (Queen's) shared important tools for scholars to intervene in public discussion by effectively engaging with the media.

We are already excited about the upcoming Fall 2014 series! Our schedule includes seminars by Vincent Mosco, Didier Bigo, Rachel Dubrofsky, Josh Lauer and Jeffrey Moon. More details can be found at: <http://www.sscqueens.org/research/seminar>. (see p. 7)

**Adam Molnar's seminar was recorded as part of the International Relations and Digital Technology Project's annotated lecture series, available at: <http://www.irdtp.org/annotated-lecture-series/>*

Sachil Singh is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology, Queen's University and organizes the seminar program. To suggest speakers to be included in the seminar series, please contact him at: sachil.singh@queensu.ca

SSC Survey Archive

The Globalization of Personal Data Project, under the leadership of Elia Zureik, conducted an international survey on Privacy and Surveillance in 2006 carried out by the polling firm Ipsos Reid and funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.* This survey involving 9,606 respondents in 9 countries was archived, along with all supporting documentation and a codebook, by Alexandra Cooper and Jeffrey Moon in Data Services, Stauffer Library, Queen's University, and made available for public use in QSpace, Dataverse and ODESI.

Since that time there have been four additional surveys that have been undertaken by Vision Critical, a division of the polling company Angus Reid Global in consultation with the SSC. The first three on *Privacy and Surveillance: June 2012 Globalization of Personal Data Follow-up*, *Public Opinion and the Snowden Affair 2013* and *Privacy and Surveillance: February/March 2014 Globalization of Personal Data Follow-up* are now also published to QSpace, Dataverse and ODESI and publicly available thanks to Alex and Jeff. An additional survey will be available in the archive soon on *Surveillance Drones: January 2014*.

Two of the surveys - from June 2012 and February/March 2014 - replicate some of the same categories of questions as the earlier 2006 GPD Project survey, allowing for a comparison of awareness and attitudes towards surveillance and privacy between 2006, 2012 and 2014. The remaining two surveys contain specific questions following the Edward Snowden revelations in 2013, as well as questions specifically designed by the Drone Research Group in January 2014, for research sponsored by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, and included in the report on 'Surveillance Drones' available on our website at: <http://www.sscqueens.org/SurveillanceDrones>. All of these follow-up surveys contain samples from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Links to these surveys are now available on our website under 'Research', 'Survey archives' here: <http://www.sscqueens.org/research/survey-archive>. For more information on how to access and use this data, Jeff Moon, Data Librarian and Academic Director, Queen's Research Data Centre, will be giving a seminar in the fall on November 19, 12:30pm - 2:00pm in Mackintosh-Corry Hall, room D411.

*More information about the survey can be found on our website under the heading 'Research', 'International survey' here: http://www.sscqueens.org/research/intl_survey

Unmanned Systems Canada Conference (USC), Vancouver, November 2013

By Ciara Bracken-Roche

After the successful bid by the SSC to produce a report on UAVs in Canada as part of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada's 2013-2014 Contributions Program, Dr. Lyon was invited to the Unmanned Systems Canada Conference (USC) in Vancouver to head the Ethics and Law Panel. As project coordinator for the UAV report, Dr. Lyon asked me to assist with the coordination of such a panel. We were also contacted by Simon Fraser University to hold a public version of the same panel as part of the ViPS (Institute for Values in Policy and Science Public Lectures) series.

In order to maximize our time at the USC conference, we decided to conduct interviews to gather original data for the OPC Project. To gain further insight on questions of history, privacy, marketing, and

perceived public opinion of UAVs in Canada we wanted to speak to individuals from various sectors across the Canadian UAV industry. After many revisions of the interview questions and an ethics review, two other members of our research team were asked to join us on our trip to Vancouver: Alana Saulnier, and Mark Mansour. As graduate students, this trip was truly rewarding for us all in terms of our research and experience as academics.

The first day of the conference started with us meeting our panelists, Steve McGammon (of the Ontario Privacy Commissioner's Office) and Micheal Vonn (of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association), for the Ethics and Law Panel at the USC. We had a good audience for the day session and once that panel finished we walked across town to the downtown Vancouver campus of SFU. This session had a substantially larger audience than the one

at the Westin Bayshore, where the daytime session was held, there wasn't an empty seat in the room. Moderating a panel was a great experience, though wrangling the keen crowd during Q and A was a challenge. Following the talk our hosts took us all out for dinner at Guu Izakaya where we got to socialize and wind down after the day's events.

The next day was equally busy as we began our recruitment for interviews and I presented to a full and engaged audience at midday. Military personnel and industry professionals alike raised a number of difficult, interesting, and helpful points during the question period.

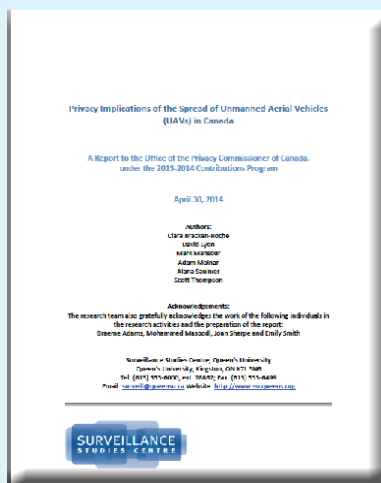
Once our panel events were finished, we began the interviews. After various recruiting methods we were even approached by people who had heard about our research project and volunteered for interviews. Fitting interviews in between conference events was a



Michael Vonn speaking at Ethics and Law panel at USC (LR- Ciara Bracken-Roche, David Lyon, Michael Vonn and Steve McGammon.) Photo courtesy of Ciara Bracken-Roche.

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challenge, but Alana, Mark,
and I managed to conduct 15
interviews in 2 days. The final
evening featured an awards
dinner and entertainment by
an indigenous Pacific music-
dance collective. As I returned
the tandem bike I sighed with
relief, the trip was a great
success overall.

Ciara Bracken-Roche is a PhD
candidate in the Department of
Sociology at Queen's University.



'Surveillance Drones: Privacy
Implications of the Spread of
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
(UAVs) in Canada', by Ciara
Bracken-Roche, David
Lyon, Mark James Mansour,
Adam Molnar, Alana Saulnier
and Scott Thompson, A
Report to the Office of the
Privacy Commissioner of
Canada, under the 2013-
2014 Contributions Program,
April 2014. Available at:
[http://www.sscqueens.org/
SurveillanceDrones](http://www.sscqueens.org/SurveillanceDrones)



Aeryon Scout in flight. Photo by Dkroetsch (Own work) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons.

Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada / Vivre à nu: La surveillance au Canada was launched by the New Transparency Project, a SSHRC Major Collaborative Research Initiative (Athabasca University Press) on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at the University of Ottawa from 5:00-7:00pm. The event featured a book introduction by David Lyon, Principal Investigator, The New Transparency Project; Director, Surveillance Studies Centre, Queen's University, website demonstration by Valerie Steeves, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa; and Adam Molnar, Postdoctoral Fellow, The New Transparency Project and video presentation of the book trailer created by Josh Lyon, Principal at AKAFK. Commentary was provided by Elizabeth May, MP (Saanich-Gulf Islands), Leader of the Green Party of Canada, Charmaine Borg, MP (Terrebonne-Blainville) and Ian Kerr, Faculty of Law, Canada Research Chair in Ethics, Law and Technology, University of Ottawa. Books are now available for free PDF download or for purchase from the Athabasca University Press Website.

The Politics of Surveillance Workshop: Advancing Democracy in a Surveillance Society was held on May 8-10, 2014 at the University of Ottawa. Website: <http://www.digitallymediatedsurveillance.ca/home/politics-of-surveillance-workshop-may-2014/>

The workshop produced the **Ottawa Statement on Mass Surveillance**, which unites Canada's leading privacy experts to offer high-level proposals to rein in mass surveillance. Over 35 leading academics and 19 organizations signed on in support of the Ottawa Statement on Mass Surveillance, which sets out what needs to be done to protect Canadians from out-of-control mass surveillance. See <http://www.digitallymediatedsurveillance.ca/the-ottawa-statement/> and <http://www.sscqueens.org/news/ottawa-statement-on-mass-surveillance>

For more information on NewT, see: <http://www.newtransparency.org> and the annual newsletters here: http://www.sscqueens.org/Project_News



Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada / Vivre à nu: La surveillance au Canada is now available for free PDF download by Athabasca University Press! Visit the companion website here: www.surveillanceincanada.org



Elizabeth May speaking at Transparent Lives book launch, and speakers David Lyon, Charmaine Borg and Ian Kerr, May 2014. Photo by Midori Ogasawara.

SSC Seminar Series – Fall 2014

Wednesday, September 10, 2014, Mackintosh-Corry Hall D411
Research Round-up

Wednesday, September 24, 2014, 12h30-14h00, Venue TBC
Vincent Mosco, Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology, Queen's University

Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 12h30-14h00, Mackintosh-Corry Hall D411
Rachel Dubrofsky, Associate Professor, Department of Communication and Departments of Humanities & Cultural Studies and Women's and Gender Studies, University of South Florida

Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 12h30-14h00, Mackintosh-Corry Hall D411
Josh Lauer, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, University of New Hampshire

Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 12h30-14h00, Mackintosh-Corry Hall D411
Jeffrey Moon, Academic Director and Data and Government Information Librarian, Queen's University Research Data Centre

Crime, Immigration and Surveillance Workshop

By Özgün Topak

The 'Crime, Immigration and Surveillance' Workshop took place on November 7-8, 2013 at Queen's University and was co-sponsored by the Faculty of Law, Canada Research Chair in Crime, Security and Constitutionalism, and the SSC. This truly interdisciplinary workshop involved academic experts from law, sociology, criminology, international relations and political science backgrounds, working in North American and European universities. All presentations were related to the theme of criminalization of immigration. Historical and contemporary cases were provided by the presenters to reflect on this important theme. Presentations included the early capitalist and colonial roots of border and immigration controls; the instrumental usage of immigration law as counter-terrorism law in the Western contexts since 9/11; the regimes of control exercised by surveillance instruments such as security certificates and biometric traveller databases; the detention and deportation of asylum seekers, refugees and foreign workers; how the practices of criminalization of immigration undermine human rights; and how resistance to criminalization of immigration can materialize through such practices as privacy advocacy and No Border politics.

All papers, in one way or another, highlighted the diverse forms of exclusion that migrants and refugees experience in the Western contexts. The presentations made clear that criminalization of immigration widens the

already existent inequalities, between those who enjoy the privileges of citizenship and those whose movements are subjected to further scrutiny and limitations. They have also made clear that human rights cannot be materialized without a strong commitment to social justice. Otherwise, it would only refer to the rights of some particular groups who already have these rights.

The workshop format provided a productive and comfortable environment for the presenters. Each presentation was well attended by the workshop participants. Presenters found the opportunity to receive extensive feedback on their papers, which helped them to improve their theoretical precision and empirical depth. The involvement of academic experts from Europe and North America added a comparative dimension to the discussions. Research networks were established between scholars for future collaborations. Overall, this was a well-structured event on a very important theme.

Papers from this workshop are being compiled in a special themed issue of the *Queen's Law Journal* coming soon.

Özgün Topak is completing his PhD in Sociology at Queen's. He will be starting a postdoc in the fall at York University in International Security Studies. He can be reached at ozgunt@gmail.com.

Postdoc experience a fulfilling one

By Adam Molnar

In September 2013, I arrived at the Surveillance Studies Centre (SSC) for a one-year postdoctoral fellowship. The opportunity to connect with colleagues in the SSC on a more consistent basis than email exchange and altogether brief encounters at workshops and conferences was an exciting one, and now in early retrospect, was a significantly fulfilling one for both professional and personal reasons.

While at the SSC, I was involved in a series of collaborations with colleagues that touched on many pressing issues concerning the study and politics of surveillance. In April, I co-organized with Scott Thompson and Patrick Baud a panel discussion that queried the practices of the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC), and engaged possibilities for a deeper review and reformation of security intelligence practices in Canada. This event was jointly sponsored by the SSC, School of Policy Studies and the Faculty of Law. Part of my responsibilities during my stay in the SSC was also to develop a website for the Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada project, which was successfully launched on May 8 in Ottawa with the release of the book. And just recently, a fine group of us released a joint report on 'Surveillance Drones' for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, all of which you can read more about in this newsletter.

“The opportunity to connect with colleagues in the SSC ... was a significantly fulfilling one for both professional and personal reasons.”



Adam giving presentation at Politics of Surveillance workshop, May 2014. Photo by Midori Ogasawara.

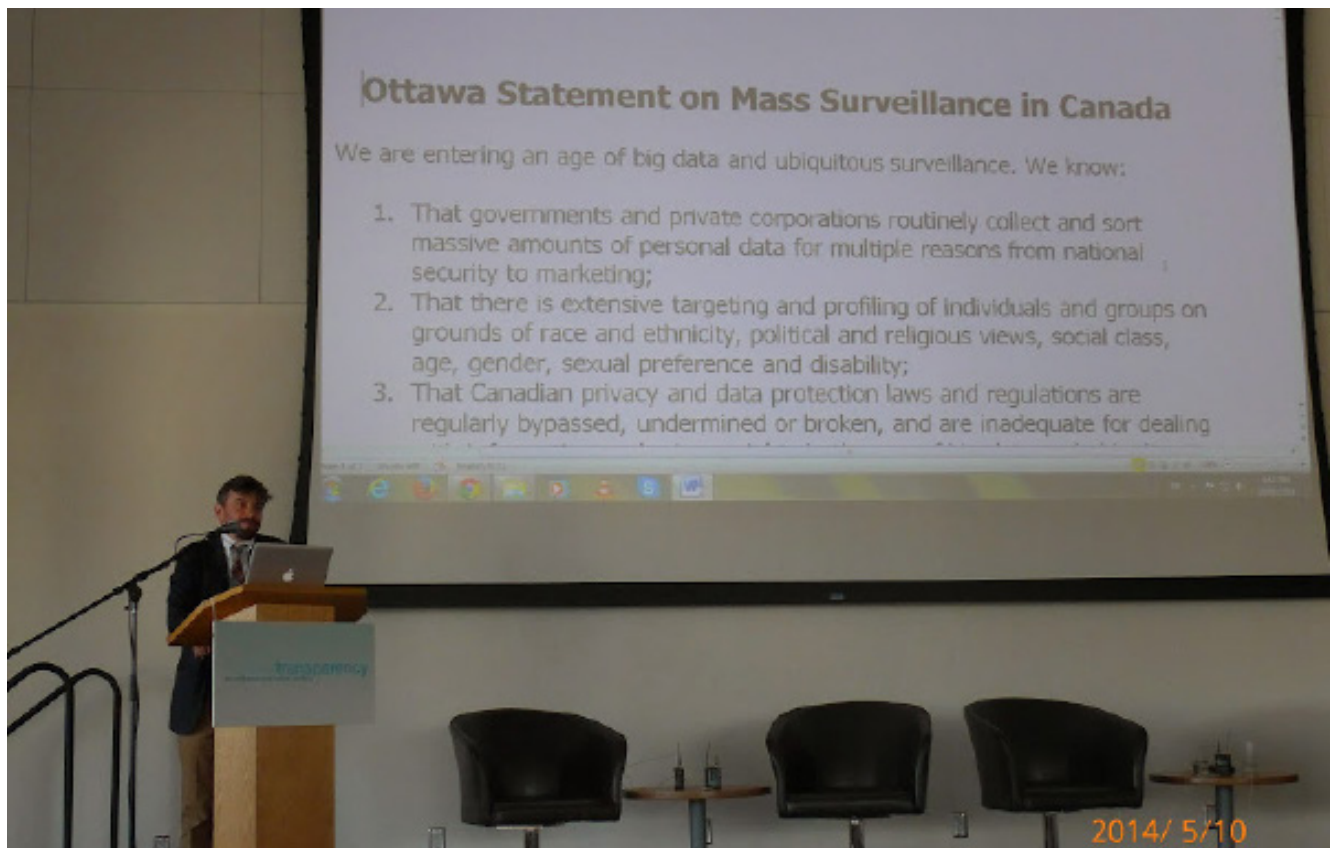
Being involved in so many diverse aspects of the academic field while at the SSC: from workshop organizing, leading and participating in seminars, collaborating on research for external organizations, engaging media on a routine basis, to having full leeway to pursue my own academic research has been a wonderful privilege. In addition to these aspects, I was able to dialogue regularly with the excellent graduate students in the SSC, while also taking cues from my older colleagues on the finer points of working as a mentor and senior collaborator in such a collective.

As a junior academic who is starting a faculty position in the Department of Criminology at Deakin University, these experiences are indelibly important, and yet they very easily eclipse a purely professional criterion for career development and 'success'. These experiences (and the accumulation of significant exchanges and learning practices that are no doubt buried between these lines), leave me with an enduring feeling that the SSC is indeed much more than a vibrant and engaging research centre—it is also a family of sorts...a family that does excellent work on surveillance and privacy.

Adam Molnar is now Lecturer in Criminology at Deakin University, Australia and can be reached at adam.molnar@deakin.edu.au

Member News

- David Lyon (SSC Director) was recently inducted as a fellow into the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) in the United Kingdom. <http://www.sscqueens.org/news/professor-david-lyon-named-to-uk-academy>
- Dr. Daniel Trottier, PhD graduate of Queen's and the SSC in 2010, was awarded the 2013 Surveillance Studies Network Annual Book Prize, for the best surveillance studies monograph published in 2012, for 'Social Media as Surveillance' (Ashgate, 2012). <http://www.sscqueens.org/news/dr-daniel-trottier-wins-2013-ssn-annual-book-prize>
- Farewell to Anne Linscott, SSC Research Associate from January 2013 to January 2014. Welcome back Emily Smith, February 2014.
- Farewell to Adam Molnar, SSC postdoc from September 2013 to June 2014. Best wishes for your position in the Department of Criminology, Deakin University, Australia.
- Congratulations to Özgün Topak on his postdoc position at York University in International Security Studies.
- Congratulations to Daniel Trottier on his position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Media and Communication at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- Welcome new PhD Students 2013-2014: Midori Ogasawara, Mohammed Masoodi, Tabasum Akseer.



David Murakami Wood discussing the Ottawa Statement at the Politics of Surveillance Workshop, May 2014.
Photo by Midori Ogasawara.

Spotlight on Student: Krystle Maki

Krystle Maki has been involved with the SSC since 2009. She first attended the SSC seminar series as a Masters student in Sociology at Queen's and became interested in what other scholars in the field of surveillance were studying. Shortly after she was asked to present a seminar on her own MA work in February 2010, where she spoke on 'Under the Watchful Eye of Ontario Works: Welfare Surveillance', discussing the dramatic increase of surveillance mechanisms used in social services administration in Ontario and the added difficulty of obtaining welfare benefits for low-income families, especially single mothers. She also presented at the Surveillance Studies Network Global Surveillance Society Conference at the City University, London, UK in April 2010 on 'Welfare Surveillance in Ontario Works: Controlling "Risky" Populations'. These venues provided interesting discussions and valuable feedback for her work. Krystle also coordinated the SSC seminar series from February 2010 to May 2011, including organizing a panel titled 'G20 in the Streets. Silencing of Dissent: A Special Panel on the Impacts of Surveillance during the G20 in Toronto'. Now coming full circle, nearing completion of her PhD, she recently presented her findings from qualitative in-depth interviews in an SSC seminar in March of 2014 'From Social Work to Agents of Surveillance: Caseworkers' Perspectives on Welfare Surveillance within "Ontario Works"'. Maki examined how caseworkers negotiate welfare surveillance from a human perspective and how neoliberal subjectivity shapes casework. This gave her a chance to reflect on where she started and where her research has taken her.

At first, as she was embarking on her Master's thesis, Maki did not see how her work fit into surveillance studies. She was examining single mothers experiences with social assistance in Ontario. Her early influences were Dr. Margaret Little's work on moral regulation and single mothers on assistance, as was the work of her supervisor Dr. Laureen Snider, who encouraged her to think outside of moral regulation frameworks and explore a critical feminist political economy of surveillance. Maki is

thankful for the privilege to work with Dr. Snider, who was a supportive supervisor during her MA, and was inspired by her critical work on the political economy of surveillance. While completing course work for her PhD, Dr. David Lyon also expanded Maki's knowledge of surveillance studies and her analysis of 'welfare surveillance'.

Over the course of her research, Maki was surprised to find out that of the people she interviewed, from caseworkers, anti-poverty advocates, women's shelter workers and single mothers on social assistance – most had not thought about the welfare system's regulatory measures as surveillance. But when she inquired about the multiple databases, sharing third party information, the welfare debit smart cards, income reporting statements, paternity tests, workfare requirements, bureaucracy, etc. – it shifted the discussion and participants actually had a lot to say about surveillance. Conducting in-depth interviews really challenged Krystle as an academic to think about the language we use to explain and understand the world around us, she feels very fortunate to be able to do this research and especially thankful to the participants who took the time to share their stories and expertise with her. Maki plans to continue to raise awareness on social justice issues and develop community resources for low-income groups.

Krystle Maki is nearing completion of her PhD in Sociology at Queen's University. She can be reached at krystle.maki@queensu.ca.



Photo courtesy of Krystle Maki

Events

Surveillance Studies Summer Seminar 2015,
watch this space: <http://www.sscqueens.org/events/ssss2015>

For the events calendar, go to:
<http://www.sscqueens.org/events/calendar>

Follow the Surveillance Studies Centre (SSC) on Twitter at @sscqueens



Photo courtesy of Midori Ogasawara

SSC Summer Potluck on Wolfe Island: Adam Molnar, David Lyon, Sue Lyon, Yuma Ogasawara, Midori Ogasawara and David Murakami Wood.

The SSC Newsletter was compiled and edited by Emily Smith

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