



Photo by Tim Forbes

# SSC Newsletter

Issue 4, October 2015

## In this issue:

- 2 SSHRC Partnership Grant: Big Data Surveillance
- 2 The New Transparency
- 3 SSC Seminar Series 2014-2015: A Year in Review  
*Sachil Singh*
- 4 Public Outreach Events
- 5 4S15: What does it mean to be critical in Surveillance Studies?  
*Raquel M. Gonzales*
- 6 The Ubicity Project
- 7 Intersectional Approaches to Surveillance Workshop  
*Ciara Bracken-Roche and Trevor Scott Milford*
- 8 Reflecting on Visit of Nadera Shalhoub-Kevoorkian  
*Kyle Curlew*
- 9 Researching Abroad: A Dream Come True  
*Marta Kanashiro*
- 10 Member News
- 11 Spotlight on Postdoc: Scott Thompson
- 12 Events

## From the Director

By David Lyon- The SSC moves into the next phase of its work with the new project on Big Data Surveillance. This SSHRC-funded team project has a special new twist – it involves policy and advocacy partners who are actually engaged with the research itself (see p.2). We are excited about both the cutting edge theme of the research and its immediate real world connections – and impact -- through our partners. It also offers unequalled opportunities for our graduate students, here at Queen's and at our other nodes; the universities of Alberta, Ottawa and Victoria, plus the UK's Open University.

This fresh initiative could not have come at a better time. Our previous project, on "The New Transparency: Surveillance and Social Sorting" (2008-2015) culminated in the book *Transparent Lives / Vivre à nu*, where it is abundantly clear that the Big Data drive affects all the surveillance trends that we describe. This one takes off where that one landed.

I also had a half-year sabbatical leave which took me first to Birzeit University in Ramallah, in the West Bank and then to the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where I taught courses in surveillance. In Ramallah, my students were fascinated to learn about surveillance in other places and through digital means but also to put their own everyday experiences of surveillance into a wider explanatory framework. In Rio the course coincided with a lively conference arranged by the Latin American Surveillance Studies Network (LAVITS).



Photo courtesy of David Lyon

David Lyon at Birzeit University, with students receiving their certificates of participation. L-R- TA Jumana Obaid, Dean Khalil Asem, Dahlia, and Dr. Lourdes Habash.

These trips reminded me again of the importance of learning from others in the field and of keeping in touch with those from other countries to share our insights and experiences.

# SSHRC Partnership Grant: Big Data Surveillance

The SSC has been awarded \$2.5 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's Partnership Grant program to study Big Data Surveillance. The project will be spearheaded 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.

The new project builds on the SSC's previous project *The New Transparency: Surveillance and Social Sorting* (2008-2015), and its landmark study, *Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada*, which exposes nine key surveillance trends now intensified by big data. 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. Startup meetings were held in September, and more details about the project will follow, along with a new website featuring goals and objectives

## the new transparency surveillance and social sorting

The final report of The New Transparency Project has been published online. This report summarizes the research results of this Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada funded Major Research Collaborative Initiative (2008-2015). It includes outcomes from each of the five Integrated Research Sub-Projects (IRSPs) as well as culminating projects, such as student training and mentoring, the *Handbook of Surveillance Studies* and *Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada / Vivre à nu: la surveillance au Canada*.

See: [http://www.sscqueens.org/Project\\_News](http://www.sscqueens.org/Project_News)

of each research stream, partner involvement, people and events.

---  
Watch for: <http://www.bigdatasurveillance.ca/>

### Project Director:

David Lyon, Queen's University

### Co-Investigators:

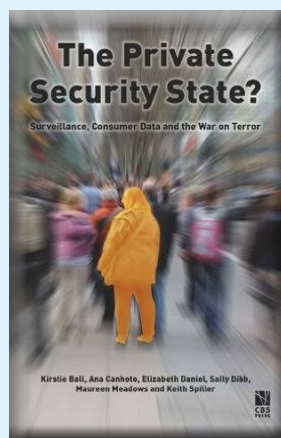
Kirstie Ball, Open University, UK  
Colin Bennett, University of Victoria  
Kevin Haggerty, University of Alberta  
David Murakami Wood, Queen's University  
Valerie Steeves, University of Ottawa

### Collaborators:

Mark Andrejevic, Pomona College, USA  
Elizabeth Denham, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC  
Andrew Clement, University of Toronto  
Stéphane Léman-Langlois, Université Laval  
Alice Marwick, Fordham University, USA  
Monia Mazigh, 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  
Open University, UK  
University of Stirling, UK



*The Private Security State? Surveillance, Consumer Data and the War on Terror*  
By Kirstie Ball, Elizabeth Daniel, Sally Dibb, Maureen Meadows, and Keith Spiller,  
Copenhagen Business School Press,  
March 2015.

# SSC Seminar Series 2014-2015: A Year in Review

By Sachil Singh (PhD Candidate, Sociology)

The 2014-2015 seminar series included thirteen speakers that covered a spectrum of topics from aspects of deepening mass surveillance to gendered, racialized and historical dimensions of surveillance.

Archiving, documenting and sorting do not always have sinister outcomes, as was demonstrated by Jeff Moon in his seminar about the SSC's collaboration with the Queen's University Research Data Centre. He explained how this collaboration was a pioneering effort of documenting and archiving the SSC's research projects for public access.

With the growing popularity of cloud computing, and the topic of his latest book, it was only appropriate for Vinny Mosco to speak about the ways in which deepening surveillance contributes to corporate interests at the expense of consumer interests. The theme of deepening surveillance ran through many seminars, such as with Andrew Clement's presentation of how Canadians are affected by the main internet surveillance programmes that were revealed through Edward Snowden's published leaks. Similarly, Didier Bigo highlighted the ways in which mass surveillance, particularly in light of Snowden's revelations,

undermines the intrinsic qualities of democratic regimes. In such a context, it was fitting for Christian Leuprecht and David Skillicorn to co-present on a new approach to cybersecurity. Of course, the notion of privacy cannot be separated from this context, which Marta Kanashiro provided by presenting on different elements of this concept in Brazilian legal debate.

Two consequences of more intrinsic surveillance are its gendered and racialized dimensions. By examining tabloid coverage of women (such as of Twitter photographs posted by Miley Cyrus and Kim Kardashian), Rachel Dubrofsky accounted for the ways in which such dimensions are produced through surveillance practices, as well as the ways in which post-feminist notions of empowerment and responsibility are articulated when individuals operate the technologies that functionally surveil them. On the topic of consumer culture, Laura Pinto explored and responded to overwhelming public reaction to surveillance based on the "panoptic" characteristics of the popular toy, Elf on a Shelf.

We were also made acutely aware of the historical dimension of surveillance. Manu Luksch's film and seminar offered a pre-history of modern surveillance and highlighted how many of the betrayals and hopes of today's surveillance technologies

*Continued on p. 4*

*"As I come to the end of my term as seminar organizer, and reflect on the journey since then, I can say that it has been an exciting experience of learning from, and engaging with, speakers who contribute to cutting-edge surveillance research."*

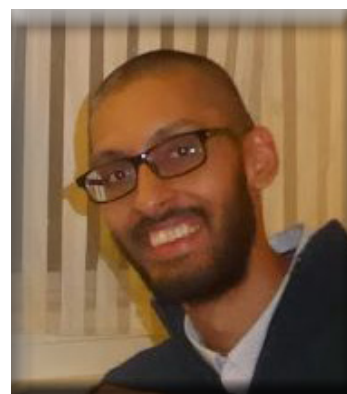


Photo by Midori Ogasawara

Sachil Singh

Continued from p. 3:

are simply reproductions of those attached to film, the telephone and television when they were new. Similarly, in a joint presentation, David Murakami Wood drew attention to historical and contemporary examples of surveillance, while Charles Stankievech identified many of these examples in his art exhibition. Josh Lauer also highlighted historical dimensions of surveillance, by questioning the assumption that the nation state played a leading role in the development of modern surveillance. He argued that corporations played an even greater role, particularly in the rise of credit reporting agencies.

I took over the role of organizing the SSC Seminar Series from Krystle Maki in the summer of 2011. As I come to the end of my term as seminar organizer, and reflect on the journey since then, I can say that it has been an exciting experience of learning from, and engaging with, speakers who contribute to cutting-edge surveillance research. 2014-2015 was no exception.

---  
Sachil Singh has expertly organized the SSC seminars from 2011 to 2015 and the SSC wishes to express gratitude for all his work. He is completing his PhD on statistical discrimination through credit scoring in South Africa.

---  
The SSC welcomes Özge Girgin, a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology, who will be taking up the role of organizing the seminar program in 2015-2016. To suggest speakers to be included, please contact her at: 14og@queensu.ca

# Public Outreach Events

Several public outreach events were hosted by the SSC during 2015, including:

- 'Early Warning Systems', a panel talk between Charles Stankievech (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape & Design, University of Toronto) and David Murakami Wood (Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Surveillance Studies, Queen's University) at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre Atrium on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

- A film screening of the documentary **Citizenfour**, by Laura Poitras, followed by a guest talk by SSC director David Lyon, held at the Screening Room in Kingston on Monday, January 26, 2015

- The SSC supported campaigns against Bill C-51 by OpenMedia and ICLMG, February 2015.

- David Lyon features in a documentary **Big Data: Citizens Under Control** made by ALEA films, directed by Pedro Barbadillo (Barcelona), released in February 2015.

- A film screening of **Life in the Cloud**, with filmmaker Manu Luksch, intermedia artist and founding director of ambientTV.NET, held at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre Atrium, Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

- **#AskSnowden**, a live Q&A with Edward Snowden and panel discussion, held at the Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson University in association with the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE) and the CBC. to launch the **Snowden Digital Surveillance Archive** in Toronto, March 4, 2015, supported by the SSC.

- A film screening of the documentary **Secret Trial 5**, followed by a Q&A with Sharry Aiken, Faculty of Law, Queen's University and the filmmakers, held at the Screening Room in Kingston on Sunday, March 15, 2015.



Photo by Midori Ogasawara

The world's first surveillance selfie?  
The newspaper O Globo (Rio) containing David Lyon's interview

# 4S15: What does it mean to be critical in Surveillance Studies?

By Raquel M. Gonzales

When asked to reflect on my experiences at the 2015 Surveillance Studies Summer Seminar, I came back to its overarching theme: what does it mean to be critical in surveillance studies? The ambitious question sparked a week-long exploration of our collective routes to the field and critical avenues not yet travelled. To be critical raised the question: what do we mean by surveillance? Among the group of PhD attendants, what surveillance resembled in our own scholarship took myriad forms: terrorism and security, diaspora tracking, consumer culture, criminal justice networks, colonialist logics, urban governance, dataveillance, smart cities, and histories of criminal records and citizen-policing. As a forum of such methodological exchange, the Seminar became a space of interdisciplinary pedagogy and, to abridge David Lyon's (Queen's) opening talk,

to collectively ponder the possibilities for the field.

The Seminar remains one of the most rigorous and enjoyable academic experiences of my career, because we were pushed to question our investment in the field. Our research is always political, insisted guest speaker Kevin Walby (University of Winnipeg), and our research questions can enable and disable certain injustices and absences to remain present in our field. With a talk on surveillance and political economy, Dwayne Winseck (Carleton University) questioned the means by which data, even our own research data, is gathered and exposed. I felt empowered to harness the responsibility of my scholarship—not for publications or job applications, as it often goes—but for its political potential.

Questions of equity sparked rich conversations about intersectionality throughout the week, beginning with “When Blackness Enters the Frame 1.0,” Simone Browne's (University of Texas at Austin) incredible presentation on the necessity of critical race theory in histories of technology and surveillance.

We considered how inequity works with surveillance to create different actors, data sets, and levels of scrutiny. In his talk, Oscar Gandy (University of Pennsylvania) urged us to resist reifying surveillance as a singular concept. Though such differences should emerge within our work, David Phillips (University of Toronto) insisted that we examine how our own academic community might isolate and categorize its members and their scholarship. Such thoughtful questions flowed naturally from the Seminar to the fantastic Intersectional Approaches to Surveillance conference, organized by former Summer Seminar participants Ciara Bracken-Roche and Trevor Scott Milford.

The Seminar situated all of us within a community. Academic work can feel isolating, though Mark B. Salter (University of Ottawa) emphasized that successful writing and research cannot emerge in a vacuum. I came to fully appreciate the rewarding spirit of collaboration with the Seminar's grant-writing project. This two-day “proposal-from-scratch” assignment was intense, overwhelming,

*Continued on p. 6*



4S15 group photo

Photo by Joan Sharpe

Continued from p. 5:  
and genuinely fun. During the planning process, my group encouraged one another to vocalize our disciplinary strengths and isolate our shared curiosities about surveillance. In exchanging our previous research experiences, we shaped a project that bridged the humanities and social sciences for potential funding. The assignment also provided a much needed reframing of meaningful collaboration and its possibilities.

As a first-timer to Canada, I am grateful for the spirit of camaraderie among the Seminar participants, particularly the Queen's PhD locals for their walking tours and Joan Sharpe and Emily Smith for facilitating such an enterprise. All of the faculty participants served as models for surveillance scholarship, and the Seminar's success is a great credit to its core faculty trio: David Murakami Wood (Queen's), Torin Monahan (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and Valerie Steeves (University of Ottawa). This space of generosity and collectivity was made possible through their humour, their critical and insightful research, their constructive recommendations, and their time. David, Torin, and Valerie made the Seminar a site where scholarship and collegiality could thrive, regardless of academic rank. I am privileged to have been a part of the Seminar, and I look forward to my next visit to Kingston.

---  
*Raquel M. Gonzales is a PhD candidate in Visual Studies at the University of California, Irvine. She can be reached at [racquelg@uci.edu](mailto:racquelg@uci.edu)*

# The Ubicity Project

## ubicity

The Ubicity project is a five-year SSHRC Insight Grant-funded international collaborative looking at the security and surveillance issue in smart cities, places where urban management is facilitated by ubiquitous sensors and big data analytics. SSC member, David Murakami Wood is leading this project, with Torin Monahan (UNC, USA) and Steve Graham (Newcastle, UK). At its heart are three city case studies: Toronto in Canada; New York City in the USA; and London in the UK. Principal RA and PhD student, Michael Carter (Geography) is conducting the Toronto study, as well as leading on interviews with smart city developers and promoters. There are also several smaller Canadian cases studies conducted by MA students. The first of these is by Vincenzo Alaimo (Sociology), looking at Open Data and the Smart City in the York Region of Ontario, and the second by Jennie Day (Geography), on Autonomous Technologies and the Smart City. Team members are also working on the first publications from the project on the place of security in smart city schemes, and on hacking smart infrastructure.

---  
For more information, see: <http://www.ubicity.ca/>  
---



Photo by Midori Ogasawara

Didier Bigo, Fernanda Bruno, David Lyon and Sérgio Amadeu presenting at a panel at LAVITS

# Intersectional Approaches to Surveillance Workshop

By Ciara Bracken-Roche and Trevor Scott Milford

The Surveillance Studies Centre hosted a workshop entitled Intersectional Approaches to Surveillance Studies from Thursday 11 June to Saturday 13 June at the Donald Gordon Centre, Queen's University. The workshop's goal was to highlight the concerns and questions of intersectionality as they relate to and exist within surveillance studies. Through reinstating the individual, their identity/ies, and their experiences - of surveillance - back into our analysis of surveillance practices and systems, this workshop sought to avoid abstracting the key concern and focus of most surveillance studies work: to understand the positive and negative aspects of technologies and how these technologies may adversely affect some individuals and not others.

Oscar Gandy gave the introductory keynote speech, highlighting the value of intersectionality for surveillance in determining and evaluating the harms and benefits of the technologies and how we can use these lenses to reconsider power (asymmetries, relations). Gandy argued that an acknowledgement of intersectionality in surveillance research gives us further understanding of the interacting classifications and contexts of surveillance as well as further elucidating the roles of power and social control that exist in society.

Workshop papers ranged from theoretical and critical engagements with intersectionality as a concept to be taken up in surveillance research, through to empirical examinations of how intersectional identities are understood within a surveillance society. As well as showcasing the work of many leaders in the field of intersectional surveillance studies, the conference also featured the work of many graduate students.



The panels were punctuated by two breakaway talks featuring David Phillips and Simone Browne, respectively. Phillips provided reflexive insights on how intersectionality relates to his own personal positionality as a surveillance studies researcher, bringing a passionately human application to a field of study where he argued that scholars can be stereotyped and subjugated within academia by particular identity markers they may reflect. He advocated for a more nuanced and holistic view of intersectional identity, where academia collectively strives to avoid confining scholars by making inaccurate assumptions that perceived identity characteristics are related to research interest or expertise.

Browne's talk highlighted some of the diverse ways in which surveillance practices and technologies are informed by histories of racial formation and the policing of black life. Browne drew from feminist theory and cultural studies to analyse several contemporary examples of the surveillance of blackness, including the death of Trayvon Martin and resulting trial of George Zimmerman, police brutality in McKinney, Texas and Charleston, South Carolina, and viral memes built upon racist stereotypes. In doing so, she outlined that black bodies are often subjected to disproportionate and more stringent surveillance than white bodies and that surveillance technologies themselves (as well as surveillance practices) often work in a way that privileges whiteness or fails to account for non-whiteness.

The workshop provided a small and supportive setting for researchers to discuss many key questions of surveillance studies, as well as providing many more informal opportunities to interact and discuss possible collaborations.

*Continued on p. 8*

# Reflecting on Visit of Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian

By Kyle Curlew

Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian came from the grassroots, the political margins of the Palestine-Israel conflict. Being that her work was produced ethnographically in such a contested conflict zone—I am sure I don't speak alone when I say that her talks were both inspiring and illuminating. In a beautifully orchestrated and multi-disciplinary fashion, Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian exposed her main themes: settler-colonialism, militarized surveillance, and how these processes both influence and effect children in cultural, racialized and political ways. She framed her analysis, the lens she used to understand settler colonialism and surveillance, through the stories and experiences of children. This framework provided a backdrop to her exploration of many important issues. I found myself

most moved by her concept of “spaces of exterminability”. She approached this concept through the frame work of settler-colonialism, holding that such a colonial logic sought to eliminate the indigenous peoples (both socially, culturally, and physically) so the settlers would be able to indigenize themselves.

Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian was sure to remind us that this is a systemic and systematic process that goes beyond individuals—in other words, it is not the direct intention of Israeli citizens. The method the Israeli state uses to proliferate the disappearance of the indigenous Palestinians is citizenship and building demolition. She asserted that through a racialized bureaucracy, the state holds the power to revoke citizenship and selectively demolish buildings that don't fit the prescribed requirements. While simultaneously refusing both citizenship and building permits from Palestinian applicants. The precarity, homelessness and lack of personhood as a result of the state bureaucracy exposes Palestinians to “spaces of exterminability”. Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian's academic life is also integrated into her activist work—a praxis that gives a more intimate meaning to the practice of social science. She lives and practices in these “spaces of exter-

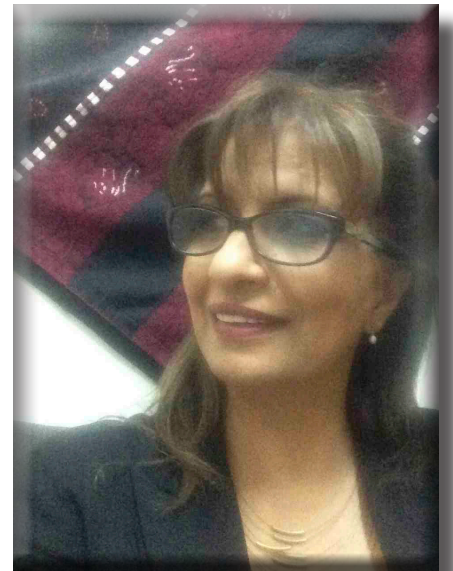


Photo courtesy of Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian

Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian

minability”—not cooped up in the Ivory Tower.

---  
*Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian was invited to Queen's under the Principal's Development Fund - International Visitors program by the Surveillance Studies Centre, in collaboration with the departments of Global Development Studies, Gender Studies and Sociology, and the Faculty of Law. She gave two major presentations, each to packed lecture rooms, for the SSC on Tuesday 22 on the topic of “Militarized Surveillance and Palestinian Childhood” and for Studies in International and National Development on Thursday 24 September, on the topic of her latest book “Security Theology: Surveillance and the Politics of Fear”.*

---  
*Kyle Curlew is a Masters student in Sociology at Queen's University.*

Continued from p. 7:

---  
*The IAS Workshop was made possible by a SSHRC Connections Grant, as well as funding received from the Department of Sociology, the School of Graduate Studies, the Society of Graduate and Professional Students, and the Department of Geography at Queen's University. The workshop organizers were David Murakami Wood, Ciara Bracken-Roche, and Trevor Scott Milford. Many thanks as well to the Surveillance Studies Centre, Joan Sharpe, David Lyon, Valerie Steeves, and Emily Smith for all of their assistance with the workshop.*

---  
*Ciara Bracken-Roche is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at Queen's University and Trevor Scott Milford is a PhD candidate in Sociology at Carleton University (Ottawa).*



# Researching Abroad: A Dream Come True

By Marta Kanashiro

Studying and researching abroad has been a dream of mine that came true when I arrived at the Surveillance Studies Centre (SSC) in September 2014. Subjects related to surveillance studies have been an area of interest for me since 2001, one year before I began research on the surveillance cameras in downtown São Paulo (Brazil). Since then, I have been waiting for the best opportunity to go somewhere that promotes and encourages the sharing of ideas about surveillance.

There is no overarching field of surveillance studies in Brazil. Research that deals with surveillance is spread in different areas such as Urban Studies, Media Studies, Law and, in some cases, in analysis about security and violence in the field of Sociology. There is an effort being made for these areas to establish dialogue and work together, but these links are still under construction.

In this sense, being at the SSC meant not only the opportunity to share ideas with researchers within a recognized field, but also to see how different disciplines are invited to contribute to discussions about surveillance and to make them more fruitful and consistent inside a Sociology Department. In particular, the Seminar Series manifests a tangible and continuous way to build an interdisciplinary perspective about surveillance. During my short stay as visiting researcher at SSC (September 2014 – March 2015) I had the opportunity to

*“To share in the daily life at the SSC was a great experience that certainly will influence my work at the University of Campinas in Brazil, and in the Latin American Network of Surveillance, Technology and Society Studies (Lavits).”*



Photo by Midori Ogasawara

Marta Kanashiro with Joan Sharpe and David Murakami Wood after giving SSC seminar presentation, March 2015.

attend these seminars and also to present my research in progress about the different meanings that privacy is assuming from the point of view of the Brazilian State and some corporations like Google, or on social networks like Facebook. On that occasion, I received valuable suggestions and observations from the SSC researchers for my work.

Besides being able to exchange ideas and access important information sources to develop my current research, in those seven months, I also participated in a course about the sociology of surveillance, given by Professor David Lyon, and followed a research project about drones conducted by Ciara Bracken-Roche and Scott Thompson. To share in the daily life at the SSC was a great experience that certainly will influence my work at the University of Campinas in Brazil, and in the Latin American Network of Surveillance, Technology and Society Studies (Lavits).

I am very grateful to all SSC members for their hospitality. This part of my experience in the SSC is very significant and hard to express in written words. I am profoundly thankful especially to professor David Lyon, professor David Murakami Wood, Emily Smith, Joan Sharpe, Midori Ogasawara and Sachil Singh. Thank you for making this an unforgettable experience for me and my daughter.

---

*Marta Mourao Kanashiro was a visiting faculty member at the SSC from September 2014 to March 2015. She is a professor at the Journalism Laboratory and Faculty of Philosophy and Human Sciences at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas in Brazil, and is also a member and coordinator of the Latin American Network of Surveillance, Technology and Society Studies (Lavits).*

---

# Member News

- Congratulations to David Murakami Wood on the renewal of his Tier 2 Canada Research Chair, October 2014.
- Congratulations to Midori Ogasawara on receiving the Vanier Scholarship (2014-2016).
- Congratulations to Scott Thompson on receiving the Banting Scholarship (2015-2016).
- Welcome to new PhD student: Özge Girgin, from Middle East Technical University. She will be co-supervised by David Lyon and David Murakami Wood.
- Launch of bi-monthly SSC e-Newsletters, summary of Surveillance Studies Centre News, began February 2015.
- All members of the SSC wish to thank Sachil Singh for expertly organizing the seminar series for the past 4 years (2011-2015).
- Welcome Özge Girgin as the new SSC seminar organizer. To suggest speakers, please contact her at: 14og@queensu.ca
- Congratulations to Sachil and Scarlete Singh on the birth of their baby Tala Flores Singh on January 11, 2015.



## Publications:

"Understanding public opinion of UAVs in Canada: A 2014 analysis of survey data and its policy implications"

By Scott Thompson and Ciara Bracken-Roche

*Journal of Unmanned Vehicle Systems* 3(3): 1-20, 2015.

"The 'Rise' of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in Canada: An Analysis of Special Flight Operation Certificates (SFOCs) from 2007 to 2012."

By Scott Thompson and Alana Saulnier

*Canadian Public Policy* 41(3): 207-222, 2015.

"Social Sorting as 'Social Transformation': credit scoring and the reproduction of populations as risks in South Africa"

By Sachil F. Singh

*Security Dialogue*, 46(4): 365-383, 2015. (Special Issue: Questioning Security Devices: Performativity, Resistance, Politics).

"Doing Surveillance Studies (Part II): Critical Approaches to Methodology and Pedagogy"

Edited by Sachil Singh, Harrison Smith and Scott Thompson.

*Surveillance & Society*, 13 (1), 2015.

Coming out of the SSC workshop of the same name from May 2013.

"Multiple Surveillance on the Digitized Campus"

By Lucas Melgaco

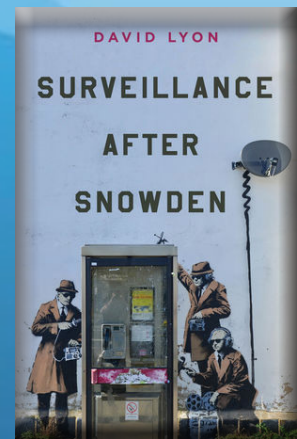
*Radical Pedagogy*, 12 (1), 2015.

Based on the work Lucas completed as a visiting postdoc to the SSC in 2013.

"Watching the Watchers"

*Horizon 2020 Projects: Portal*, Issue 7, 2015.

Features an article on the SSC.



*Surveillance After Snowden*

By David Lyon,  
Polity Press,  
September 2015

# Spotlight on Postdoc: Scott Thompson

Scott Thompson began his two-year SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at the SSC in January 2013, but his interest in the centre developed years before. He attended several conferences and workshop hosted by the SSC as a graduate student and found the mix of a challenging and insightful academic environment and an approachable community that it supports drew him in. Thompson's SSHRC postdoc work was on categorization and its consequences, directly focusing on the link between specific technologies of governance and the capacity of government programs to impact identity formation and culture. He draws on historical case studies to investigate his research questions and his more recent work is on National Registration in the UK and British Colonial registration practices in Mandate Palestine.

Thompson also studied the role of liquor sales related surveillance technologies on the (re)production of the Drunken Indian stereotype in Canada, and how specific policies and technologies worked to make First Nations drinking behaviours more visible and equated with 'alcoholic' drinking behaviours. Thompson finds "the prevalence and hurtful nature of this stereotype points out the need to know this history, identify its influences, and address it through education". You can read a more detailed account of his work at [www.pucheddrunk.ca](http://www.pucheddrunk.ca).

Since being at the SSC, Thompson has found plenty of opportunities for collaboration. Early in his postdoc, he began work on the UAV research project for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner Contributions program, which produced a report on "Surveillance Drones" in April 2014. Many different aspects of this research are still bearing fruit, including analysis of public opinion data with Ciara Bracken-Roche and reviewing UAV oversight and public policy with Alana Saulnier, resulting in journal articles in the *Journal of Unmanned Vehicle Systems* and *Canadian Public Policy*. Thompson and Saulnier are continuing investigations into the police use of UAV in Canada.

Due to his interest in historical documents of surveillance, Thompson also spearheaded the creation of the Surveillance Studies Special Collection (SSSC) working with the Queen's University Archives to establish a special collection for surveillance related materials and artifacts. The collection will have its own link through the Queen's University Archives and is searchable as part of the Queen's library database. Future plans include the digitization of these documents, forms and cards, in order to make them more widely available to researchers, students and the general public. The SSC is currently accepting materials.

In 2015 Thompson was awarded the prestigious two-year Banting postdoctoral fellowship, and is now examining the historic use of surveillance technologies by the Government of Canada to impose the category of 'Indian' on First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. He continues to pursue his research from the SSC and feels that the congenial environment has positively impacted his work. Thompson states, "Getting to meet regularly with SSC members, working with graduate students as part of a weekly writing group, and hearing the excellent speakers that are invited as part of the SSC lecture series, has not only exposed me to new ideas and ways of approaching surveillance studies, but has also pushed me to do my best work."

---  
*Scott Thompson can be reached at [snt@queensu.ca](mailto:snt@queensu.ca)*  
---



Photo by Midori Ogasawara

Scott Thompson

# Events

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

Workshop on Big Data Surveillance:  
May 12-14, 2016  
Queen's University

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

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



Photo by Midori Ogasawara

SSC social event

The SSC Newsletter was compiled and edited by Emily Smith

#### Staff Contacts:

Joan Sharpe  
Project Administrator  
[surveill@queensu.ca](mailto:surveill@queensu.ca)  
613-533-6000, ext. 78867

Emily Smith  
Research Associate  
[smithea@queensu.ca](mailto:smithea@queensu.ca)  
613-533-6000, ext. 78824

#### Mailing Address:

Surveillance Studies Centre  
c/o Department of Sociology  
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6



<http://www.sscqueens.org/>

**SURVEILLANCE**  
STUDIES CENTRE