



Photo by Tim Forbes

SSC Newsletter

Issue 8, October 2020

From the Director

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Surveillance Studies in the time of COVID-19

By David Lyon

The SSC is hard at work during the global Coronavirus pandemic. The surveillance dimensions of efforts to slow the spread of the virus are tremendous and far-reaching. Indeed, they are not only global but planetary. At such a time, health-related surveillance is proposed and practiced with great urgency in the attempt to save lives, reduce suffering and to restore some sense of (perhaps a new) 'normality' to life. We salute ongoing efforts by health-care workers and others to find all means possible to mitigate the effects of this contagion.

Our take is that while medical and health-care work is a vital priority, health remains as one among several crucially important considerations in defining the common good and human flourishing. With our special interest in surveillance, some key areas of concern relate to data justice, civil liberties and rights, including privacy and data protection. In many countries around the world the pandemic has prompted unprecedented surveillance activities both to trace the path of the virus in order to focus health-care attention and resources in badly affected areas and also to try to slow its progress through social intervention. In the latter case, variously, commercial data, social media data and smartphone geolocation data have been linked to medical and health data in order to police those whose activities may appear to jeopardize efforts to combat the disease and its ballooning expansion. These are just some of the issues raised for Surveillance Studies at this troubling juncture. See some of the current work our team members have been up to on page 4-5.

Meanwhile, the regular activities at the SSC are continuing, including ongoing research and research applications that were delayed but submitted, the SSC Seminar program which has moved online, research workshops (such as the Big Data Surveillance project event on 'Smart Surveillance,' now a *Surveillance & Society* special issue to be published in January 2021), BDS publications (see page 2-3), hiring of a new Faculty member delayed to 2021, and planning for our final BDS conference for 2022. Watch this space!



Photo by Emily Smith

Weekly remote SSC meeting on MS Teams

BDS Publications

The open access book edited by David Lyon and David Murakami Wood, *Big Data Surveillance and Security Intelligence: The Canadian Case*, will be published in December 2020 by UBC Press. This collection of chapters are based on research presented at the BDS Stream One Workshop titled "Security Intelligence and Surveillance in the Big Data Age", held at the University of Ottawa in October 2017.

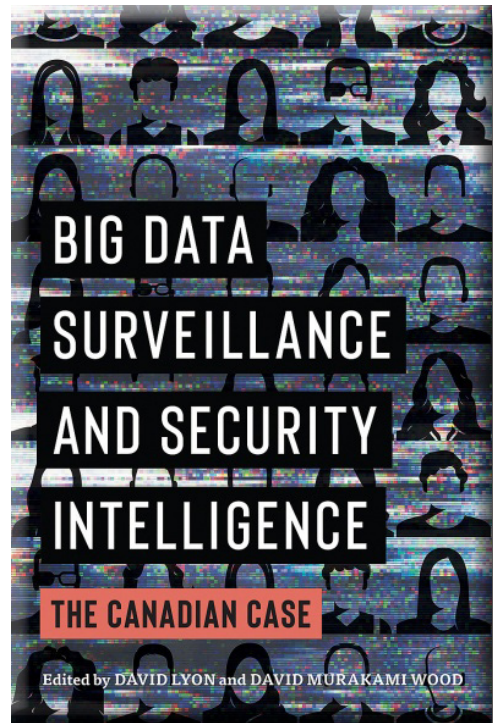
The book cover reads:

"...In this astute collection, leading academics, civil society experts, and regulators debate the pressing questions raised by current security intelligence and surveillance practices in Canada.

Big Data Surveillance and Security Intelligence reveals the profound shift to "big data" practices that security agencies have made in recent years, as the increasing volume of information from social media and open sources challenges traditional ways of gathering intelligence. Working together, the Five Eyes intelligence partners – Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States – are using new methods of data analysis to identify and pre-empt risks to national security.

In Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the RCMP, and the Communication Security Establishment face an uncertain regulatory environment and seemingly incompatible demands: to extend their surveillance, data gathering, and disruption/intervention powers while increasing accountability and transparency in the name of democratic values. But at what cost to civil liberties, human rights, and privacy protection?

This book will find an audience not only among academics in security studies, sociology, political science, computer science, military studies, and law but also among members of the civil liberties community, investigative journalists, and security intelligence workers."



Book Cover

"Big Data Surveillance and Security Intelligence is a valuable, polished compilation with much to offer academics and policy makers interested in privacy, security, surveillance, and law – both within Canada and around the world."

Bryce Clayton Newell, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Communication, University of Oregon

"The rise of big data surveillance has been rapid and secretive. This book, which collects the who's who of the Canadian surveillance and civil liberties fields, addresses a gap in the scholarship on 'high policing' and security intelligence in Canada."

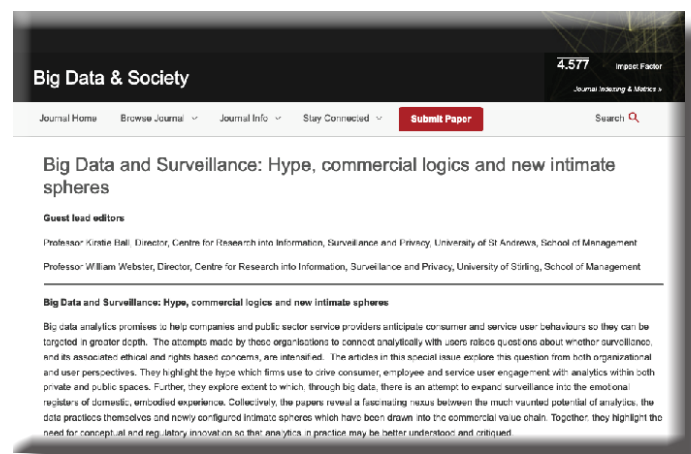
Mike Larsen, Criminology Department, Kwantlen Polytechnic University



Papers from the BDS Stream Two workshop titled “New Lines of (In)Sight: Big Data Surveillance and the Analytically Driven Organization”, hosted by Kirstie Ball and William Webster in Stirling, Scotland in June 2018, have now been published in the special journal issue:

“Big Data and Surveillance: Hype, Commercial Logics and New Intimate Spheres” Edited by Kirstie Ball and William Webster, *Big Data & Society* 7(1), May 14, 2020.

Abstract:
Big data analytics promises to help companies and public sector service providers anticipate consumer and service user behaviours so they can be targeted in greater depth. The attempts made by these organizations to connect analytically with users raises questions about whether surveillance, and its associated ethical and rights based concerns, are intensified. The articles in this special issue explore this question from both organizational and user perspectives. They highlight the hype which firms use to drive consumer, employee and service user engagement with analytics within both private and public spaces. Further, they explore extent to which, through big data, there is an attempt to expand surveillance into the emotional registers of domestic, embodied experience. Collectively, the articles reveal a fascinating nexus between the much vaunted potential of analytics, the data practices themselves and newly configured intimate spheres which have been drawn into the commercial value chain. Together, they **highlight the need for conceptual and regulatory innovation so that analytics in practice may be better understood and critiqued.**



Papers delivered at the BDS 2019 Stream Two workshop on Data-Driven Elections, hosted by Colin Bennett and David Lyon in Victoria, BC by project partner the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC (OIPCBC), have been published in a special issue of *Internet Policy Review*, Volume 8, Issue 4, December 2019, an international journal for academics, civil society advocates, entrepreneurs, the media, and policymakers.

The workshop on Data-Driven Elections was prompted by the massive increase in political use of personal data during elections, as vividly evidenced by the Cambridge Analytica-Facebook (CA-F) scandals during 2019.

The articles in this collection, by researchers in Canada, the US, Europe and Brazil, **address the efficacy of voter analytics; the accountability of the major social media platforms; the contemporary regulatory responses in Europe and elsewhere; the impact on local party organizations; and larger questions about the capture, analysis and use of personal data on the electorate during, and between, election campaigns.**

See also the article written by David Lyon and Colin Bennett in *The Conversation*, August 5, 2019, “Data-driven elections & the key questions about voter surveillance”.

Using data during election campaigns is nothing new. But as the Canadian federal election approaches, authorities must be diligent that data tracking doesn't become surveillance.

Snapshot of Surveillance Studies Addressing COVID-19

PUBLICATIONS:

BOOK CHAPTER:

“Japan: High & Low Tech Responses”

By David Murakami Wood

in *Data Justice and COVID-19: Global Perspectives*, edited by Linnet Taylor, Aaron Martin, Gargi Sharma and Shazade Jameson, Meatspace Press, August 2020.

Latest open access publication from the Global Data Justice Project, based at TILT, with a number of contributions from the surveillance studies community.

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

“The COVID-19-crisis and the information polity: An overview of responses and discussions in twenty-one countries from six continents”

By Meijer, Alberta, Webster, C. William, R.b and Contributing Authors

Information Polity, 25(3), pp. 243-74, 14 August 2020.

Review article including several BDS team members.

“Collecting race-based data during coronavirus pandemic may fuel dangerous prejudices”

By Sachil Singh,

The Conversation, 27 May, 2020.

Racially sorted patients are surveilled, often with negative consequences.

The coronavirus pandemic highlights the need for a surveillance debate beyond ‘privacy’

By David Lyon, *The Conversation*, 24 May 2020.

Releasing personal data to private companies and governments for health monitoring and tracking carries risks to our individual and collective rights.

“Covid-19: les dérives possibles de surveillance des données personnelles”

By Benoit Dupont, *The Conversation*, May 29, 2020.

Possible abuses in the surveillance of personal data.

“Police & governments may increasingly adopt surveillance technologies in response to coronavirus fears”

By Joe Masoodi

The Conversation, 23 March, 2020.

Facial recognition software could be applied to managing people during pandemics.

Dis-ease Surveillance: How Might Surveillance Studies Address COVID-19?

By French, M., & Monahan, T.

Surveillance & Society, 18(1), March 2020.

Open Issue.

Insight into how the global pandemic fits within existing patterns and relations, particularly those pertaining to sociocultural constructions of (in) security, vulnerability, and risk.

NEWS ARTICLES:

Series on COVID-19 Response in Japanese

By Midori Ogasawara

A series of articles for Japan's national newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* web magazine *GLOBE+*, May 2020.

Articles about surveillance developing in response to COVID-19, upon the request from the editor. The series “Data, Surveillance and Me” will continue, on a monthly basis after June.

COVID-19. But at what cost?

By David Lyon, *The Ottawa Citizen*, 6 April 2020.

Addressing the possibility of using cellphone tracking surveillance in the struggle against COVID-19.



Photos by Emily Smith

PUBLIC EVENTS:

Lecture:

Mindo, Face-Masks and Fax Machines: Japan and COVID-19

By David Murakami Wood

21 July, 2020.

Contagion Culture Lecture Series, Faculty of Arts & Science, Queen's University, live-streamed on Zoom.

A look at what has happened during the COVID-19 pandemic in Japan, and the role of various possible explanations in accounting for Japan's claimed success.

Lecture:

Personal Data, Surveillance and Contagion

By David Lyon

28 July, 2020.

Contagion Culture Lecture Series, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Queen's University, live-streamed on Zoom.

The reasons why contact-tracing apps would be a potentially undesirable form of surveillance, the range of contexts in which they are being used and the safeguards that should be in place.

Radio:

Episode on 'The Politics of Technology'

Spark on CBC Radio, with Nora Young

David Murakami Wood discusses the US feud with TikTok emblematic of the rise of techno-nationalism, 'It's about platforms. It's about technologies,' says David Murakami Wood
September 11, 2020.

Surveillance Studies Summer Seminar 2019

The biennial Surveillance Studies Summer Seminar was held in June 2019 at Queen's University with the theme of "Smart Surveillance?". Fourteen top PhD students from five countries (UK, Ireland, Denmark, USA and Canada) took part in this intensive multi-disciplinary doctoral school led by David Murakami Wood (Queen's University) and Valerie Steeves (University of Ottawa).

Speakers included Tracey Lauriault (Carleton University), David Lyon (Director, Surveillance Studies Centre), Alex Rosenblat (Data & Society Institute, author of Uberland), Mark Salter (Political Science, University of Ottawa, editor of Security Dialogue), sava saheli singh (SSC, Queen's), Stephen Thomas (Smith School of Business, Queen's, Director of the graduate program in AI and Management), Rosamunde van Brakel (Law, Science Technology & Society Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel), and Bianca Wylie (Tech Reset Canada, co-founder of the Toronto Open Smart Cities Forum).



Photo by Joan Sharpe

4S19 Participants

Seminar Series: A Year in Review

Fall 2019 - Winter 2020

By Midori Ogasawara and
Rui Hou

We took a new approach to the Surveillance Studies Seminar Series this academic year to reach out to new speakers and audiences on campus: computing, artificial intelligence, neuroscience, and planning. This approach produced five joint seminars with other research institutes at Queen's. These are some of the major areas where surveillance technologies are designed and actually put into use, so our seminar series is a site of critical conversations between different disciplines and cultivating new research connections. Only one of the five seminars was disrupted by the global health crisis in March, and we, as the seminar co-organizers, are proud to see the university-wide, interdisciplinary interest in surveillance studies!

Our seminar series kicked off in September with **Cynthia Khoo**

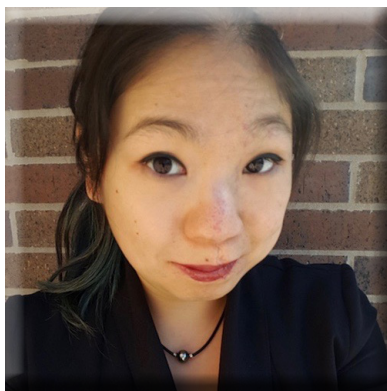


Photo from tekhnosiaw.ca

Cynthia Khoo

(University of Toronto, University of Ottawa). Khoo discussed stalkerware, which is usually branded for child-safety or employee-monitoring, but is also used for spying on spouses and partners, and she analyzed how the Canadian law can respond to victims.

In our first joint seminar with the Centre for Advanced Computing, **Karen Rees-Milton** (Centre for Advanced Computing, Queen's University) deciphered the Software Development Life Cycle to show how a laboratory information management system is planned, built, maintained and retired. She explored how it is possible to bring in ethical data systems and algorithms at each phase of the life cycle.

Having **Virginia Eubanks** (University at Albany, the State University of New York, US) was certainly a highlight in the Fall Term. We held both a seminar and public event. In our seminar, Eubanks reported on her latest investigative article, freshly published by *The Guardian*, on how the US digital debt collection system has put working-class families in perpetual poverty. In the public talk, this author of *Automating Inequality* had lively conversations with the local community and students on how high-tech tools in public services divert the poor from social resources, classify and

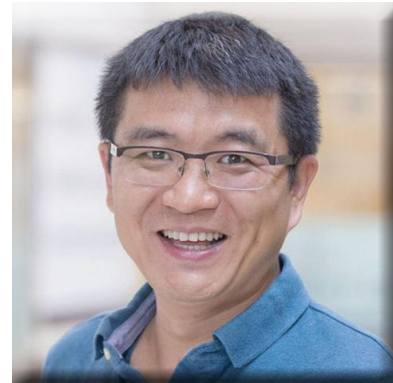


Photo from xiaodanzhu.com

Xiaodan Zhu

eventually criminalize whole communities.

October witnessed our second joint seminar with the Ingenuity Labs, an interdisciplinary research institute at Queen's with a special focus on artificial intelligence, robotics, and human machine interaction. **Xiaodan Zhu** (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Queen's University) presented on recent advances in deep learning algorithms for learning representation and reasoning for text analytics, as well as challenges in social media. This talk created a communicative platform for scholars and students from different disciplines to discuss technological development and its social impact.

Debra Mackinnon (University of Calgary) discussed how mobile tracking applications are used to govern urban spaces and populations in Canada. She introduced the use of geospatial

“*university-wide, interdisciplinary interest in surveillance studies!*”



Photo from twitter.com/thederyagungor

Derya Güngör

applications and platforms by business improvement areas in Toronto and Vancouver. The visiting scholar **Raziel Miranda** (University of the Basque Country) presented his theoretical thinking on the accountability mechanisms in the study of surveillance phenomena.

The first week of Winter Term saw a full house for our third joint seminar with the Centre for Neuroscience Studies. **Jonathan Coutinho** (Centre for Neuroscience Studies, Queen's University) demonstrated how neurotechnology, primarily developed for specialized research and clinical purposes, are commercialized. He addressed issues of privacy and human rights and ignited a heated exchange of thoughts between natural and social sciences on a cold day.

Derya Güngör (Department of Sociology, Queen's University) spoke about the Turkish

Family Medicine Model and analyzed how its mandate has led medical professionals to monitor and intervene on pregnant women's bodies, their reproductive health, and sexuality, from a feminist perspective. **Rob Heynen** (York University) unpacked anti-human trafficking networks in Canada as a surveillance assemblage of state security, police, industry and NGOs and identified the harms against migrants, racialized and/or transgender individuals in practice. This co-editor of *Making Surveillance States* also contributed to a graduate seminar by Elia Zureik, in speaking of a historical and theoretical perspectives on colonial surveillance. In the fourth joint seminar, with a large group from the School of Urban and Regional Planning and the Department of Geography and Planning, **Joe Berridge**, an experienced urban planner and city builder, used his internal knowledge to address our surveillance and privacy concerns on the appropriate regulatory and administrative management of urban data in Toronto's smart city project.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to cancel two seminars in March and April. But in June, we successfully held our first virtual seminar. **Jason Millar** (University of Ottawa) shared his recent research on Covid contact tracking applications. He presented an overview of some of the apps that have been used or proposed to date, and discussed some of the many, unstable, socio-ethical narratives and tensions that have emerged around

them.

As surveillance scholars, our first online seminar made us consider appropriate digital tools for hosting. We chose and tried Jitsi Meet, which is an open source, end-to-end encrypted video conferencing platform, rather than one from a tech giant. It worked well with 20 participants. We hope it will continue to work for seminars in the upcoming year. At the same time, we acknowledge more than before how precious our face-to-face seminar series has been for exchanging academic thoughts AND warm human interaction. We miss it!

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Midori Ogasawara is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Ottawa, appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Victoria as of January 2021 (mogasawara@uvic.ca).

Rui Hou is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Institute, Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto (rui.hou@utoronto.ca).

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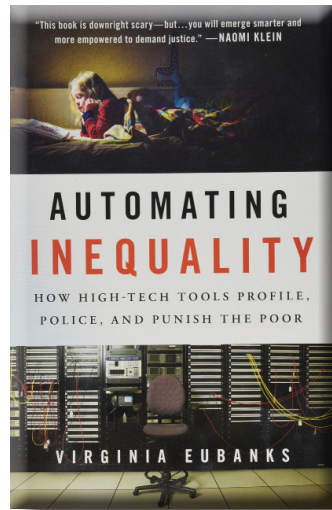


Photo from cfe.ryerson.ca/people/jason-millar

Jason Millar

Virginia Eubanks Public Talk and Book Signing

An early evening public talk was held on Wednesday October 16, 2019 at Queen's University on "Automating Inequality: How High Tech Tools Profile, Police and Punish the Poor" by Virginia Eubanks, Associate Professor, Political Science, University at Albany, State University of New York. Eubanks addressed an audience of about 50 people, on the horrifying consequences of vast amounts of money being spent on technology systems that regulate benefits to low income groups, which would be better spent on services for the poor. Eubanks argues strongly for justice, equity and care to be built into systems from the outset to alleviate rather than exacerbate discrimination, to purposefully build a just future.



The collaborative event was co-sponsored by the Surveillance Studies Centre, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Law, Department of Gender Studies, Department of Political Studies, School of Policy Studies, and the Cultural Studies Interdisciplinary Graduate Program.



Photo by Emily Smith

Visiting PhD Student Raziel Miranda

By Raziel Miranda

I was a visiting PhD student at the SSC for a period of three months beginning September 5th to November 30th, 2019. During that period, I continued my research on the governance of personal data and intelligence agencies, connecting both realms to surveillance studies.

More specifically, I researched the accountability mechanisms (administrative, legal, symbolical, and epistemological) in those realms through a historical and sociopolitical analysis from the 1970s to the present time in Spain and Brazil.

While I was writing my dissertation, the SSC was a place where I obtained valuable help from administrative workers and academics. Either from students and professors, their support, dialogue, critiques, as well as informal conversations and trips were essential to flourishing in academic, humanistic, and personal terms. Throughout my Kingston days, I considered the SSC one of my homes; it was nice to connect easily with the people and the university. I think the micro-social dimensions (from cooperation to care, from work to friendship) are intertwined and they nourished a splendid time and a multi-formed approach for good living. Currently, I am in the final steps of my doctorate and the experience at the SSC was fundamental to achieving this. Thank you for that time, David, Joan, Midori, Sahil, Tommy, Emily, William, Rohit, Rui, Delano, and everybody else.

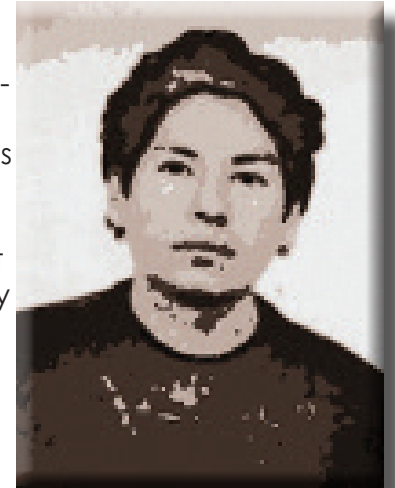


Photo courtesy of Jaseff Raziel Yauri-Miranda

Jaseff Raziel Yauri-Miranda

Spotlight: Dr. Midori Ogasawara

By Emily Smith

Midori Ogasawara came to Queen's University in 2005 to work on her Masters' degree under the supervision of David Lyon. With her first degree in law, and after 10 years working as an investigative journalist on surveillance technologies at the national Japanese newspaper *Asahi Shimbun*, she wanted to delve deeper into the issues of surveillance. She became an active academic and social member of the SSC and completed her MA thesis on Japan's registration and identification systems in 2008, all while having her newborn son Yuma. Midori returned to Japan and published a popular book in Japanese with Takashi Shiraishi called *I Don't Need My Number: To Oppose Surveillance Society and Protect Personal Data* (Koshi-sha 2012). This book was about the new national ID system in Japan, and incorporated research from her MA thesis, including



Photo by Ken Mizokoshi

Midori interviewing the family members of the victims of Japanese colonial surveillance in Northeast China (October 2016).

the historical background of national ID systems in Japan. She also translated David Lyon's *Surveillance Studies: An Overview* into Japanese (Iwanami Shoten 2011).

Ogasawara returned to Queen's Department of Sociology in Kingston to pursue her passion in even greater detail, now with her son Yuma and life partner Ken Mizokoshi. She completed her PhD dissertation on "Bodies as Risky Resources: The Japanese Identification Systems as Surveillance, Population Control and Colonial Violence in Occupied Northeast China" in 2018. This was an historical examination of biometric technologies of Japan's implementation of fingerprinting when occupying Northeast China in 1931-1945. Using archival and ethnographic research in China, she showed how biometric ID systems became a powerful means of population control, used by the colonizers to classify colonized into 'desirable' and 'undesirable' subjects. She personalized stories of colonization by conducting interviews with colonial survivors and their family members in China in 2016, who had experienced violence under Japan's intensive policing and surveillance during that time. Midori received the highly competitive Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship to complete her PhD work. This research is summarized in an



Photo by Ken Mizokoshi

Dr. Midori Ogasawara

article in *Making Surveillance States: Translational Histories*, edited by Robert Heynen and Emily van der Meulen (2019, University of Toronto Press).

In 2016, while working on completing her PhD, Midori was the first Japanese researcher/journalist to interview NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden



Book cover:

Snowden Japan File: How Japan has been involved with America's Global Surveillance Systems
By Midori Ogasawara, 2019. Midori also launched a book tour in Japan and gave five public talks in the cities of Tokyo, Yokohama, Fukuoka and Nagasaki.



Photo by Midori Ogasawara

via video channel. I had the pleasure of witnessing Midori's thorough questioning of Snowden on the NSA's secret activities in Japan and Japan's involvement in global surveillance systems. She subsequently published two books on the results in Japanese (2016, 2019).

After completing her PhD, Dr. Ogasawara received a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Ottawa with Dr. Valerie Steeves. Of the 181 applications reviewed by this SSHRC competition, her research proposal ranked second, to study the collaborative relationship between security intelligence agencies and big data corporations. She is investigating how this collaboration has altered the legal boundaries of mass surveillance in Canada. Ogasawara remained in Kingston and expertly coordinated and hosted the Surveillance Studies Seminar Program 2018-2020. Most recently she was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Victoria, BC, to start in January 2021. During COVID, she published a

series of articles written in Japanese for the Asahi Shimbun web magazine GLOBE+ in May 2020, about surveillance developing in response to COVID-19, and now a monthly column on "Data, Surveillance and Me".

In addition to welcoming all with a friendly smile and insightful discussion, at all events you can always be sure that Dr. Ogasawara will ask relevant and poignant questions. She is a fierce fighter for social justice issues, a friend to many, and has made her way into all the hearts of SSC members with her inclusive and warm personality, and excellent sense of humour. Midori, you will be greatly missed at the SSC, and the University of Victoria will be blessed to have you there, we wish you all the best in this new position. The SSC will continue the strong relationship with Dr. Ogasawara through future research funding collaborations.

Please also see her recent publications:

Ogasawara, Midori. 2019. "The Daily Us (vs. Them) from Online to Offline: Japan's Media Manipulation and Cultural Transcoding of Collective Memories", *The Journal of Contemporary Eastern Asia* 18(2): 49-67.

Ogasawara, Midori. 2019. "Bodies as Risky Resources: Japan's Colonial Identification Systems in Northeastern China", in Robert Heynen and Emily van der Meulen (eds.) *Making Surveillance Societies: Transnational Histories*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Ogasawara, Midori. 2019. "Mainstreaming Colonial Experiences in Surveillance Studies", *Surveillance & Society* 17(5): 726-729.



Photo by Ken Mizokoshi

Yuma's baby blanket, knit by (l-r) Emily Smith, Midori Ogasawara, Collete Cains, Sue Lyon and Joan Sharpe

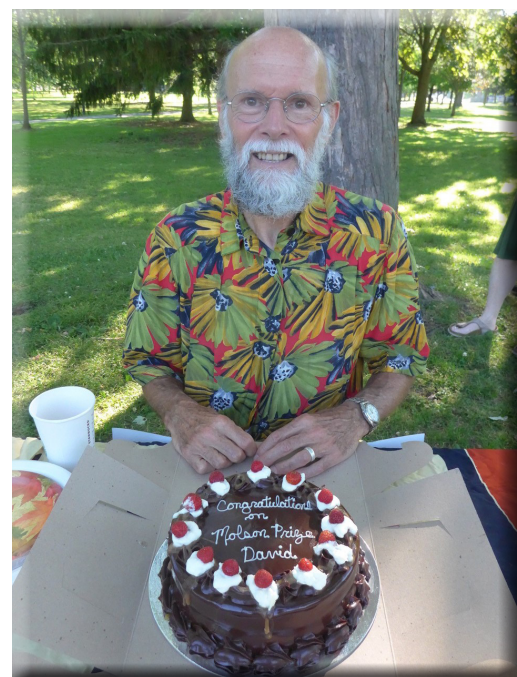


Photo by Midori Ogasawara

David Lyon celebrating his Molson Prize in City Park, July 2020

Member News



**SURVEILLANCE
STUDIES CENTRE**

SSC News:

The Queen's University Senate approved the renewal of the SSC for an additional period of five years, effective February 25, 2020, subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees.

The SSC wishes to thank Midori Ogasawara and Rui Hou for their expert organizing of the SSC seminars (2018-2020). Welcome new organizer Delano Aragao Vaz for 2020-2021. To suggest speakers, please contact him at: d.aragaovaz@queensu.ca

Congratulations:

The Surveillance Studies Network (SSN) Arts Prize 2020 was awarded to sava saheli singh for the short film series (co-produced with the Surveillance Studies Centre), Screening Surveillance (2019).

Dr. Midori Ogasawara was appointed as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Victoria, starting January 2021.

David Lyon was awarded the prestigious Canada Council for the Arts Molson Prize (Social Sciences and Humanities) for decades of work in surveillance studies.

MA Graduates:

Ann-Marie Helou, supervised by David Murakami Wood and Mohammed Masoodi, supervised by David Lyon.

PhD Graduates:

Debra Mackinnon defended her PhD dissertation on "Mundane Surveillance: Mobile Applications and Accounting in Business Improvement Areas" on June 5th, 2019, supervised by David Murakami Wood. She is postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary.

Steven Richardson defended his PhD dissertation on "What is a wearable? A query", June 13th, 2019, supervised by Sergio Sismondo.

Derya Güngör defended her PhD dissertation on "The Bio-Political Governance of Pregnancy in



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Turkey through the Current Family Medicine Model's Pregnancy Monitoring Mandate" on May 17th, 2019, supervised by Annette Burfoot.

Welcome:

Dr. Sachil Singh was appointed as post-doctoral fellow at the SSC, starting January 1, 2020. He will be collating research findings from all three streams of the SSHRC-funded Big Data Surveillance (BDS) research project, led by Professor David Lyon, and will play a major role in organizing a final research conference, to take place in 2022.

BDS Partner Farewell & Welcome:

The Big Data Surveillance project thanks Micheal Vonn for her excellent, sharp and vitally relevant contributions to our Partnership Grant research project. With the BCCLA she played a critically important role in what makes our partnerships work so wonderfully. We wish her well in her new position and look forward to ongoing informal contact.

At the same time, we warmly welcome on board Meghan McDermott, Acting Policy Director, Staff Counsel (Policy), who joined us in the BDS project in September 2019 as the representative of the BCCLA in the Big Data Surveillance research project.

Partnership News:

ICLMG

The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Coalition and OpenMedia drafted an open letter to Public Safety Minister Bill Blair asking that he and his government take three immediate steps to address protecting citizen rights regarding the use of facial recognition technology by law enforcement.

In Memoriam:

Ian Kerr

Members of the SSC are deeply saddened to learn of Ian Kerr's death from cancer on August 26, 2019. Ian was a valued colleague, from the University of Ottawa, with whom we collaborated on several major projects. His insights on the ethics of surveillance are a great legacy but the person himself will be sorely missed by all of us.

Events

SSC Seminar Schedule, available at:
<https://www.sscqueens.org/events/seminar-series>

Final BDS Conference planning underway for spring of 2022

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

Delano Aragao Vaz, Ozge Girgin, Sachil Singh, David and Sue Lyon, Joan Sharpe, Rui, Xiao and Moxi Hou celebrating David Lyon's Molson Prize, July 2020

The SSC Newsletter was compiled and edited by Emily Smith

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