

Information Law [Information Law Institute] Past Events

[Privacy Research Group Talks](#)

2012-2013; 2013-2014; 2014-2015; 2015-2016 Academic Years

The Privacy Research Group is a weekly meeting of students, professors, and industry professionals who are passionate about exploring, protecting, and understanding privacy in the digital age.

At the Intersection of Privacy and Property

May 6, 2016

This workshop provided a forum for work that explores the benefits and drawbacks of thinking about privacy—legally, practically, and conceptually—in terms of property. Given our common law heritage, the association between privacy and property is reflexive and ingrained. Nevertheless, significant problems arise in trying to make property norms “do the work” for privacy, particularly with respect to issues of data privacy. At the same time, it would also be wrong to dismiss property norms as wholly irrelevant to privacy. The right question, ultimately, is how property concepts and doctrines can be profitably incorporated into discussions of privacy—and likewise, to what extent we should wary about leaning too much on property-privacy analogy, in lieu of theorizing privacy independently.

Conference on Responsible Use of Open Data: Government and the Private Sector

November 19-20, 2015

The Conference, co-organized by NYU Department of Media, Culture and Communication, and BCLT, addressed two related issues. The first is a set of normative challenges associated with the open data movement, including e.g. privacy and other civil liberties, equitable access to data, and what counts a public interest. The second addressed obligations of private/commercial holders of data to make their holdings available for public and research purposes. Panels included leading thinkers and actors representing a range of perspectives and positions. The conference kicked off with a keynote address by Dr. Amen Ra Mashariki, City of New York's Chief Analytics Officer in charge of the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics.

Talk by FTC Commissioner Julie Brill

June 11, 2015

The Information Law Institute hosted an informal meeting with FTC Commissioner Julie Brill to discuss consumer privacy and other topics of mutual interest.

Symposium on Government Access to Data in the Cloud

May 26-27, 2015

This Symposium, co-hosted by the Center on Law and Security, presented cutting-edge research on domestic, international and transnational legal approaches to regulating government access to data stored in the cloud. The Symposium brought legal scholars together with participants who bring law enforcement, industry, privacy advocacy and human rights perspectives to bear on the important and often contentious debate about this rapidly evolving issue.

Privacy in the Modern Age The Search for Solutions Book Talk

April 29, 2015

The threats to privacy are well known: the NSA tracks our phone calls, Google records where we go online, companies constantly lose our personal information, and our children are fingerprinted and their test scores saved for posterity. Professors Helen Nissenbaum, Frank Pasquale, and Katherine Strandburg; policy experts Sheila Kaplan and Faiza Patel; and contributing editor, Jeramie Scott celebrated the publication of *PRIVACY IN THE MODERN AGE THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS*. The discussion was moderated by contributing editor, Professor Katherine Strandburg. Opening remarks by contributing editor, Jeramie Scott. Sponsored by NYU Information Law Institute and Electronic Privacy Information Center.

Cloud Data Access: A Transnational Perspective

March 13, 2015

More than ever before, people today rely on cloud computing services for email, online storage and backup, social media, video services, and gaming. However, the laws governing data privacy obligations were written long before anyone dreamed up the cloud. This makes regulatory issues very complicated at the purely domestic level, but even more so when cross-jurisdictional issues come into play as users, their data, and technology providers can all reside in different physical locations. In fact, government and industry are grappling with these issues on many fronts – in diplomatic discussions between the U.S. and Europe, in legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate, and, most recently, in a legal case brought by Microsoft Corp. challenging a US government search warrant for customer communications stored in a company datacenter in Dublin, Ireland. This talk explored the specific legal questions raised by these jurisdictional issues, the laws involved, and arguments on how these issues should be resolved. Panelists included Ira Rubinstein, Senior Fellow, Information Law Institute, Zachary Goldman, Executive Director, Center on Law and Security, and Katherine Strandburg, Alfred B. Engelberg Professor of Law.

Algorithms and Accountability Conference

February 28, 2015

Scholars, stakeholders, and policymakers question the adequacy of existing mechanisms governing algorithmic decision-making and grapple with new challenges presented by the rise of algorithmic power in terms of transparency, fairness, and equal treatment. Algorithms increasingly shape our news, economic options, and educational trajectories. The centrality and concerns about algorithmic decision making have only increased since we hosted the Governing Algorithms conference in May 2013. This event built upon that conversation to address legal, policy and ethical challenges related to algorithmic power in three specific contexts: media production and consumption, commerce, and education. Organized by the Information Law Institute, NYU School of Law and cosponsored by NYU Steinhardt Department of Media, Culture and Communications, the Intel Science & Technology Center for Social Computing and Microsoft.

NYU Law Roundtable on Government Access to Cloud Data

December 10, 2014

The roundtable, co-hosted by the Center on Law and Security, addressed legal and policy issues related to government cloud access spurred by the Microsoft search warrant case. It was a closed door/off-the-record session conducted according to Chatham House Rules.

Symposium on Student Privacy

December 2, 2014

Together with the Microsoft Innovation and Policy Center, the Information Law Institute organized a symposium on student privacy in higher education entitled "Building Privacy into Data-Driven Education." The event examined the new ethical concerns, legal questions and institutional challenges raised by the growth in use of data-driven platforms at higher education institutions.

Obfuscation Symposium

February 15, 2014

The Symposium on Obfuscation brought together experts from a variety of backgrounds who study, script and design technologies that either simulate, detect, or are susceptible to obfuscation. By obfuscation we mean the production of misleading, ambiguous and plausible but confusing information as an act of concealment or evasion. In the course of the day, we explored and assessed the use of obfuscation as a strategy for individuals, groups or communities to hide; to protect themselves; to protest or enact civil disobedience, especially in the context of monitoring, aggregated analysis, and profiling in (digital) space.

NYU Security Research Seminar

Fall 2014 & Spring 2015

The Security Research Seminar at New York University, launched in January 2014, is a weekly meeting of students, faculty, policy makers and industry professionals interested in analyzing the ways in which advanced technologies are putting pressure on legal regimes and concepts of security. The seminar addresses a variety of perspectives on security in a digital age, including security of information and software, computer networks, cyber-physical systems and infrastructure and will include discussions about national as well as international cyber-security law and policy.

Governing Algorithms Conference

May 16-17, 2013

Algorithms are increasingly invoked as powerful entities that control, govern, sort, regulate, and shape everything from financial trades to news media. Nevertheless, the nature and implications of such orderings are far from clear. What exactly is it that algorithms “do”? What is the role attributed to “algorithms” in these arguments? How can we turn the “problem of algorithms” into an object of productive inquiry? This conference set out to explore the recent rise of algorithms as an object of interest in scholarship, policy, and practice.

Workshop on Personal Health Portfolios: Technology, Usability and Policy

February 8, 2013

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology has defined the PHR as an “electronic record of health-related information on an individual that conforms to nationally recognized interoperability standards and that can be drawn from multiple sources while being managed, shared, and controlled by the individual” (2008:19). Introducing the term “portfolio,” we sought to broaden the initial conceptualization and explored parallels with similar initiatives in other social contexts.

Conference on Mobile and Location Privacy: A Technology and Policy Dialog

April 13, 2012

The age of ubiquitous computing is here. People routinely carry smartphones and other devices capable of recording and transmitting immense quantities of personal information and tracking their every move. Privacy has suffered in this new environment, with new reports every week of vulnerabilities and unintended disclosures of private information. The conference aimed to bring together the policy and technology communities to discuss the substantial privacy issues arising from the growth of mobile and location technologies.

Platforms and Power Roundtable

May 6, 2011

The Roundtable brought together an interdisciplinary group of scholars of privacy, intellectual property, and the digital society to debate and discuss issues revolving around the relationships between technological platforms and their users, with an eye toward the role that law might play in mediating or structuring these relationships. Roundtable Sessions approached the topic from a variety of angles: Platforms as Fiduciaries (should platform technologies have any duties toward their users?); Platforms as Co-Creators (the role of platforms in the creative activities of their users); Platforms as Regulators (the extent to which platforms should be instruments of regulation of user conduct, either at the behest of government or independently; Platforms as Social Spaces (the effects of technological platforms on social relationships).

Online Hate Speech and Cyber-Harassment Summit

April 12, 2010

Ann Bartow, Professor of Law, University of South Carolina School of Law - "Actual Misogyny in Virtual Space"; Danielle Citron, Professor of Law, The University of Maryland School of Law - "Law's Expressive Value in Combating Cyber Gender Harassment"; Respondent: Jeremy Waldron, University Professor, NYU School of Law

A Workshop on Federal Privacy Legislation

October 2, 2009

Experts from academia, industry, government, and public interest advocacy organizations examined comprehensive federal privacy legislation under consideration by Congress. Panelists began the day by reviewing current bills and offering an informed analysis and debate concerning the more controversial issues such as preemption, remedies, access and choice, and safe harbors. The morning then continued with a discussion of whether fair information practices (FIPs) should remain the foundation of privacy legislation or need to be modified or abandoned. The afternoon panels then examined emerging issues such as social networking, collective privacy and behavioral advertising and assess how well any proposed bills address these new concerns. There was also keynote speeches by top FTC officials and participation in panels by key Congressional staffers. Our aim was to achieve meaningful progress toward a well-rounded understanding of pending legislation and perhaps even to resolve some outstanding issues.

Search Privacy Strategy Roundtable

November 8, 2007

This roundtable considered the important goals served by logging and storing search query data, such as improving and personalizing services, maximizing advertising effectiveness, improving general search performance and addressing click fraud and security threats. How can this be reconciled with privacy? To consider the growing importance of effective web search for users and related dependence on, and appreciation of, search service providers. At the same time consider potential vulnerabilities and anxieties about these vulnerabilities as user become increasingly aware of the insights third parties gain into their lives based on search. How can consumer trust be maintained, and what effects might self-protective actions by consumers have on the search space? To consider the general environment created by relevant external actors, such as government, on the one hand asserting claims on search information and on the other seeking to protect consumer privacy. To consider ways technical design of web search engines and their business models afford both logging and obfuscating user's search activities. What design variables may come into play to help alleviate concerns over search privacy?

Identity and Identification in a Networked World: A Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Symposium

September 29-30, 2006

Increasingly, who we are is represented by key bits of information scattered throughout the data-intensive, networked world. Online and off, these core identifiers mediate our sense of self, social interactions, movements through space, and access to goods and services. There is much at stake in designing systems of identification and identity management, deciding who or what will be in control of them, and building in adequate protection for our bits of identity permeating the network. This symposium examined critical and controversial issues surrounding socio-technical systems of identity, identifiability and identification. It showcased emerging scholarship of graduate students at the cutting edge of humanities, social sciences, artists, systems design & engineering, philosophy, law, and policy to work towards a clearer understanding of these complex problems, and build foundations for future collaborative work. In addition to graduate student panels, a keynote talk was delivered by Professor Ian Kerr, University of Ottawa.

A Spyware Workshop

March 16-17, 2006

A workshop co-sponsored by the Information Law Institute, NYU and Center for Information Technology Policy, Princeton University where experts from academia, industry, government, and public interest advocacy organizations examined spyware in the broader context of computer security, governance of the information infrastructure, and the rights of individual computer-users in relation to public and commercial institutions with which they interact online.

Colloquium on Information Technology and Society
Spring 2002-Spring 2011