From the Director

Welcome to the first issue of our new Surveillance Studies Centre (SSC) annual newsletter! We hope it gives a taste of what happens here at the Canadian hub of research into the rapidly growing world of surveillance. Though the SSC is new, it has grown from more than twenty years of serious study in this area and from a decade of working under the name “The Surveillance Project.”

Our concern with surveillance is broad, covering everything from street cameras to the currently controversial question of police and intelligence access to internet data (Bill C-30). We delve into the historical development of surveillance, especially in colonial and postcolonial settings and we try to keep current with new technical innovations such as whole body scanners at airports, drones on the border, or automated licence plate recognition used for example in police cars.

Equally, we follow what is going on in the domain of law and policy and within the various Canadian privacy commissions. We also have close connections with those working in the fields of human rights and civil liberties. But at the same time a strong focus of our research is how ordinary people respond to and engage with surveillance in everyday life. We have initiated several opinion polls on this and our students interview people such as users of social media, travellers crossing borders, police, businesspeople and others concerned with personal data.

This issue contains several stories from researchers and professors from around the world who have visited the SSC in the past year. As well you’ll find descriptions of two dimensions of our work, the major collaborative “New Transparency” project and SCAN, the Surveillance Cameras Awareness Network. The latter produced a new book during the year and the former is writing a high-impact report on Surveillance in Canada.

David Lyon
I am now at the end of my first year as organizer of the Surveillance Studies Centre Seminar Series. Just under 12 months ago, the task of filling the shoes of my predecessor, Krystle Maki, was a daunting one. However, with her support, and the ongoing assistance of Joan Sharpe and David Lyon, we have received much praise for our work in producing the 2011-2012 Seminar Series.

There is no doubt that this past year has been a great one for us: our 11 presenters have taken us on journeys across time and space: from Japan’s 1972 Sapporo Olympics, we hopped across to China to get a sense of its laws on Public Video Surveillance. We travelled west to contested territories in Israel/Palestine, and were also exposed to the implications of being watched by open-street CCTV systems in Italy. From there, we travelled across the Atlantic Ocean to understand the role of surveillance in the Brazilian (and by comparison, Queen’s University) education system(s). We also learnt about the previously-hidden police archives that detail 35 years of atrocities in Guatemalan armed conflict. On our journey north of Guatemala, we went through border security in the United States. Upon entering Canada, we examined the surveillance and punishment of terror convicts, and reviewed 67 years of the National Security Apparatus in that country. We also journeyed into the electronic world, where we were exposed to the surveillance behind cybercrime and stock markets. There is no doubt that we have covered a range of rich, illuminating and incredibly informative topics!

We have a number of goals for the 2012-2013 Seminar Series. For instance, we seek to continue our efforts in balancing support for surveillance studies research on both the ‘global north’ and ‘global south’. It is not only expanding the scope of research which is important to us, but also crossing the gender divide of researchers. With this in mind, a second goal is to use our Seminar Series to achieve a more representative balance of presenters by making a concerted effort to publicize the work of women in our field.

Our planning for next year has already allowed us to make some progress on both fronts. However, as always, there is much more to be done to meet the demands of both challenges.

If you are interested in presenting at our Seminar Series, please do not hesitate to contact Sachil Singh (sachil.singh@queensu.ca). Please keep in mind that we finalize our seminar schedule no less than one month ahead of the respective Fall and Winter terms.

For a list of previous and future seminars please see: http://www.sscqueens.org/research/seminar
SCAN (The Surveillance Camera Awareness Network), is a group of multidisciplinary Canadian researchers led by David Lyon under the aegis of the SSC. SCAN provides empirically-based research on surveillance cameras in Canada and has produced two reports: A Report on Camera Surveillance: Part One and Part Two in 2009, available at: http://www.sscqueens.org/projects/scan.


The SCAN workshop was held in conjunction with the exhibition Sorting Daemons: Art, Surveillance Regimes and Social Control at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre (AEAC) and involved many public events. These included: a keynote lecture by Clive Norris (University of Sheffield, UK) with some critical reflections on understanding the global growth of camera surveillance; film screenings, including Manu Luksch’s Faceless and crossover events featuring artist presentations of their work and five artists’ videos on surveillance produced between 1997 and 2004.

The official launch of the Surveillance Studies Centre was held on the first evening of the workshop, with an introduction by Queen’s Principal Daniel Woolf, and opening remarks by François Cadieux, Senior Research Officer on behalf of Jennifer Stoddart, Privacy Commissioner of Canada.


The book provides the first international perspective on the development of camera surveillance. It scrutinizes the quiet but massive expansion of camera surveillance around the world in recent years, focusing especially on Canada, the UK and the USA but also including less-debated but important contexts such as Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey. See: http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415696555/
The New Transparency Project, a Major Research Collaborative Initiative funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, provides the major funding for the SSC. NewT held several events over the past year, connected with the SSC, including:

- A NewT research workshop on **Cyber-Surveillance in Everyday Life (CSIEL)** on May 12-15, 2011 at the University of Toronto. The workshop facilitated connections and collaborations among researchers, policy leaders and advocates. SSC members were heavily involved and interacted with partner and stakeholder organizations. A selection of articles from the workshop appear in *Surveillance & Society* 9(4) (2012) on Cyber-Surveillance, edited by Colin Bennett, Andrew Clement and Kate Milberry.

- A panel presentation entitled **“Liberties Lost?: Surveillance Since 9/11”** held at the University of Ottawa, on September 7, 2011, hosted by NewT, in association with the SSC and the Centre for Law, Technology and Society at the University of Ottawa. This public panel included prominent speakers Maher Arar, Alex Neve and Maureen Webb and was moderated by Shary Aiken. It highlighted how governments have changed their national security policies and surveillance practices in response to 9/11, and the implications for civil liberties in Canada and abroad.

- A research workshop **The Expanding Surveillance Net: Ten Years after 9/11** hosted at Queen’s University, September 8-10, 2011 supported by NewT and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC). The two-day academic workshop included presentations from a number of faculty and graduate student members of the SSC which examined the social, political, legal and ethical implications of increased government and private sector surveillance in the wake of 9/11. Selected papers will be revised into chapters for book edited by Kevin Haggerty and Art Cockfield.

- On May 8-10, 2012, NewT hosted a planning workshop involving several SSC faculty and students at Queen’s University in preparation of the book ‘**Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada**’. This will be a surveillance audit on the major forms of tracking, monitoring, tracing, recording and processing personal data in Canada, both government and commercial. The content, task distribution and timetable were decided at this event.

For more information on NewT, see:
http://www.newtransparency.org
and the annual newsletters here:
http://www.ssc.queens.org/Project_News
My Sabbatical Stay at SSC

Kiyoshi Abe (Graduate School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan)

It was my honour and pleasure to be a visiting professor at the SSC at Queen’s University during my sabbatical leave from April 2011 to March 2012. While the time flew by more quickly than expected, I had many precious experiences, not only academically but also socially. The main reason why I decided to come and join the SSC is that it is the academic centre of surveillance studies known throughout the world. My academic expectation was fulfilled. I had a lot of chances to attend the seminars, workshops and conferences held by the SSC through which I could observe the forefront of surveillance studies. In these academic events I heard a variety of voices that thematized and questioned present conditions of surveillance and security. As the academic trend of surveillance studies is inter-disciplinary, I met not only scholars of sociology (my own discipline) but also those from different academic fields (criminology, political studies, legal studies, psychology, etc.). Encounters with these researchers definitely broadened my own academic perspective. As is well known, after 9/11 surveillance was tightened on a global scale but the sociopolitical impact of that drastically differs in each nation-state. Thanks to the variety of nationalities and ethnicities of those who work with the SSC, I feel not only similarities but also differences concerning globalized surveillance through all aspects of everyday life at the centre. While the technological developments enabling more pervasive and tighter surveillance of everyday life seems to be a similar trend in each area, the actual impact and people’s resistance against the rise of surveillance is more diverse and relates to socio-cultural contexts. Therefore, I recognized that it is very important to shed light on the differences with respect to surveillance and people’s discontent with it. I appreciate the precious experiences that I had during my stay at the SSC through which I gained the opportunity to relativize and revisit my own taken-for-granted view of surveillance in Japan. I hope that the SSC will continue to function as a ‘global spot’ where a variety of scholars gather together and the moment of ‘alterity’ is generated through everyday life practice.

Last but not least, I would like to show my deepest thanks to all staff at the SSC. Without their kind and hearty support, my sabbatical in a cold country called Canada could have been a miserable one!!
The forgoing benefits and experiences have been from the following channels:

Firstly, actively participating in the SSC Seminars. I always gained insightful and intriguing ideas from the topics of every single national or international presenter. And I also took advantage of the privilege of being a visiting scholar to give a seminar presentation titled "An Introduction to the Legal Regulation of Public Video Surveillance in Mainland China," to sharpen and develop my ideas on that subject.

Secondly, auditing the surveillance-related courses, such as taking the Surveillance Studies reading class on Information Privacy.

Thirdly, networking with peers and informal communication. Thanks to the SSC, as a worldwide top-level research unit in this field, I met in person and learned from friendly and talented surveillance studies scholars nationally and internationally through academic conferences and seminars. Fourthly, what is not directly connected to surveillance academia but did a great deal for me to become accustomed to and familiar with Canada and its culture was to be involved in communities, for instance attending the Open Voices community choir’s Celtic kitchen party, and participating in the Canadian family dinners hosted by my dear friend Mr. Kevin Smith and the Smith family, the Bible Studies Group and Thanksgiving Camp both organized by the International Friendship Program, led by my another dear friend here Ms. Mimi Kashira.

Last and most important is that I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my SSC colleagues: Professor David Lyon, Professor Arthur Cockfield, Professor David Murakami Wood, Professor Elia Zureik, Professor Kiyoshi Abe, Dr. Sami Coll, Dr. Alanur Calvin Bozbeyoglu, Dr. Lucas Melgaco, PhD candidates Sachil Singh, Ozugun Topak, and Francesca Menichelli, Ms. Joan Sharpe, Ms. Sarah Cheung, Ms. Emily Smith and the Stauffer Library Librarian Ms. Sylvia Andrychuk.

Jianjun Liu (Faculty of Law, Shandong University of Political Science and Law, China)
Experience as a SSC Postdoctoral Fellow

Alanur Çavlin Bozbeyoglu (Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies, Turkey)

I feel very privileged to be the first SSC postdoctoral fellow under the mentorship of Professor David Lyon from May 2010 to April 2011, following my 9-month postdoctoral research funded by the Turkish Academy of Sciences at the Surveillance Studies Centre.

As a demographer, I came to the Surveillance Studies Centre mainly to develop my critical point of view about extended and advanced forms of surveillance regarding population data gathering system in Turkey. My major areas of interest were state surveillance related to data gathering systems – namely population censuses and registration systems – and their relationship with neoliberal transformation and citizenship regimes. However, my experience at SSC became more than this; I enriched my research interest in surveillance including identification systems, border security and camera surveillance. I participated in several international conferences and workshops in Canada, the US and Europe. I coordinated a research project at the Centre entitled ‘The Private Sector, National Security and Personal Data’, funded by the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. Besides the final report of that project, my published work during my term in SSC includes articles and book chapters on electronic ID card systems, census questionnaires, registration systems, ethnic/religious minorities’ presentation and monitoring, and camera surveillance.

In the Centre, my primary responsibilities were research and publication. However, I was lucky enough to enrich my teaching skills and style in an international environment by being involved in several professional development workshops and short courses held by the Centre for Teaching and Learning at Queen’s University.

I came to Kingston with my family, my partner and my son (he was 4, and now he is 7). The Surveillance Studies Centre team continuously supported our stay in Kingston with their warm and fruitful interests. We have extended our family with my younger son (he is just 5 months old now). Currently, I am back in Turkey as a faculty at Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies with great professional experiences and lovely personal connections and memories.

The Private Sector, National Security and Personal Data: An Exploratory Assessment of Private Sector Involvement in Airport and Border Security in Canada was prepared by the Surveillance Studies Centre for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, March 2011. Available at: http://www.ssc.queens.org/resources/online-reports
Reflections as a Visiting Research Student

Francesca Menichelli (PhD Candidate, Università degli studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy)

I was a visiting research student at the Surveillance Studies Centre for 11 months, from May 2011 until last March. In Italy, where I am based, surveillance studies as a field of inquiry in its own right is still pretty much in its infancy, and in my home university in Milan no one comes out research in this field. This is the main reason why I decided to explore the possibility of spending the last part of my PhD fellowship in Kingston, though my stay ended up being so much more than this.

Arranging everything was a straightforward business, and I do not think it took more than a couple of months to finalize the terms of my visit. Upon arrival, I was surprised by the warm and welcoming reception that everyone gave me, and the lengths they all went to make me feel included in the community of the centre. Professionally, I will never be thankful enough for all the opportunities – in terms of lively discussions, thought-provoking debates and interesting ideas – I was able to seize while at the centre, and how beneficial they were to my research. However, that is just one part of the story. On a personal level, I met so many wonderful friends who made my months in Canada worth remembering. They made me feel at home even when I was thousands of kilometres away and I took their memories home with me when I left Kingston. Thank you, SSC people, it was great being part of your community!

(Oh, and I somehow managed to survive through a Canadian winter, which is in itself a quite remarkable thing!)

…”lively discussions, thought-provoking debates and interesting ideas…”

Midori Ogasawara completed her MA at Queen’s in 2008 under the supervision of David Lyon and was an active member of the Surveillance Project. She wrote her thesis on Japan’s registration and identification systems. Following her time at Queen’s, she translated David Lyon’s Surveillance Studies: An Overview (Polity Press 2007) into Japanese. The Japanese version is titled Surveillance Studies: The Social Theories of Watching and Being Watched, and was published in September 2011 by Iwanami Shoten (Tokyo). See: http://www.iwanami.co.jp/BOOKS/02/6/0258170.html

Midori also published a book in Japanese with Takashi Shiraishi called I Don’t Need My Number: To Oppose Surveillance Society and Protect Personal Data (Koshi-sha 2012) about the new national ID system in Japan. This is a popular book, including the historical background of national ID systems incorporating research from her MA thesis. See: http://www.koshisha.co.jp/pub/archives/393
Welcome SSC Visitors 2012:

Lucas Melgaço (Aug 2011- July 2012), Postdoctoral Fellow, with a joint PhD from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil and the University of Paris 1, Pantheon-Sorbonne, France.

Rafael Barreto de Castro (April - Sept 2012), visiting PhD student in Psychosociology from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Nelson Arteaga Botello (May - Aug 2012), visiting faculty from the Faculdad de Ciencias Políticas, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Mexico.

Ian Warren (Aug - Sept 2012), visiting faculty from Deakin University, Australia.

For more information on SSC members see: http://www.sscqueens.org/people

Spotlight on Faculty: Arthur J. Cockfield

When Professor Arthur Cockfield moved to Queen’s to work as a law professor in 2001 he was intrigued to find out the university had a multidisciplinary research program to study privacy and surveillance. Because Professor Cockfield had previously worked as a law professor in San Diego where he taught U.S. privacy law, he was thrilled to accept an invitation by Professor David Lyon to present some of his ongoing privacy research. The invitation took on greater importance as the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks had just taken place, events that would help shape privacy and surveillance developments for the next decade and beyond. On October 4, 2001, Professor Cockfield presented at the first Surveillance Project seminar on the topic of ‘Who Watches the Watchers? A Law and Technology Perspective on Government and Private Sector Surveillance,’ a paper that was eventually published within the Queen’s Law Journal.

Since that time, Professor Cockfield has authored or collaborated on various surveillance and privacy law articles and books. In addition, he was awarded two SSHRC standard research grants and the Charles D. Gonthier research fellowship for a project on the privacy implications of new surveillance technologies; he also joined Professor Lyon’s team on two other multidisciplinary SSHRC grants, including The New Transparency project. He remains as one of the founding members of the Executive Committee for the Surveillance Studies Centre, which replaced the Surveillance Project in 2010. Professor Cockfield’s most recent article – ‘Surveillance as Law’ – was published last year in the Australian journal the Griffith Law Review and discusses how Surveillance Studies themes can be deployed within legal analysis.

Professor Cockfield’s privacy research eventually led to policy consulting with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. He feels his most important contribution was his work with the OPC on their ‘Matter of Trust’ document that sets out privacy guidelines for all federal government agencies that develop new security initiatives. He also serves as an academic peer reviewer for the OPC’s Contributions Program that disburses grants to privacy and surveillance researchers throughout Canada.

In the winter and spring semester of 2013, Professor Cockfield will hold a Fulbright Visiting Chair in Policy Studies at the University of Texas in Austin where he hopes to share his ongoing privacy research.

For more information on Cockfield’s research, see: http://www.sscqueens.org/people/faculty#art

Birth Announcements:


Events

Doing Surveillance Studies: Concepts, Theories, Methods in Surveillance Studies
Queen’s University
May 30 - June 1, 2013

Surveillance Studies Summer Seminar
Queen’s University
June 3 - 8, 2013

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

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The SSC Newsletter was compiled and edited by Emily Smith

Staff Contacts:

Joan Sharpe
Project Administrator
surveill@queensu.ca
613-533-6000, ext. 78867

Emily Smith
Research Associate
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/