



The IPSI Lecture Series Presents:



The Culture of Surveillance

Professor David Lyon
Queen's University

Surveillance is now an everyday way of doing things. It is becoming part of a way of life. Organizations of all kinds collect data to manage risks or create opportunities. Increasingly, surveillance is taken-for-granted, domesticated and normalized but simultaneously it is queried and contested in fresh and productive ways. The culture of surveillance is one in which our imaginations and practices are more and more attuned to surveillance and this is also fed by contemporary media. Surveillance is familiar, unavoidable, everyday. It also becomes harder to distinguish between the practices of police (expected to do surveillance) and marketers (not normally described as surveillant). The apparent riskiness or uncertainty of everyday life makes surveillance seem necessary. And the domestication of surveillance practices in daily life – think of face-recognition on Facebook or iPhones, or self-tracking for health or fitness – makes it the more normal, taken-for granted.

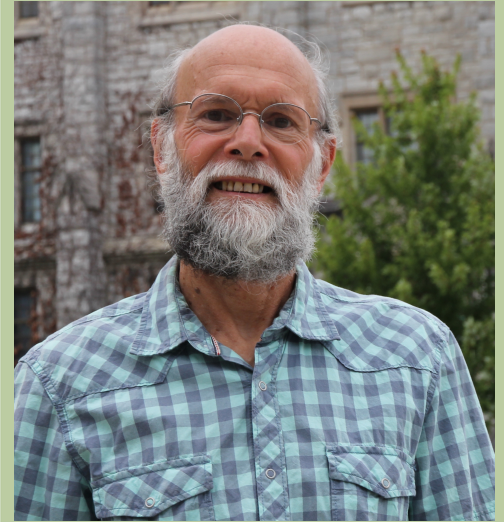
In a surveillance culture, we get used to – or uneasy about – our daily lives being increasingly transparent to unknown others, something that may possibly be grasped through opinion polls or interviews but more likely through TV, movies and novels such as *Black Mirror* or *The Circle*.

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2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

University College, RM 140

15 King's College Cir, Toronto, ON M5S 3H7



David Lyon is Director of the Surveillance Studies Centre at Queen's University, where he also holds a Queen's Research Chair, and is Professor of Sociology and of Law. He is the Principal Investigator of a SSHRC Partnership Grant on Big Data Surveillance (2015-2021).

He has authored many books including *The Culture of Surveillance: Watching as a Way of Life* (Polity 2018) and articles relating to surveillance, social aspects of technology, social theory and religion-and-the-secular.

His work has been recognized with a number of awards: most recently an honorary doctorate from the Università della Svizzera italiana in 2016.

He enjoys time with his children and grandchildren, watercolour painting and riding tandem bicycle with his wife, a professional potter.