Privacy concerns have closely followed the development of new technologies. Informing this discussion is an important underlying conceptual debate that centres upon the informational self-determination approach to privacy. This approach is embodied in Westin’s classic formulation of privacy that seeks to support “the claim[s] of individuals...to determine for themselves when, how, and to what extent information about them is communicated to others.” An alternative approach to privacy is provided by Nissenbaum’s claim that privacy is achieved through adherence to contextually appropriate norms of information flow that support socially valued interactions within specific spheres of social life.

This talk explores these conceptual tensions with respect to a number of current controversies concerning privacy and the development of new technologies. It is argued that the way in which privacy violations are characterized greatly affects the search for solutions in this area. This in turn influences the values that animate the privacy debate and how these values are to be protected.

Friday, November 15, 2013
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Bahen Center for Info Technology, Rm 1230
40 St. George Street, Toronto, M5S 2E4

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Prior to joining UOIT, Rajen worked at the Center for Information Communication Technologies, Denmark Technical University and the Centre for Innovation Law and Policy, University of Toronto Faculty of Law. He has also worked in law firms in New York and Toronto as well as the Information Privacy Commissioner (Ontario) and the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg), Ireland.