

# GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY & CITIZEN PRIVACY

// CLASS 8

**FALL 2015 / SECTION 02 / HOLLY BUCK**

*adapted from slides by Dr. Cynthia Matuszek, Dr. Marie  
desJardins*

# TODAY'S CLASS...

- Turn in RJ5
- Questions on Ethical Analysis Paper #1?
  - Draft due 1 week from today – for writing workshop in-class

Mini-lecture

Discussion: algorithmic regulation

Discussion: NSA

# SECURITY VS. PRIVACY

- Framing of a dichotomy (rhetorical devices)
- Compromising one improves the other
- So, NSA's bulk surveillance should improve security if this is a real dichotomy.
- When was the PATRIOT act passed?
  - Expired June 2015, but renewed in modified format under USA Freedom Act – except for NSA bulk data collection
- How many terrorist plots have been found?
- Claimed: **54**  
Actual: **~4?**  
Otherwise unknown: **1**
- Property damage (of otherwise unknown): **\$0.00**

# APPROACH EFFICIENCY

- “False positives”: What are the consequences?  
Loss of privacy, erroneous arrests and convictions, ..?
- “Innocent until proven guilty” failures?
- Do we have enough resources to pursue every path? DHS total expenditures through 2012: ~360 billion
  - How many plane bombs has TSA (~80 billion) caught?  
0
  - How about fake bombs (test cases)? Bomb parts? (per internal TSA testing)  
What (if anything) do we not have resources for?

# "NOTHING TO HIDE"

- No hidden information on the highway  
Can we invest arbitrary power in those authorities?
- Should people who aren't speeding ever be pulled over/harassed/ searched/detained?
- Who has nothing to hide?  
Privacy is not (only) about hiding crimes  
Who was J Edgar Hoover's #1 surveillance target?  
MLK

# KEY CONCEPTS TO KNOW

- Noninvasive but deeply revealing searches
  - Personal information
  - Informed consent
  - Invisible information gathering
  - Secondary use
    - Data mining
    - Matching
    - Profiling
- \* Review cases & important legislation from Baase Ch. 2

# DISCUSSION: ALGORITHMIC REGULATION (YOUR QUESTIONS)

1. Why would it be worrisome that corporations use algorithms to tell users things such as when they should get up and exercise?

Is this different from government uses of algorithms?

2. Given that most laws were not written with algorithmic regulation in mind, what problems may arise?

3. Is it bad if a computer program which uses data mining & statistics, and is 99.99% correct about decisions, does not "tell" the operator why it makes those predictions?

In one regard your privacy is completely safe, the only thing that knows anything about you is the machine, every other human is completely left in the dark.

Scenario: I will assume the show Person of Interest is in fact reality, and there is a machine watching everybody predicting elevated risks for people who will somehow be involved in a preventable crime. Now, would you want that reality? Everyone is being watched, decisions are being made about people based on accurate data, all privacy is nonexistent, but it is only nonexistent to that machine. When anything bad happens the machine just sends human operators to intervene in the situation. The operators have no idea why the machine picked the target but they know it will be right. In conclusion I think this should end with a very open ended question. Does individual privacy matter when the thing invading your privacy isn't actually human?

# DISCUSSION: NSA

1. Verizon phone metadata
2. Tapping of high-volume cables
3. PRISM: “downstream” program –agency collects the data from Google, Facebook, Apple, Yahoo and other US internet giants



# DISCUSSION: NSA

Is there really a security/privacy tradeoff?

How do we feel about NSA bulk surveillance, given:

1. Who are the stakeholders?
2. What groups/individuals are impacted by uses of/prohibitions on the technology?  
What choices can stakeholders make?
3. That substantially affect other stakeholders?
4. Who are the policymakers?
5. What policies could be relevant?
6. **Should things change? Why?**

How could things change/be changed?

# FOR NEXT CLASS...

#RJ6 – Privacy & commercial data