SOCI 434 [1]
Issues in Deviance, Crime, Law and Social Control: Identification, Surveillance, and Citizenship

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Instructor: Dr. Midori Ogasawara

Course Description:

This is an advanced seminar course on surveillance and technologies that are increasingly used in the field of crime prevention, national security, marketing, public health or welfare, and as means of social control in general. Today's surveillance is often invisibly embedded in digital communication networks, so surveillance targets have been shifting from the deviant to the general population, and the boundaries between legal and illegal surveillance are being redrawn. First, we will start with situating identification as a starting point of surveillance and learn that roles and effects of identification systems are not only the verification of a person, but also the classification and categorization of people, such as the status cards or pass system that have been historically implemented to the Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Next, we will discuss some key theories of surveillance studies, a dynamic and interdisciplinary area of research, such as the concepts by Foucault, Agamben, Bauman and Lyon. Those theories help you find and analyze the previously unknown consequences of identification and surveillance practices, in constant references to colonial histories and neoliberal policies. Some invited speakers will share their marginalized experiences of surveillance, intersecting race/ethnicity, gender and class. Finally, you will choose a specific case or issue of surveillance you are interested in and write an in-depth research paper to explore possible actions to protect and improve citizenship and human rights in the digital era, individually and collectively.

Course Objectives:

This is a reading-intensive and discussion-centred seminar course. The objectives of this course are achieving an advanced understanding of major issues and theories of surveillance, applying the theories to the real world, and developing critical thinking on the past, present and future of surveillance technologies. You are encouraged to open the eye to the world beyond your everyday life and electronic screen, learn from 'Others', both inside and outside the class,

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[1] This outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. A detailed course outline will be made available in August before the first day of class. Only that outline is to be considered official.

including the guest speakers, and discover the meanings of civil liberty, equity, and social justice for vulnerable people and situations in global contexts. You will also increase your abilities to identify benefits and harms of identification and surveillance systems surrounding you and take actions on the problems.

Course Pre-requisites:

A minimum of third-year standing; and a declared Honours or Major in Sociology; *or* permission of the instructor. SOCI 346 Sociology of Surveillance and/or SOCI 356 International Crimes and Social Justice are *recommended* prior to taking this course.

Topics May Include:

Identification systems implemented to the Indigenous Peoples, security intelligence activities targeting the Muslims in North America, Snowden Revelations, welfare monitoring against the poor, pandemic surveillance tools (vaccine passports, contact tracing apps, GPS tracking, or health databases), biometrics (facial recognition, fingerprinting, or DNA databases), immigration and border control, the internet and social media, surveillance capitalism, social credit systems, and "China Panic".

Required Resources May Include:

All required readings will be made available via Brightspaces.