



HARVARD Kennedy School

CARR CENTER

for Human Rights Policy

The Future of Human Rights: Technology and Fact-Finding in the 21st Century

Harvard Kennedy School
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

November 3 & 4, 2016

<http://carrcenter.hks.harvard.edu>
@CarrCenter #tech4rights
carr_center@hks.harvard.edu
617.495.5819

Thursday, November 3, 2016

Taubman 520 ALLISON DINING ROOM

Breakfast

8:30-9:00 AM

Please join the Carr Center for Human Rights in advance of the conference for coffee and a light breakfast.

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

9:00-9:45 AM

Welcome to conference participants by Academic Dean Archon Fung. Introductory remarks by Douglas A. Johnson. Overview and more details from Carr Center's Executive Director Sushma Raman and Senior Fellow Steven Livingston.

Speakers:

- Douglas A. Johnson, Faculty Director, Carr Center for Human Rights
- Archon Fung, Academic Dean, Harvard Kennedy School
- Sushma Raman, Executive Director, Carr Center for Human Rights
- Steven Livingston, Senior Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights

Recent and Anticipated Technological Advances

10:00 AM - 1:45 PM

Lunch will be served from 12:00-12:45 PM

What are the latest advances in each of the key technologies represented at the symposium and used today by human rights organizations? While symposium participants are subject matter experts in one or more of the technologies and scientific processes discussed here, few of us are experts in all three. The opening sessions will provide insights into recent advances in remote sensing, geographical information systems, data science, and forensic science.

Remote Sensing/GIS

10:00-11:00 AM

Speakers:

- Rhiannan Price, Senior Manager, Global Development Program, DigitalGlobe
- Jim Beckley, VP, Sales & Business Development, Black Sky
- Kevin O'Connell, President and CEO, Innovative Analytics & Training & Outgoing Chair of NOAA's Federal Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES)
- Moderator/discussant: Scott Edwards, Senior Adviser, Amnesty International's Research Directorate

Digital Network Analysis

11:00-12:00 PM

Speakers:

- Hend Alhinnawi, Co-Founder, Syria Tracker, a project of Humanitarian Tracker
- Taha Kass-Hout, Co-Founder, Syria Tracker, a project of Humanitarian Tracker
- Christopher McNaboe, Manager, Syria Mapping Project, Carter Center
- Francesco Sebreghondi, Research Fellow, Forensic Architecture
- Moderator/discussant: Bryan Nuñez, Program Officer, Open Society Human Rights Initiative

Lunch

12:00-12:45 PM

Forensic Science

12:45-1:45 PM

Speakers:

- Stefan Schmitt, Director, International Forensic Program, Physicians for Human Rights
- Victor Weedn, Chair and Professor, Department of Forensic Sciences, George Washington University
- Thomas Parsons, Director of Forensic Sciences, International Commission on Missing Persons
- Moderator/discussant: Kate Doyle, Senior Analyst of U.S. policy in Latin America, National Security Archive

Challenges and Opportunities in Collaborations Across Technologies

2:00 -3:30 PM

In Srebrenica, U.S. government satellite imagery taken during and after the July 1995 massacre documented bodies and vehicles at several of the execution sites. The images also showed disturbed earth and, in the fall, evidence that the initial graves had been exhumed and the remains moved to secondary graves. It was not until well after the massacre that these satellite images were declassified. In 2016, scores of commercial high-resolution satellites are available to human rights organizations. Also, social media and other digital networks offer clues that help investigators understand an event. And forensic science organizations now have access to sequencing technology that undermine efforts to thwart the identification of remains. What are the opportunities and challenges associated with the “digitization” of human rights investigations?

Speakers:

- Thomas Parsons, Director of Forensic Sciences, International Commission on Missing Persons
- Isaac Baker, Imagery Analysis Manager for the Signal Program at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard University
- Jos Berens, Project Design & Delivery, Data Responsibility, Humanity X & coordinator of the Data Governance Working Group at NYU GovLab and Leiden University's Peace Informatics Lab, Centre for Innovation
- Jonathan Drake, Senior Program Associate with the Geospatial Technologies Project, Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Moderator/discussant: Josh Lyons, Satellite Imagery Analyst, Human Rights Watch

The Challenge of Ubiquitous Devices and the Deluge of Data

3:45-5:00 PM

Nearly ubiquitous Internet-enabled mobile telephony with cameras means that bystanders and victims of human rights abuses now can collect and disseminate information and images in real-time. At the very least, sifting through the data deluge presents both opportunities and challenges to human rights investigators. How can massive amounts of user generated content be managed in a timely, actionable way without causing injury to already vulnerable populations? How might data science and predictive analytics affect the use of remote sensing? What might be the role of crowdsourcing in data analytics?

Speakers:

- Scott Edwards, Senior Adviser, Amnesty International's Research Directorate
- Francesco Sebreghondi, Research Fellow, Forensic Architecture
- Tanya Karanasios, Deputy Program Director, WITNESS
- Josh Lyons, Satellite Imagery Analyst, Human Rights Watch
- Moderator/discussant: Jay Aronson, founder and director of the Center for Human Rights Science at Carnegie Mellon University

Break/Reception Taubman Rotunda

5:00-5:30 PM

Please join the Carr Center for Human Rights for a short reception in advance of the Keynote Address.

Keynote Address - Data Ethics: Responsible Use of Data in Human Rights Monitoring

5:30-6:30 PM

Speakers:

- Moderator/discussant: Patrick Vinck, Director, Peace and Human Rights Data, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
- Alex 'Sandy' Pentland, Director of the MIT Connection Science and Human Dynamics labs, founding member of advisory boards for Google, AT&T, Nissan, and the UN Secretary General

Sandy Pentland is the Toshiba Professor at MIT where he directs the Human Dynamics research group and leads the Connection Science initiative. One of the most-cited scientists in the world, Forbes recently declared him one of the "7 most powerful data scientists in the world" along with the founders of Google and the Chief Technical Officer of the United States. He is a founding member of advisory boards for Google, AT&T, Nissan, and the UN Secretary General. He has also co-founded more than a dozen companies including social enterprises such as the Data Transparency Lab, the Harvard-ODI-MIT DataPop Alliance, and the Institute for Data-Driven Design.

Friday, November 4, 2016

Taubman 520 ALLISON DINING ROOM

Breakfast

8:30-9:00 AM

Please join the Carr Center in advance of the conference for coffee and a light breakfast.

The Legal Opportunities and Challenges of the Use of Technology in Human Rights Investigations

9:00-10:30 AM

Remote sensing, DNA sequencing, and data mining have emerged as valuable techniques for investigating and gathering evidence of human rights abuses and war crimes. However, as relatively new investigatory practices, some courts remain skeptical about their reliability and their probative value. Consequently, exploiting the overlap between these three techniques--what they can collectively establish and the ways in which they can strengthen the reliability of each other--may

hold tremendous promise for strengthening legal accountability. The exhumation of mass graves is just one practice that might benefit from bringing these areas of expertise together: satellite imagery, for example, locates where the earth has been disturbed, suggesting possible mass graves, while DNA sequencing can help identify the dead once (if) they are exhumed.

Information parsed from the Internet (whether videos uploaded to YouTube, photographs shared on social media, or communications posted to Twitter and other platforms) can also provide important contextual information that corroborates information collected by satellites. Corroborating evidence is also collected by technical processes now used in archival forensics. In this session, we will explore how these technologies are currently used in concert (or not) and how such collaborations might be improved to support legal accountability in the future.

Speakers:

- Victor Weedn, Chair and Professor, Department of Forensic Sciences, George Washington University
- Alexa Koenig, Executive Director, Human Rights Center and Lecturer-in-Residence at UC Berkeley School of Law
- Keith Hiatt, VP, Human Rights Program, Benetech
- Theresa Harris, Senior Program Associate, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program
- Moderator/discussant: Sushma Raman, Executive Director, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

The Promise of DNA Sequencing

10:30 AM -11:45 AM

While DNA databases are now well established in many countries in the world, rules on their use vary. As DNA sequencing technology advances and becomes less expensive, there are plans to set up new databases or expand existing databases in many countries. In other countries, a DNA database of the whole population is proposed. Data-sharing, involving the transfer of information across international borders, is also on the increase. What do we know and perhaps concern ourselves about as we move forward?

Speakers:

- Stefan Schmitt, Director, International Forensic Program, Physicians for Human Rights
- Daniele Podini, Associate Professor, Department of Forensic Sciences, The George Washington University
- Thomas Parsons, Director of Forensic Sciences, International Commission on Missing Persons
- Moderator/discussant: Jay Aronson, Founder and Director of the Center for Human Rights Science, Carnegie Mellon University

Lunch and Harvard Tour

11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Data and the Court of Public Opinion

1:30-3:00 PM

Standard models of human rights advocacy highlight the role of information in creating political pressure directed toward those who abuse human rights. Today, information technologies and advances in data visualization technologies open up new avenues for mobilizing publics and for pressuring human rights abusers. What are the advantages and limitations offered by these developments? Data visualization typically requires gathering and processing large amounts of data. Who performs this task for often understaffed and inadequately equipped human rights investigators? What concerns spring from this requirement?

Speakers:

- Rhiannan Price, Senior Manager, Global Development Program, DigitalGlobe
- Christopher McNaboe, Manager, Syria Mapping Project, The Carter Center
- Hend Alhinnawi, Co-Founder, Humanitarian Tracker
- Taha Kass-Hout, Co-Founder, Humanitarian Tracker
- Moderator/discussant: Tanya Karanasios, Deputy Program Director, WITNESS

The Future of Human Rights

3:15 -4:45 PM

The beginning of the symposium was spent reviewing the latest developments in remote sensing/GIS, data mining, and forensic science, especially DNA sequencing technology. We will consider what the future holds in store for collaborative efforts among existing technologies and with technological developments not considered at length so far in the symposium. What is the future (5 and 10 years hence) of technology in human rights investigations? Given what we have considered to this point in the symposium, what will data integration from across different data sources look like down the road? What are the technical, operational, organizational, legal, and ethical opportunities and challenges to collaborative investigations and operations? After brief opening remarks by our panelists (about 5 minutes each) the conversation will be open to all participants.



HARVARD Kennedy School

CARR CENTER

for Human Rights Policy

Speakers:

- Scott Edwards, Senior Adviser, Amnesty International's Research Directorate
- Nathaniel Raymond, Director, Signal Program on Human Security and Technology, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard University
- Kevin O'Connell, President and CEO, Innovative Analytics & Training and Outgoing Chair of NOAA's Federal Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES)
- Alexa Koenig, Executive Director, Human Rights Center and Lecturer-in-Residence at UC Berkeley School of Law
- Kate Doyle, Senior Analyst of U.S. policy in Latin America, National Security Archive
- Josh Lyons, Satellite Imagery Analyst, Human Rights Watch
- Moderator/discussant: Sushma Raman, Executive Director, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

Closing Remarks

4:45 – 5:15 PM

Speakers:

- Kathryn Sikkink, Ryan Family Professor of Human Rights Policy at HKS and the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
- Steven Livingston, Senior Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University and Professor of Media and Public Affairs (School of Media and Public Affairs) and Media and International Affairs (Elliott School of International Relations), George Washington University

<http://carrcenter.hks.harvard.edu>
@CarrCenter #tech4rights
carr_center@hks.harvard.edu
617.495.5819