

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy to host Symposium on Technology and Human Rights

October 18th, 2016

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, located at the Harvard Kennedy School, is pleased to announce our upcoming symposium: Technology & Human Rights.

The Symposium will be chaired by Carr Center's Senior Fellow Steven Livingston, a Professor of Media and Public Affairs and International Affairs with appointments in the School of Media and Public Affairs and the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University.

The Technology & Human Rights Symposium, hosted at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government on November 3rd and 4th, aims to strengthen technical collaboration among stakeholders working on issues at the intersection of human rights and technology. It will also help highlight key theoretical developments in human rights work. The symposium is organized around three technical clusters and the communities of practice that have emerged around them. These clusters are:

- **Geospatial Technology:** The use of remote sensing satellites, geographical information systems (GIS), drones and geographical positioning satellites (GPS) and receivers to track and record human rights violations.
- **Digital Networks:** The use of digital platforms to link individuals in different locations working towards a common goal, such as monitoring digital traces of human rights violations around the world.
- **Forensic:** Recoding material objects, including human remains, into binary code. This domain includes Next-Generation DNA sequencing technologies as well as document scanning and data management technologies.

Through the symposium, the Carr Center will create a better understanding of how digital technologies affect investigations into potential human rights abuses and war crimes. Participants will develop increased understanding of the capabilities, limitations and points of common purpose found in these technologies.

Details:

Thursday and Friday, November 3rd and 4th, 2016

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

Allison Dining Room, Taubman Building, 79 JFK Street, Cambridge MA 02138

About Steven Livingston

Steven Livingston is Professor of Media and Public Affairs and International Affairs with appointments in the School of Media and Public Affairs (SMPA) and the Elliott School of

International Affairs (ESIA) at the George Washington University. Currently, in addition to his appointment as a senior fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, he is a Visiting Scholar at the Brookings Institution's program in governance studies. Over the course of his 26-year career at GW he has held a variety of faculty and administrative positions. His research has taken him to over 50 countries in the last decade alone. Among other publications, he has co-authored *When the Press Fails*, winner of the 2016 Doris Graber Outstanding Book Award, and co-edited *Bits and Atoms: Information and Communication Technology in Areas of Limited Statehood*.

About the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

The Carr Center is a research center based at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, with a mission to realize global justice through theory, policy, and practice. Research, courses, fellowships, public events, and engagement with students, scholars, and journalists form the core of the Center.

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