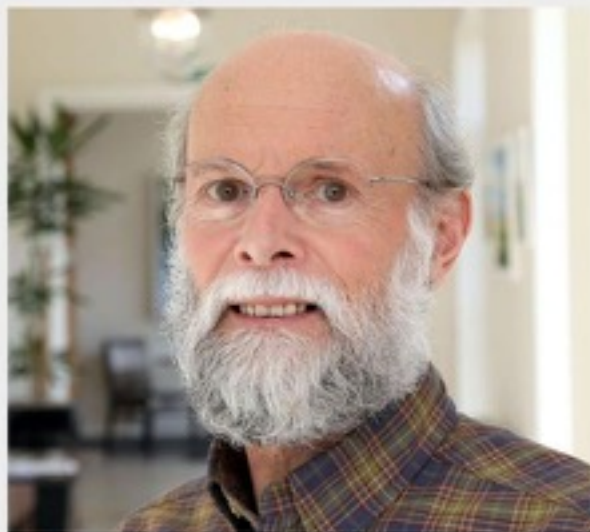




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# DAVID LYON

Professor Emeritus in the Department of Sociology and Law at  
Queen's University,  
and former director of the Surveillance Studies Centre

on

**SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM MEETS THE  
PANDEMIC: SURVEILLANCE CHALLENGES FOR  
THE 'SOCIAL CONTRACT'**

**22ND APRIL, 2022,**

**7:30-8:30 PM IST / 10:00-11:00 AM EDT**

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## Prof David Lyon Bio-note

Prof. David Lyon, is known the world over for his singular contribution to the field of “Surveillance Studies”. In his writings, Prof Lyon ties the intensification of surveillance to urgent concerns of ethics, social justice, civil liberties and human rights.

Prof Lyon is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Sociology and Law at Queen's University, Ontario, Canada and is the Former Director of the Surveillance Studies Centre. He is author, co-author, editor and co-editor of 28 books and his works have been translated into 16 languages.

Prof. Lyon’s early work explored the mutual relations of Christian social thought and the social sciences in works such as *Karl Marx: A Christian Appreciation of his Life and Thought* (1979) and *Sociology and the Human Image* (1983). Questions concerning the impact of modernity on religious practices finds representation in his book *The Steeple’s Shadow: On the Myths and Realities of Secularization* (1986), whereas in *Jesus in Disneyland* (2000) Prof. Lyon investigates the ways in which religious activities are affected by the postmodern turn. His co-edited book (with Marguerite Van Die) *Rethinking Church, State and Modernity: Canada between Europe and America* (2000) examines central concepts in the sociology and history of religion.

During the 1980s Prof. Lyon began investigating how new technologies are involved in social change. Heretofore his books such as *The Silicon Society: How Will Information Technology Change Our Lives?* (1986), *The Information Society: Issues and Illusions* (1988), *Postmodernity* (1994), *The Electronic Eye: The Rise of Surveillance Society* (1994), *Computers, Surveillance and Privacy*, (1996), *Surveillance Society: Monitoring Everyday Life* (2001), *Surveillance as Social Sorting: Privacy, Risk and Digital Discrimination* (2002), *Surveillance after September 11* (2003), *Theorizing Surveillance: The Panopticon and Beyond* (2006), *Surveillance Studies: An Overview* (2007), *Surveillance After Snowden* (2015) strived to address the relationship between digital modernity, processing of personal data, expanding surveillance and diminishing human rights.

Prof Lyon’s co-edited book (with Colin Bennett) *Playing the Identity Card: Surveillance, Security and Identification in Global Perspective* (2008) and *Identifying Citizens: ID Cards as Surveillance* (2009) contribute to an understanding of the political economy of IDs around the world. Prof Lyon’s investment in exploring the relation between surveillance and more recent technical and political developments can be evidenced in his works such as *Surveillance and Control in Israel/Palestine: Population, Territory, Power* (2010), *Eyes Everywhere: The Global Growth of Camera Surveillance* (2011), *Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada* (2014).

Prof. Lyon is also the founding editor of the journal *Surveillance & Society*, an associate editor of *The Information Society*, and is on the editorial boards of a number of other academic journals. Since 2000s, he has led a series of team projects, along with being on the international advisory boards of many other major projects, on surveillance studies.

He has held visiting appointments in a number of universities such as Auckland, Edinburgh, Leeds, Melbourne, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, the Centre for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris to name a few.

Prof. Lyon has also encouraged and inspired surveillance research initiatives and groups around the world, especially in Israel/Palestine and the Middle East, Japan, and Latin America.

Prof Lyon has been a recipient of numerous awards for his work, from Canada, Switzerland, the USA and the UK, the most recent being the Outstanding Contribution Award by the Surveillance Studies Network (2018) and the SSHRC Impact: Insight Award (2015).

Ethics forms a central node of Prof Lyon's work over all these years which is best seen in "Liquid Surveillance: the Contribution of Zygmunt Bauman to Surveillance Studies" published in *International Political Sociology* (2010) and *Liquid Surveillance*, co-authored with Zygmunt Bauman (2013). Prof Lyon's other publications include *The Culture of Surveillance* (2018) and *Pandemic Surveillance* (2021). He is currently working on *Surveillance: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford).

Prof Lyon defines surveillance as the "operations and experiences of gathering and analysing personal data for influence, entitlement or management." He argues that Big Data practices play a central role in post-Snowden environment. As the Principal Investigator of the Big Data Surveillance Project (2015-2021) funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada he is co-leading research "Stream One: Security". This stream seeks to assess the extent and effect of big data-dependent 'national security' surveillance of communications after Edward Snowden's revelations. They are working on an edited publication called *Security Intelligence and Surveillance in the Big Data Age: The Canadian Case* (UBC Press, forthcoming).