Academics Against Mass Surveillance


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Last summer it was revealed, largely thanks to Edward Snowden, that American and European intelligence services are engaging in mass surveillance of hundreds of millions of people.

Intelligence agencies monitor people's Internet use, obtain their phone calls, email messages, Facebook entries, financial details, and much more. Agencies have also gathered personal information by accessing the internal data flows of firms such as Google and Yahoo. Skype calls are "readily available" for interception. Agencies have purposefully weakened encryption standards - the same techniques that should protect our online banking and our medical files. These are just a few examples from recent press reports. In sum: the world is under an unprecedented level of surveillance.

This has to stop.

The right to privacy is a fundamental right. It is protected by international treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. Without privacy people cannot freely express their opinions or seek and receive information. Moreover, mass surveillance turns the presumption of innocence into a presumption of guilt. Nobody denies the importance of protecting national security, public safety, or the detection of crime. But current secret and unfettered surveillance practices violate fundamental rights and the rule of law, and undermine democracy.

The signatories of this declaration call upon nation states to take action. Intelligence agencies must be subjected to transparency and accountability. People must be free from blanket mass surveillance conducted by intelligence agencies from their own or foreign countries. States must effectively protect everyone's fundamental rights and freedoms, and particularly everyone's privacy.

January 2014

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Subscription to the Declaration is now closed.
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- Bev Littlewood (Professor of Software Engineering, City University London)
- Fiona de Londras (Professor of Law, Durham University; Co-Director, Durham Human Rights Centre)
- Andres Guadamuz (Senior Lecturer in Intellectual Property Law, University of Sussex)
- Anil Madhavapeddy (Senior Research Fellow, Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge)
- Chris Marsden (Professor of Media Law, University of Sussex)
- Karen Mc Cullagh (Lecturer in Law, University of East Anglia)
- Andrew McStay (Lecturer in Media Culture, Bangor University)
- Christopher Millard (Professor of Privacy and Information Law; Director of the Cloud Legal Project, Queen Mary University of London)
- Philip Moriarty (Professor of Physics, University of Nottingham)
- Geraint Bevan (Lecturer in Applied Instrumentation and Control, Glasgow Caledonian University)
- Axel Arnbak (Ph.D researcher, Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam; Research Fellow, Berkman Center for Internet & Society)
- Bodó Balázs (University of Amsterdam, Institute for Information Law)
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- Luc Boerboom (Assistant Professor Spatial Planning and Decision Support Systems and Infrastructures, University of Twente)
- Saleem Bhatti (Professor, School of Computer Science, University of St Andrews)
- Mike Nellis (Emeritus Professor Criminal and Community Justice, University of Strathclyde)
- Clive Norris (Professor of Sociology, The University of Sheffield)
- Charles Raab (Professor of Government, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh)
- Gemma Galdon Clavell (Researcher, Sociology Department, Universitat de Barcelona)
- Massimo Ragnedda (Lecturer in Mass Communication, Department of Media and Communication Design, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne)
- Ana Ramalho (Associate Professor, University of South Wales)
- Krzysztof Kulakowski (Professor of Physics, AGH University of Science and Technology, Cracow)
- Debora Weber-Wulff (Professor for Media and Computing, HTW Berlin)
- Johanna Söderström (Post-doc Researcher, Department of Government, Uppsala University, Sweden)
- Henderik Proper (Professor, Enterprise Engineering Team, Public Research Centre - Henri Tudor, Luxembourg)
- Dirk Brockmann (Professor, Institute of Biology, Humboldt-University Berlin; Robert-Koch-Institute Berlin)
- Judith Rauhofer (Lecturer in IT Law, University of Edinburgh)
- Brian Randell (Emeritus Professor of Computing Science, Newcastle University)
- Mark Ryan (Professor of Computer Security, University of Birmingham)
- Burkhard Schafer (Professor of Computational Legal Theory and Director SCRIPT Centre for IT and IP, University of Edinburgh)
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- Ann Singleton (Senior Research Fellow, University of Bristol)
- Peter Sommer (Visiting Professor, de Montfort University; Visiting Reader, Open University)
- Michael Taylor (Research Associate, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol)
- Robin Celikates (Associate Professor on Political and Social Philosophy, University of Amsterdam)
- Mireille van Eechoud (Professor of Information Law, University of Amsterdam)
- Waqas Tufail (Lecturer in Criminology, Manchester Metropolitan University)
- Luca Viganó (Professor of Computer Science, King's College London)
- Ian Walden (Professor of Information and Communications Law, Queen Mary University of London)
- Lynne Wrennall (Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Liverpool John Moores University)
- Joss Wright (University of Oxford, Oxford Internet Institute)
- Bendert Zevenbergen (DPhil Researcher, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford)
- Alessandro Acquisti (Associate Professor of Information Technology and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University; co-director of CMU Center for Behavioral Decision Research)
- Robert Boltje (Professor of Mathematics, University of California, Santa Cruz)
- Stephen Checkoway (Assistant Research Professor, Department of Computer Science, Johns Hopkins University)
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- Samir Chopra (Department of Philosophy, Brooklyn College and Graduate Center of the City University of New York)
- Seda Gürses (Research Fellow, New York University and KU Leuven)
- Jeff Jarvis (Professor of Journalism, City University of New York, Graduate School of Journalism)
- Jennifer Lyon (Associate University Librarian, Health Science Center Libraries, University of Florida)
- Gary Marx (Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
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- Guido Hülsmann (Professor of Economics, University of Angers)
- Sebastian Brüggemann (Lecturer in IT-Law, University of Tübingen)
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- Neil Richards (Professor of Law, Washington University in Saint Louis)
- James Rule (Distinguished Affiliated Scholar, Center for the Study of Law and Society, University of California)
- Klaus Usadel (Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics, University Duisburg-Essen)
- Franz Mertens (Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics, University of Bayreuth)
- Bob Hoogenboom (Professor Policing and Security, Nyenrode Business University; Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- Mark Thornton (Senior Fellow, Ludwig von Mises Institute)
- Kristina Musholt (Juniorprofessor, Philosophy Department, University of Magdeburg)
- Wiebren de Jonge (Associate Professor of Computer Science, VU University Amsterdam)
- Rohangis Mohseni (Researcher, Center for Information Management and Virtual Teaching; Psychological Institute, Osnabrück)
- Walter Privitera (Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Milan-Bicocca)
- Marnix Eysink Smeets (Lector Veiligheidsbeleving, Hogeschool Inholland Rotterdam)
- Juergen Seefelder (Faculty Speaker Dep. Jazz&Popular Music, University of Music a. Performing Arts Mannheim)
- Edith Rost-Schaude (Retired, Hochschule Darmstadt, University of Applied Sciences)
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Martin Ziegle (Computer Scientist; Professor of Applied Logic, TU Darmstadt)

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Fredrik Graver (Head of Studies / Associate Professor, The Norwegian Film School)

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Uli Fahrenberg (Computer scientist at INRIA, France)
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- Robert Koch (Professor of law at the Faculty of Law, University of Hamburg)
- Christian A. Meyer (Professor, Natural History Museum Basel)
- Holger Braun (Visiting Professor, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Argentina)
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- Valerio Lucarini (Professor of Theoretical Meteorology, University of Hamburg)
- Ana Roque (Associate Professor, Lisbon Autónoma University)
- Joshua Cohen (Professor of Political Science, Philosophy, and Law, Stanford University)
- Stuart White (Fellow in Politics, Jesus College, Oxford University)
- Andrzej Slaczka (Professor Emeritus, Institute of Geological Science, Jagiellonian University Kraków) Poland
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- Paul Deurenberg (Professor Emeritus, Nutrition Epidemiology and Physiology, Wageningen University; National University of Singapore)
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- Bryan Ford (Assistant Professor, Yale University)
- Kathleen Barker (Professor, Department of Psychology, The City University of New York/Medgar Evers College)
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- Roman Peperhove (Researcher, Freie Universität Berlin)
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- Alana Maurushat (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, The University of New South Wales)
- Jon Crowcroft (Marconi Professor of Communications Systems, University of Cambridge)
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