

Opening remarks

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Good morning all.

My name is Doug MacKinnon, I am the director of the Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention at the University of Wollongong. It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this one day workshop entitled: "From Dataveillance to Überveillance and the Realpolitik of the Transparent Society". This is the second workshop on the *Social Implications of National Security* sponsored by the Research Network for a Secure Australia (RNSA). This workshop will focus on the challenging question of Surveillance vs Security.

In an age, when for all intents and purposes, an apparently normal individual with family and social connections will rise in the morning, say goodbye to his spouse and child and several hours later detonate a suicide bomb in a public place causing death and destruction, many challenges now confront society and those charged with maintaining security, stability and community safety.

Indeed the use of common technology such as mobile phones, by persons of ill intent to coordinate- and on occasions to trigger- catastrophic events now strikes hard at the balance between privacy and the common good.

The issue of balance between privacy and the common good is not a new one to the legal profession and indeed to policymakers, however, historical argument about concepts of public interest versus private needs are challenged by unprecedented threats to civilians and non-combatants by those pursuing

political agendas by violent means.

This has recently been demonstrated in Australia through an investigation in Queensland linked to the recent London and Glasgow terrorist strikes. Not only was the Australian legal framework tested but so were new laws and legal processes. In an era where those charged with the protection of society are indeed often judged by their ability to prevent crime from taking place, law enforcement personnel often find themselves caught in the middle of opposing forces. Ultimately, many would say that the Queensland incident was a true test of the Australian legal system of justice, others might say otherwise, and only time will tell.

For those engaged in social policy and the benefits and disadvantages of technology to society, the examination of the Realpolitik of dataveillance and überveillance need to be considered in the context of national security. Will real or imagined threats lead to a significant increase in surveillance technology and impact on our way of life? Will the balance between privacy and national security change dramatically? The importance of this workshop as it delves deeper into critical factors associated with technology innovation and adoption, government policy, and the legal and regulatory framework, cannot be understated.

The presenters of this workshop come from diverse backgrounds including: legal firms, government agencies, academic institutions across Australia, and some individuals from the business sector. There are papers on stored communications interception and the law, terrorism and human rights, public data versus data protection, location based services and privacy, and ePassports and security.

To the delegates, we hope you enjoy this year's workshop and thank you for coming from all over Australia to be present with us today. It promises to be a day full of challenging issues, learning, and constructive dialogue.

Thank you.