CENTRE FOR CRIMINOLOGY & SOCIOLEGAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

SPEAKERS SERIES

Wednesday Jan. 22, 2014, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Ericson Seminar Room,

2nd Floor, Canadiana Gallery Building
14 Queen's Park Crescent West

Fleur Johns

University of New South Wales

The Laws of Lists and the Demos of Data

Abstract

Just as a rethinking of materiality and matter is underway across the academy, so the work of global governance seems increasingly to be turned over to the active 'things' of data. Case-by-case deliberation seems to have given way, frequently, to the definition of algorithmic instructions followed by a getting-out-of-the-algorithm's-way. Data analytics and the lists they generate bear out this tendency across many fields (the algorithm itself being a list, perhaps an archetypal one). This proliferation of algorithms and lists, as regulatory devices and mechanisms for the exercise of public authority, is concerning for many. A frequent response entails the championing of transparency. Is it, however, in the direction of publicity and transparency that public international lawyers should incline their data- and list-related thinking? What might making these developments 'public' demand? To what extent might the ways of bringing-into-relation that lists and data analytics effect amount to juridical associations, or be experienced as such, and with what implications? This paper will reflect upon these questions with reference to a range of listed assemblages across the international legal field.

Brief biography

Fleur Johns (BA, LLB (Hons) (Melbourne); LLM, SJD (Harvard)) is a Professor of Law at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Fleur is author of *Non-legality in International Law: Unruly Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and editor of *International Legal Personality* (Ashgate, 2010) and *Events: The Force of International Law* (Routledge-Cavendish, 2011). Before commencing her academic career, Fleur practised as a corporate lawyer in New York for six years.

There will be a light lunch at noon in the Centre lounge. All are welcome.

If you are a person with a disability and require accommodation, please contact Lori Wells at 416-978-3722 x226 or email lori.wells@utoronto.ca and we will do our best to make appropriate arrangements.