



Date
Thurs 26 Sep

Time
12.30pm - 1.45pm

Venue
Room 131 | Tata Innovation Center
Cornell Tech | Roosevelt Island

Speaker
Ido Sivan-Sevilla
Digital Life Initiative | Cornell Tech

Title
**Complementaries and Contradictions: National
Security and Privacy Risks in U.S. Federal Policy,
1968–2018**

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Biography

Ido Sivan-Sevilla is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Cornell Tech's Digital Life Initiative. He aims to bridge between the fields of public policy and computer science through qualitative and quantitative research methods. His research comparatively analyzes digital risk governance frameworks across nations, sectors, and contexts and highlights historical institutionalism and political patterns in coping with cyber insecurity and the erosion of privacy. His work has been published in *Policy & Internet*, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, *The Columbia Science and Technology Law Review*, and *NATO's International Conference on Cyber Conflict (CyCon)*. Ido completed his PhD at the Federmann School of Public Policy & Government at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, served as a Cybersecurity Research Fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) at Tel Aviv University, and worked with the Israeli National Cyber Authority on stimulating the market for cyber insurance.

Ido was a MA Fulbright Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, and served as a legislative assistant at the U.S. Congress in Washington DC. He also holds a vast background in network and computer security, with eight years of experience in leading technical cybersecurity positions from the private sector, Israel's Prime Minister's Office, and the Israeli Air-Force [Captain].

Abstract

How does the U.S. balance privacy with national security? This study analyzes how the three regulatory regimes of information collection for (1) criminal investigations, (2) foreign intelligence gathering, and (3) cybersecurity have balanced privacy with national security over a 50-year period. A longitudinal, arena-based analysis is conducted of policies (N=63) introduced between 1968 and 2018 to determine how policy processes harm, compromise, or complement privacy and national security. The study considers the roles of context, process, actor variance, and commercial interests in these policy constructions. Analysis over time reveals that policy actors' instrumental use of technological contexts and invocations of security crises and privacy scandals have influenced policy changes. Analysis across policy arenas shows that actor variance and levels of transparency in the process shape policy outcomes and highlights the conflicting roles of commercial interests in favor of and in opposition to privacy safeguards. While the existing literature does address these relationships, it mostly focuses on one of the three regulatory regimes over a limited period. Considering these regimes together, the article uses a comparative process-tracing analysis to show how and explain why policy processes dynamically construct different kinds of security-privacy relationships across time and space.