

Summer 2016

SOCIOLOGY 201B

Full Term (5 Credits): SLN 13395

Tuesday/Thursday 10:20-12:20

THE SOCIOLOGY OF BIG DATA, PRIVACY, AND SURVEILLANCE



People are generating more data at a greater rate than ever before. Every Facebook “like”, every phone call, and every online search provides a documented digital trace of what we, as individuals and as a collective, are thinking and doing every minute of the day.

While the availability of these digital traces has opened a new era of social research, it also poses serious questions regarding individual privacy and the ethics of human subjects research. This course is designed to address these issues and help students develop a well-rounded understanding of the benefits and challenges of using ‘big data’ for social science research. It will address the scope and breadth of big data and highlight the challenges and opportunities it presents for social inquiry. It will also highlight the ethical boundaries of human subjects research and how the availability of digital traces call into question these standards.

For more info, contact instructor **Nina Cesare**

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