

Digital Punishment: Privacy, Stigma, and the Consequences of Data-Driven Criminal Justice



Speaker:

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Zoom Link: <https://lingnan.zoom.us/j/95259539072>

Cut-off Time for Entry: 15 Minutes after the Seminar Starts



Abstract:

The proliferation of data-driven criminal justice operations has created millions of criminal records each year in the United States. Documenting everything from a police stop to a prison sentence, these records take on a digital life of their own as they are collected by law enforcement and courts, posted on government websites, re-posted on social media, online news and mugshot galleries, and bought and sold by data brokers. The result is “digital punishment,” where mere suspicion or a brush with the law can have lasting consequences. This presentation will discuss several empirical, mixed methods studies of digital criminal records, with a focus on criminal record accuracy, disclosure, and public policy solutions.

Biography:

Sarah Lageson studies criminal law, privacy, surveillance, and tech and her research examines the growth of online crime data, mugshots, and criminal records that create new forms of “digital punishment.” Sarah is a grant recipient of the National Institutes of Justice New Investigator/Early Career Award for her study of criminal records and is a 2020-2021 Access to Justice Scholar at the American Bar Foundation. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals including *Criminology*, *Law & Society Review*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Punishment & Society*, and *The British Journal of Criminology*. Her book, *Digital Punishment: Privacy, Stigma, and the Harms of Data-Driven Criminal Justice*, was published in 2020 by Oxford University Press.