SALOMÉ VILJOEN

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I study the law governing digital information. My current work focuses on the law and political economy of social data. I am interested in how (and whether) transformations in the information economy change the legal interests implicated in data's production and use. I also work on algorithmic governance, particularly the use of economic optimization methods by platforms. I primarily undertake this work in technical settings, bringing legal insights into conversations over AI ethics, algorithmic fairness, and machine learning.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Michigan Law School Assistant Professor of Law	Ann Arbor, MI 2022 – Present
Columbia Law School Academic Fellow and Lecturer in Law	New York, NY 2021 – 2022
NYU School of Law, Information Law Institute Cornell Tech, Digital Life Initiative Joint Postdoctoral Fellow	New York, NY 2019 – 2021
Harvard University, Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society Fellow, Privacy and Cybersecurity Affiliate Faculty Associate	Cambridge, MA 2017 – 2019 2019 – 2023 2023 – Present

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D.

London School of Economics, MSc, *High Merit*, Economics (Health and Social Policy)

2011

Georgetown University, B.A. *magna cum laude*, Political Economy; minors in Mathematics & History Carroll Fellow, Lisa J. Raines Fellow for Independent Undergraduate Research

201

2012

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Selected Works In Progress

"Privacy Puzzles: The Public Problems of Privacy Law" (working title)

This Article uses two recent privacy cases to argue that current U.S. privacy has become an overburdened conceptual category. Privacy has long referred to a set of related, yet distinct concepts. However, in recent years privacy harm has expanded to answer for (or name) a greater set of social and political concerns, increasing the internal tension—and perhaps, confusion—within the category. This has a programmatic and a conceptual cost. As privacy indexes a greater set of interests, internal privacy conflicts about core principles and guiding values can become more numerous and more substantial. This overly expansive terrain of internalist debate risks exacerbating privacy's problems, empowering its enemies, and resulting in unintended (and harmful) doctrinal consequences. It also obscures a potentially distinct set of public, or social, legal interests in information about people. Removing these interests from the privacy bucket and considering them on their own can helpfully resolve some of privacy's internal puzzles. They can also grant conceptual (and perhaps eventually, doctrinal) standing to a class of legal interests that are of growing importance.

"Administering Social Data: The U.S. Census as Public Data Infrastructure" (working title)

This Article examines the role of public statistical agencies in gathering, governing, and using social data as a form of public governance. It develops an account of such activity as a form of affirmative, socially beneficial uses of social data that represents a distinctly public legal interest in social data. The recognition of such affirmative legal interests in information use can be helpful in two ways. First, it can index governance-by-information as the exercise of an *informational* legal interest. Second, it can provide a helpful counterweight within information law to the privacy and data protection interests that constrain information use.

"Big Mother" (working title)

This Essay uses the fertility, prenatal, and neonatal digital tracking industry to explore the relationship between biological and social reproduction and commercial datafication. Fertility data has received a notable uptick in legal attention following *Dobbs*. Early commentators are particularly focused on the privacy risk this data poses in a post-*Roe* world, and the capacity of law enforcement in states without abortion protection to access users' fertility data. But the datafication of fertility is significant in deeper ways. It can illuminate the long and deep entanglement between extracting value from people and gendering the care of people; and how this entanglement meets the datafication of social life.

Law | Articles and Essays

- "The Broader Lessons of Privacy Law," Boston University Law Review (forthcoming 2024).
- "Valuing Social Data" *Columbia Law Review* (forthcoming 2024) (with A. Parsons). Winner of the 2023 Reidenberg-Kerr Award for Outstanding Scholarship by a Junior Scholar.
- "Researcher Access to Social Media Data: Lessons from Clinical Trial Data Sharing," 39 Berkeley Technology Law Journal (2024) (with C. Morten and G. Nicholas).
- "The Great Regulatory Dodge," 37 Harvard Journal of Law and Technology (2024) (with H. Nissenbaum and K. Strandburg).
- "Informationalism Beyond Managerialism" 86 Law and Contemporary Problems (2023).
- "A Relational Theory of Data Governance" 131 Yale Law Journal (2021).
- "Data Market Discipline: From Financial Regulation to Data Governance" 8 Journal of International and Comparative Law (2021) (with S. Benthall).
- "The Chilling Effects of Algorithmic Profiling: Mapping the Issues," 36 Computer Law and Security Review (2019) (with E. Fosch Villeronga, A. Tamò-Larrieux, & S. Velidi).
- "Data Protection's Composition Problem," 5 European Data Protection Law Review (2019) (with A. Fluitt, A. Cohen, M. Altman, K. Nissim, & A. Wood).

Law | Reviews, Chapters, and Shorter Works

- "A Primer on Data Relations in the Political Economy, in Research Handbook on Law and Political Economy (Routledge) (ed. John Haskell) (forthcoming 2025)
- "Daten als Eigentum?" in *Umkämpstes Eigentum. Aktuelle Debatten* (Suhrkamp) (eds. Jacob Blumenfeld, Niklas Angebauer and Tilo Wesche) (forthcoming 2024)
- "The Technological Politics of Mechanism Design," 87 University of Chicago Law Review Online (2019) (with Z. Hitzig and L. Hu).

Technology and Society¹

- "The Promise and Limits of Lawfulness: Inequality, Law, and the Techlash" Journal of Social Computing (2022).
- "Design Choices: Mechanism Design and Platform Capitalism" Big Data & Society (2021) (with J. Goldenfein & L. McGuigan).
- "Algorithmic Realism: Expanding the Boundaries of Algorithmic Thought," ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (ACM FAT*) (2020) (with B. Green).
- "Law and Adversarial Machine Learning," Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems 2018, Workshop on Security in Machine Learning (NeurIPS) (2018) (with R. Shankar, D. O'Brien, and K. Albert).

¹ In computer science, conferences are primary publishing venues. These papers undergo double-blind peer review and are published within conference proceedings as full papers equivalent to journal publications in other fields.

Other Publications

"The American Student Debt Crisis: Changing Narratives Around Higher Education and Student Debt," The Systemic Justice Project, June 2015 (with L. Antsey, J. Lee, & S. Paige).

"A State-Time Epidemiology Model for Tuberculosis: Importance of Re-infection," Computational Biology and Chemistry, vol. 36, February 2012 (with E. Pienaar, H.J. Viljoen).

"Science and Social Conscience: The Eugenics Records Office's Impact on State Sterilization Laws, 1927-1939," Mentis Vita, Fall 2009.

SELECTED REPORTS, ESSAYS, OP-EDS AND INTERVIEWS

Report, Toward a 21st Century National Data Infrastructure: Managing Privacy and Confidentiality Risks with Blended Data, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, 2024 (Expert Panelist Contributor)

Interview, Virtual Sentiments Podcast.

"Towards a Legal Understanding of Social Data," LPE Blog, October 9, 2023 (with A. Parsons).

Interview, Just Theory Podcast.

Interview, TEC Talks Podcast.

Remarks at the Seventh Annual Detlev F. Vagts Roundtable on Transnational Law: Transnational Regulation of the Platform Economy, 116 Proceedings of the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting 122-125 (2022).

Interview, Yale Law Journal Podcast.

"Everyone should decide how their digital data are used—not just tech companies," Nature, July 2021 (with J. Sadowski and M. Whittaker)

Interview, This Machine Kills Podcast (2x).

"Data Relations," Logic, Issue 13: Distribution, May 2021.

"Ferment is Abroad: Techlash, Legal Institutions, and the Limits of Lawfulness," LPE Blog, April 20, 2021.

"Data Governance for a Society of Equals," LPE Blog, March 22, 2021.

Interview, Tech Won't Save Us Podcast.

"Data as property?" Phenomenal World, October 16, 2020.

"Privacy vs. Health is a False Trade off," Jacobin, April 17, 2020 (with B. Green and J. Goldenfein).

"The Promise and Pitfalls of the California Consumer Privacy Act," Critical Reflections, Cornell Tech, April 11, 2020.

"Facebook's Surveillance is Nothing Compared with Comcast, AT&T, and Verizon" The Guardian, April 6, 2018.

TEACHING

Michigan Law School Ann Arbor, MI Winter, 2023 Contracts Mini-Seminar: Does AI Pose an Existential Risk? Fall, 2024

Columbia Law School

New York, NY Lecturer in Law, Legal Research and Writing Fall, 2021

New York, NY NYU School of Law Fall, 2020

Teaching Assistant, Information Privacy Law, NYU MSc Cybersecurity Risk and Strategy

SERVICE

Member, Committee on Approaches for Data Governance and Protecting Privacy, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Washington, DC (Term: 10/4/22 - 3/31/24).

Judge, Omidyar Network's 2022 Future of Data Challenge (awarding \$1.1million in grants).

Advisory Board Member, Cross-Disciplinary Research in Computational Law, Women Also Know Law

Program Committee, Applications of Contextual Integrity Annual Symposium.

Reviewer, Journal of Law and Political Economy, Journal of Politics, Big Data & Society, New Media & Society, AI in Society, Critical AI, Science and Engineering Ethics, Cross-Disciplinary Research in Computational Law, 2019 Neural Information Processing Systems Workshop on AI for Social Good.

SELECTED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

2024

Michigan Law School, Legal Theory Workshop.

George Washington University Law School, IP Speaker Series.

2023

Monash University, Futures at the Edge Symposium.

Boston University School of Law, Law Symposium: Information Privacy Law at the Crossroads.

University of Texas School of Law, Faculty Colloquium

University of Toronto, Schwartz Reisman Institute Seminar Series.

Indiana University, Ostrom Workshop Colloquium.

2023 Privacy Law Scholars Conference.

Michigan Law School, Prices and Pricing (course guest lecture).

Harvard Law School, Law and Political Economy: Labor, Social Control and Counterpower Conference.

Harvard Law School and University of Iowa Innovation, Business and Law Center, Beyond the FTC: The Future of Privacy Enforcement Symposium.

Harvard Law School, Law and Political Economy Seminar (seminar presenter).

Cornell Law School, Faculty Legal Research Workshop (external presenter).

Yale Law School, LPE of Technology Workshop.

Michigan Law School, Fawley lunch talk.

Houston Law Center, Digital Markets and Competition Policy (course guest lecture).

2022

Joel R. Reidenberg Northeast Privacy Scholars Workshop.

Columbia Law School, Democracy's Futures (seminar presenter).

NYU Law School, Femtech and Privacy: Striking the Balance in our Post-Dobbs Reality.

NYU Law School, Journal of International Law and Politics and Institute for International Law and Justice Symposium of Inter-

Pandemic Vaccine Regulation: Justice and Global Equity.

Krakow/Jagiellonian University Seminar on Data Law (seminar presenter).

Duke Law School, Faculty Workshop (external presenter).

Georgetown University, Regulatory Managerialism and the Rule of Law Workshop.

Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics, UCLA, Who Counts? Sex and Gender Bias in Data Workshop.

Simons Institute, UC Berkeley, AI and Humanity Workshop.

Knight Institute, Columbia University.

2022 Privacy Law Scholars Conference (co-authors presented work).

Yale Law School, LPE of Technology Workshop.

Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Law-Tech-Society Initiative.

Yale Law School, 2022 Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference.

American Society of International Law (ASIL), Detlev Vagts Roundtable (featured junior scholar).

The New School, Platform Economies Research Network (PERN) Salon Series.

Michigan Law School, AI and the Law (course guest lecture).

Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, Advanced Privacy (course guest lecture).

Georgetown University, Georgetown Law and Technology Review Symposium: Data's Invisible Impacts.

Boston University, Cyber Alliance Seminar Series.

2021

NeurIPS 2021 Workshop on Political Economy of Reinforcement Learning.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Workshop on New Data Infrastructure for Federal Statistics and Social and Economic Research.

NYU Law School, Breaking (Up) Bad: The Opportunities and Limits of Antitrust for Online Platforms.

Rutgers University, Critical AI Speaker Series.

Fordham Law School, Civil Rights Civil Liberties in the Digital Age Colloquium (course guest lecture).

Yale Law School, Information Society Project Lunchtime Talk Series.

Rutgers Law School, Lunchtime Guest Interview with Ellen Goodman.

Institute for New Economic Thinking, 3rd Annual Summer Academy on Law, Money, and Technology.

2021 Privacy Law Scholars Conference.

Cornell Tech, Digital Life Initiative Seminar.

Oxford University, Workshop on Machine Learning and Economic Inequality.

Cornell Tech, Privacy in the Digital Age (course guest lecture).

ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, Series on Alternative Data Governance/Alternative Data Economies.

VUB Institute for European Studies, Centre for Digitalisation, Democracy and Innovation, DSA In Perspective Workshop.

2020

UC Berkeley, Center for Human-Compatible Artificial Intelligence.

Northeast Privacy Law Scholars Workshop.

Seton Hall Law Review Annual Symposium.

SMU Law, Implications of Artificial Intelligence for a Just Society.

Northeastern Law School, Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity, Conference on Privacy and Democracy.

Jurisprudence of Distribution Workshop.

2020 Privacy Law Scholars Conference.

Law and Society 2020 Annual Meeting.

NYU University, AI Now, Lunchtime Talk Series.

Harvard Law School, Law and Political Economy Lecture Series.

2019

European Privacy Law Scholars Conference.

NYU Law School, Privacy Research Group Lunchtime Talk Series.

Cornell Tech, Digital Life Initiative Seminar Series.

Berkeley University, Contextual Integrity Conference.

2019 Privacy Law Scholars Conference.

Seton Hall Law School, Conference on Privacy, Power & Ethics.

2018

NeurIPS 2018 Workshop on Security in Machine Learning.

University of Chicago Law School, Symposium on Radical Markets.

1st Istanbul Privacy Symposium: Data Protection and Innovations.

Indiana University, Ostrom Workshop Colloquium.

Harvard University, Berkman Klein Lunchtime Talk Series.

CognitionX London Conference.

Law and Ethics of Big Data Research Colloquium.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Fenwick & West, LLP, San Francisco and Mountain View, CA

Associate, October 2016-October 2017; Summer Associate May 2015-July 2015

Assisted clients on range of technology law matters. Work included representing tech companies and venture finance clients in financing rounds, mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings, particularly with respect to data and intellectual property matters.

California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, San Francisco, CA

Consumer Law Section Legal Intern, January 2016

Provided research support during a negotiated rulemaking on student debt relief, wrote a memo regarding fraud and illegal eviction claims against a large rental agency, and prepared a summary review of all new state privacy regulations.

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Summer Law Clerk, July-August 2015

Represented indigent clients in Los Angeles. Work included preparing loan discharge applications, conducting pre-litigation legal research, and running public clinics on loan discharge and criminal expungement.

Center for Appellate Litigation, New York, NY

Summer Legal Intern, June 2014-August 2014

Wrote resentencing motions, engaged in parole advocacy, adjudicating post-release terms of supervision, and writing briefs for appellate public defenders representing clients throughout Manhattan and the Bronx.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Nebraska Center for Children, Youth, Families and Schools, Lincoln, NE

Economic Research Consultant, May 2013-August 2013

Engaged in empirical advocacy work for universal pre-K in Nebraska. Developed a cost-benefit analysis of proposed state legislation, as well as comparative analyses of state legislation being proposed elsewhere.

Office of Health Economics, London, United Kingdom

Research Analyst, June 2012-May 2013

Researched provider incentives in the English National Health Service using econometric analysis and behavioral economics. Research focused on access to healthcare and improving health outcomes in low-income areas.

BAR ADMISSION

Admitted to the California Bar, December 2016.