



# TECH POLICY LAB

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

LEADING | CONNECTING | ADVANCING

TECH POLICY LAB • UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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# ABOUT US

## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Tech Policy Lab is an intentionally and thoroughly interdisciplinary collaboration. Leadership is co-equal across three distinct disciplines, with Faculty Co-Directors from the Lab’s home units at the University of Washington: Ryan Calo from the School of Law; Batya Friedman (Co-Director emeritus) and Aylin Caliskan from the Information School; and Tadayoshi Kohno from the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering.

Our Faculty Co-Directors are joined by a small number of Faculty Associates who have training in computer science, design, electrical engineering, information science, law, linguistics, and urban studies, among other disciplines. They lead interdisciplinary teams of faculty, staff, and students well-situated to address the specific questions we are exploring.

Our team-based model supports us in remaining true to our guiding principle of “small is beautiful.” We maintain an agile footprint that enables us to pursue responsive, high-impact research and initiatives. We concentrate our efforts where we are best positioned to contribute.

Lab Faculty Co-Directors set our research and educational agenda, and the Faculty Associates add to the depth and breadth of the Lab’s expertise. Lab leadership remains closely involved in all our projects, which are conducted by interdisciplinary teams of faculty, student, and staff researchers. This model forms the foundation of our high-quality, timely, impactful work.

Work at the Tech Policy Lab is funded through gifts and grants from our generous supporters. All private donors provide funds as unrestricted gifts; government and foundation grants also follow appropriate protocols to ensure autonomy in our research.

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# MISSION

Situated within a globally renowned research university, the UW Tech Policy Lab is a unique, interdisciplinary unit committed to advancing technology policy through research, education, and thought leadership. Founded in 2013 by faculty from the University’s Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, Information School, and School of Law, the Lab aims to bridge the gap between technologists and policymakers and to help generate wiser, more inclusive tech policy.



Aylin Caliskan



Ryan Calo



Batya Friedman



Tadayoshi Kohno

## FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Since its founding in 2013, the Tech Policy Lab has become a hub for community conversation and innovative research in service of creating wiser, more inclusive tech policy.

During its 10 years, the Lab has hosted world-renowned experts in the fields of law, policy and science and created space for future leaders to interact with and learn from them, as well as each other. Co-Directors have testified in front of the U.S. Senate and influenced laws and policy. The Lab has produced myriad white papers and toolkits with the goal of not just educating but encouraging analysis.

As we celebrate a milestone anniversary, it's a perfect time to consider what we've accomplished in a decade, what impact our work has had, and what path to take forward.

Through its cutting-edge research and cultivation of community, the Lab has built credibility that has allowed it to influence ever-greater audiences and continue to move the needle around policy. The Lab's innovative approach to teaching and learning has earned the Lab and its faculty multiple awards and recognition from national entities.

The Lab's current priorities include providing guidance and context to the growing conversation on artificial intelligence, as well as work on tech policy in food resilience, which arrives in the wake of a pandemic and an intensifying climate crisis.

And that is just the beginning.

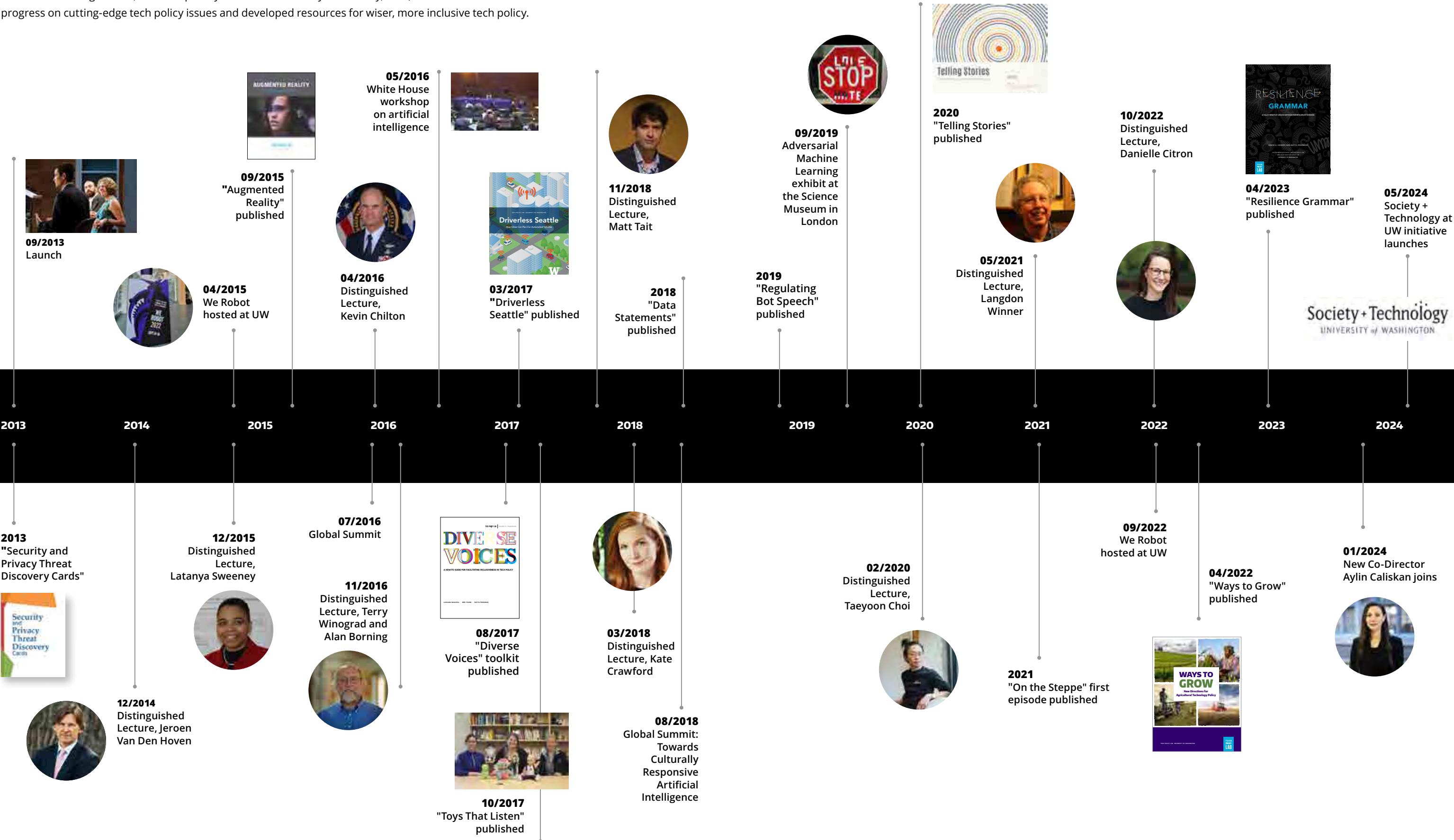
As the Lab enters its second decade, we will continue to tell the stories of the individuals making strides in this space, raise awareness of how technology influences our world, and build capacity within technologists and policymakers. Everything we do ties back to our mission and the goal of inspiring thoughtfulness in a changing world.

This report will take you inside the work of the Tech Policy Lab over the last 10 years, and inspire you to join us in looking forward at what's to come.



# OUR FIRST 10 YEARS

Since our founding in 2013, interdisciplinary teams of Tech Policy Lab faculty, staff, and students made progress on cutting-edge tech policy issues and developed resources for wiser, more inclusive tech policy.



## FACULTY DIRECTORS



**Aylin Caliskan**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
*Information School*



**Ryan Calo**  
PROFESSOR  
*School of Law*



**Batya Friedman**  
PROFESSOR  
*Information School*



**Tadayoshi Kohno**  
PROFESSOR  
*Paul G. Allen School  
of Computer Science  
& Engineering*

The Tech Policy Lab is directed by  
faculty representing all three of  
its founding schools.

## STAFF

Staff support the program by managing  
infrastructure and operations and  
proposing big picture ideas.



**Robin Blomster**  
*Communications Consultant*



**Alex Bolton**  
*Program Manager*



**Monika Sengul-Jones**  
*Director of Strategy & Operations  
Society + Technology at UW*

## FACULTY ASSOCIATES



**Emily M. Bender**  
PROFESSOR  
*Linguistics*



**Alan Borning**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS  
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Engineering*



**William Covington**  
SENIOR LECTURER  
*School of Law*



**David Hendry**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
*Information School*



**Joe Lott**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
*College of Education*



**Franziska Roesner**  
PROFESSOR  
*Paul G. Allen School  
of Computer Science  
& Engineering*



**Jan Whittington**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
*Urban Design  
& Planning*

Faculty Associates bring forward a  
wealth of experience across disciplines  
related to the work of the Lab.

## STUDENTS



**Mollie Chehab**  
*Law, Societies,  
and Justice*



**Kaiming Cheng**  
*Paul G. Allen School  
of Computer Science  
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*Paul G. Allen School  
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**Esha Jain**  
*School of Law*



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**Nathan Lee**  
*Information School*



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**Malik Messiah**  
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of Computer Science  
& Engineering*

The Lab invests in and empowers  
students, as they are future  
leaders in tech policy.



**Swara Seshadri**  
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**Vannary Sou**  
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**Miranda Wei**  
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**Ryan Wei Tan**  
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OUR ALUMNI



Jasmine Mae Alindayu  
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Maria Angel  
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Stephanie Ballard  
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Communication



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Law, Societies and Justice



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Noemi Chanda  
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Daisy Yoo  
Information School



Meg Young  
Information School



Hayley Younghusband  
Information School

IN REMEMBRANCE

Tech Policy Lab Alumnus Mike Katell passed away in 2024. Katell was a valuable member of the Lab, contributing to projects including “Designing Tech Policy” and publishing papers on privacy and value sensitive design. He will be greatly missed.

TEN YEARS. COUNTLESS HOURS

RESEARCHING, SHARING, GUIDING.

IMMEASURABLE IMPACT.



LEADING

CONNECTING

ADVANCING

When it was founded in 2013, the Tech Policy Lab embodied a new model for education: highly focused on reaching across disciplines, building community, and developing new generations of students prepared for an ever-changing world. The Lab emerged as a thought leader and has broadened policymakers' and technologists'

worldview in service of generating wiser, more inclusive tech policy.

Its efforts have garnered global recognition and affected the way decisions and laws are made and applied. In these pages, we commemorate a decade of accomplishments, take stock of the impact our work has made, and look forward to what the future holds.



The Tech Policy Lab set out to build a collaborative unit that influences, guides and educates in service of creating wiser, more inclusive tech policy. In 10 years, we have seen numerous direct impacts of our work. We have published myriad pieces of research and white papers that share methods and analysis in the interest of supporting wider discussion and influencing policy. These pieces, as well as members of our team, have received accolades for innovation we continuously bring to this space.

## STORYTELLING

Short stories, fiction and a podcast brought light to diverse perspectives and new ways of thinking. Storytelling exposes policymakers to new voices, ideas and frames that can help them communicate risks and legitimate stakeholders and their concerns.

**“Telling Stories” (2020):** This unique collection of short stories looks at AI from the perspective of individuals with the goal of answering the question of how to make this evolving technology more culturally responsive. The Lab brought together experts from around the world to ideate on this topic and create stories, resulting in a book filled with diversity of thought and imagination. The 19 resulting pieces of fiction aim to inspire thoughtfulness by policymakers as they shape the future. “Telling Stories” was shared with many members of Congress, leaders of technology companies and nonprofits, scholars, and others working to address how technology impacts our society.

**“On the Steppe” (2021):** “On the Steppe” is a radio series on designing and using technology wisely. The hosts, a Co-Director and a local radio manager, talk about how we shape technology, how technology shapes us, and how we can grow our moral and technical imaginations. Each episode discusses a facet of technology from our past, present or future in order to bring more variables into the conversation regarding its ethical impacts and potential community risks. “On the Steppe” broadens public understanding by engaging listeners in questions that encourage them to think about the influence of technology on everyday life.

**“Our Reality” (2021):** This fictional novella authored by a Co-Director explores racism and the role of technology in a highly digital future world. The story encourages readers to consider the relationship between society and technology. The publication includes a section of “Questions for Readers,” which prompts reflection and critical thinking about the topics presented in the text.

## LEADING





## RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

The Lab leverages interdisciplinary resources to investigate and analyze emerging technologies. These articles, papers, guides, toolkits and methods have supported vital conversations, prompting questions and considerations, and encouraging adoption and innovation.

**“Security and Privacy Threat Discovery Cards” (2013):** The Security Cards were developed to help identify computer system threats by asking probing questions around four dimensions:



adversary's motives, adversary's resources, adversary's methods, and human impact. The Security Cards have been praised for their wide-ranging use as both a learning tool and a guide for professionals to find threats.

**“The Case for a Federal Robotics Commission” (2014):** This white paper introduces the idea of creating a federal advisory committee for AI in response to advances in robotics. In January 2018, a prominent tech policy center held a roundtable discussion on a proposal to create an artificial intelligence office or standalone commission within the federal government. The subsequent National AI Initiative Act of 2020 led to the establishment of the National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee, which launched in 2022.

**“App Stores for the Brain: Privacy & Security in Brain-Computer Interfaces” (2014):** This paper looks at the emerging technology of Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs). This technology carries a great potential to improve and enhance the quality of human lives but not without risk. “App Stores for the Brain” identified privacy and security issues arising from possible misuse or inappropriate use of BCIs, in particular how current and emerging non-invasive BCI platforms can be used to extract private information. Researchers suggest an interdisciplinary approach to mitigating this problem and propose a tool to help make BCI-enabled technologies secure.



**“Diverse Voices” (2015):** All too often, policy development for emerging technology neglects under-represented populations. “Diverse Voices” was created in response to this challenge. The method, which was developed in 2015, uses short, targeted conversations about emerging technology with “experiential experts” from under-represented groups to provide feedback on draft tech policy documents. This process works to increase the likelihood that the language in the finalized tech policy document addresses the perspectives and circumstances of broader groups of people — ideally averting injustice and exclusion. A toolkit was developed in 2017 and it was followed by a journal article published in 2019 in Ethics and Information Technology, reporting on two case studies demonstrating its use: one with a white paper on augmented reality technology, and the other with a strategy document on automated driving vehicle technologies. Additionally, two new principles preserving human touch and language access were added to the revised Washington State Access to Justice Technology Principles based on feedback from Diverse Voices panels with immigrant, rural, and formerly incarcerated communities as well as legal professionals. This practice was documented in “Toward inclusive justice: Applying the Diverse Voices design method to improve the Washington State Access to Justice Technology Principles” (2024).

**“Robotics and the Lessons of Cyberlaw” (2015):** This article was the first to examine what robotics meant for cyberlaw and policy. Two decades of analysis have produced insights as to how the law should apply to the internet, but robotics has a different set of essential qualities and accordingly will raise distinct legal issues. The paper looks at how robotics will bring forward systematic changes to law, institutions, and the legal academy, and how cyberlaw will prove crucial in integrating robotics and perhaps whatever technology follows.

**“Augmented Reality: A Technology and Policy Primer” (2015):** The Lab's white paper considers some of the major legal and policy issues augmented reality may present as a novel technology, and outlines some conditional recommendations to help address those issues. The paper grew out of research conducted across three units of the Lab, chronicled in “Augmented Reality: Hard Problems of Law and Policy,” which highlighted the various difficult and unique problems AR presents and began to examine how the technical and legal community may engage with them. As a result of the white paper, a Lab Co-Director testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, drawing on recommendations written by the team of lawyers, computer scientists, and information scientists.

**“Push, Pull, and Spill: A Transdisciplinary Case Study in Municipal Open Government” (2015):** This article examines the ways municipal data is opened as it is pushed to, pulled by, and spilled to the public through online portals, requests for public records, and releases by cities and their vendors, contractors, and partners. It looks at the paradox of opening data in hopes of raising trust while bringing up concerns for privacy and social justice. “Push, Pull, and Spill” presents the results of a broad empirical exploration of municipal data release in the City of Seattle. Results suggest the need for more comprehensive measures to manage the risk latent in opening city data.

**“To Make a Robot Secure: An Experimental Analysis of Cyber Security Threats Against Teleoperated Surgical Robotics” (2015):** This work looks at the future of teleoperated surgical robots and considers the potential threats they pose and how to mitigate those threats. The broader goal of the paper is to raise awareness and increase understanding of these emerging threats as the majority of attacks against telerobotic

surgery will likely also be relevant to other teleoperated robotic and co-robotic systems.

**“Toys That Listen: A Study of Parents, Children, and Internet-Connected Toys” (2017):** This study looks at the new wave of internet-connected toys and gadgets through interviews with parents and children. The research brought forward information about privacy concerns and thoughtfully examined the child's and parent's expectations of the toys and the impact thereof.



**“Driverless Seattle: How Cities Can Plan for Automated Vehicles” (2017):** The Lab examines the future of policy around automated vehicles in its paper “Driverless Seattle,” leveraging interdisciplinary resources to investigate and analyze emerging technologies for policymakers and other industry professionals. The

primary impact of this work was supporting policymakers' understanding of this new technology by framing it in clear, easy-to-follow language. An additional layer of the work was that it positioned the Lab as a leading expert in the emerging field. This proved to be valuable as automated vehicles appeared in the news and public interest grew.

**“Exploring ADINT: Using Ad Targeting for Surveillance on a Budget — or — How Alice Can Buy Ads to Track Bob” (2017):** This paper looks at the implications of online advertising networks' ability to know information about users and deliver targeted ads based on that. The team considered the question of whether third parties can use the purchasing of ads to extract private information about individuals, and found that it was achievable at a nominal investment. Stepping back to explore the implications of their findings, the team encouraged additional research discussions around ADINT (intelligence gathering through the purchasing of ads), not just within the computer security community but within the policy and regulatory communities as well.

## RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS continued

### “SeaGlass: Enabling City-Wide IMSI-Catcher Detection”

**(2017):** This paper chronicles the building, deployment and evaluation of SeaGlass, a citywide detection network for cell-site simulators, which are used around the world by governments and criminals to track and eavesdrop on cell phones. Despite extensive public debate surrounding their use, few hard facts about them are available. The goal of the project is to evaluate the system and show how SeaGlass can be used to detect signatures of portable cell-site simulators, as well as share a plan for democratizing the technology.

### “Computer Security, Privacy, and DNA Sequencing: Compromising Computers with Synthesized DNA, Privacy Leaks, and More”

**(2017):** This article examines the rapid improvement in DNA sequencing and the associated big data revolution in genomic sciences, which has in turn led to a proliferation of bioinformatics tools. The team’s research brought forward an opportunity for information leakage, and they provide the first discussion of how this leakage channel could be used adversarially to inject data or reveal sensitive information. The article shares a broad framework and guidelines to safeguard security and privacy in DNA synthesis, sequencing, and processing.

### “How Public Is My Private Life? Privacy in Online Dating”

**(2017):** Online dating services let users expand their dating pool beyond their social network and specify important characteristics of potential partners. This paper looks at how individuals evaluate the sharing of personal information against privacy risks. The results of the research reveal tensions between privacy and competing user values and goals, and the team demonstrates how these results can inform future designs.



### “Data Statements”

**(2018):** The “Data Statements” white paper and accompanying foundational research papers provide essential information about the characteristics of datasets and contribute the new professional practice of “data statements.” These are characterizations of a dataset

that provide context to allow developers and users to better understand how experimental results might generalize, how software might be appropriately deployed, and what biases might be reflected in systems built on the software. This information aims to help mitigate the harms caused by bias in the dataset and create a more inclusive data catalog, by identifying gaps. In 2020, the Lab organized a workshop at the 12th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference, which led to Version 2 of the data statement schema, a set of best practices, and “A Guide for Writing Data Statements,” all in 2021. The team published an update to the white paper in 2024, “A Guide for Creating and Documenting Language Datasets with Data Statements Schema Version 3.”

### “Cryptographic Currencies from a Tech-Policy

**Perspective” (2018):** This paper considers the legal and policy issues surrounding Bitcoin and other crypto currencies, and how those issues interact with technical design options. The team examined a variety of issues surrounding law, policy, and crypto currencies, such as the physical location where a crypto currency’s value exists for jurisdictional and other purposes, the regulation of anonymous or pseudonymous currencies, and challenges as virtual currency protocols and laws evolve. The paper includes reflections on how different technical directions may interact with the relevant laws and policies, raising key issues for both policy experts and technologists.



### “Robust Physical-World Attacks on Deep Learning Visual Classification”

**(2018):** This research explores the possibility that malicious alterations to real world objects could cause devices like cars and robots to “misread” the image and take a certain adverse action. The researchers show that it is possible to generate real world

alterations to objects that fool machine learning under a variety of conditions. They propose a new methodology for evaluating the effectiveness of these alterations under a range of diverse physical conditions that mimic those a sensor may encounter the object under in the real world. The researchers’ aim is to help improve the security of technology like autonomous vehicles in the future by identifying security risks now.

### “Physical Adversarial Examples for Object Detectors”

**(2018):** In this paper, researchers expand on their previous work (“Robust Physical-World Attacks on Deep Learning Visual Classification”) by examining the possibility of fooling object detection modules by real-world alterations to objects, a broader class of algorithms than their previous work examined.

### “Rethinking Access Control and Authentication for the Home Internet of Things (IoT)”

**(2018):** Computing is transitioning from single-user devices to the Internet of Things, in which multiple users with complex social relationships interact with a single device. In this paper, a team of Lab researchers begin re-envisioning access control and authentication for such settings in the home IoT.

### “Decentralized Action Integrity for Trigger-Action IoT Platforms”

**(2018):** This paper introduces Decentralized Action Integrity, a security principle that prevents an untrusted trigger-action platform from misusing compromised OAuth tokens in ways that are inconsistent with any given user’s set of trigger-action rules. The team presents the design and evaluation of Decentralized Trigger-Action Platform, a trigger-action platform that implements this principle by overcoming practical challenges.

### “Tyche: A Risk-Based Permission Model for Smart Homes”

**(2018):** In this paper, a team of Lab researchers presents Tyche, a secure development methodology to limit the risk that apps pose to smart home users. Emerging smart home platforms use permission models that bring forward privacy risks, and Tyche introduces the notion of risk-based permissions for IoT systems. The team shows existing apps can reduce access to high-risk operations by 60% while remaining operable.

### “Computer Security and Privacy for Refugees in the United States”

**(2018):** This work considers the computer security and privacy practices and needs of recently resettled refugees in the United States. Researchers engaged in interviews with case managers and teachers who work with refugees, and with focus groups of refugees. They identify barriers and challenges, and then distill recommendations for the computer security community to better serve the computer security and privacy needs and constraints of refugees.

**“Is Tricking a Robot Hacking?” (2018):** This paper introduces the community within and beyond academia to the ways

adversarial machine learning alters the nature of hacking and with it the cybersecurity landscape, with a goal of evidencing the burgeoning disconnect between law and technical practice.

**“Regulating Bot Speech” (2019):** This research article published in the UCLA Law Review examines the First Amendment tensions that could emerge from a growing call for regulation around bots (automated agents). The work concludes by urging society to proceed with caution in regulating bots, lest we inadvertently curtail a new, unfolding form of expression. The work appears to have resulted in changes to California’s 2018 bot disclosure bill.

### “Genotype Extraction and False Relative Attacks: Security Risks to Third-Party Genetic Genealogy Services Beyond Identity Inference”

**(2019):** This paper examines the privacy concerns associated with the increasingly popular direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic testing services. Researchers look at the ways services share information and what can be gleaned from anonymous genetic data, and offer security recommendations for genetic genealogy services.

### “The ‘Invisible’ Materiality of Information Technology”

**(2020):** This journal article pulls from previous Lab research, “What Pushes Back from Considering Materiality in IT?” to examine the impacts of the materials used to support information technology. The writers examine how this material side is largely invisible and ask “why?” The team explores five overarching categories of forces: disciplinary norms and practices of computer science, metaphor, utopian visions, visibility of hardware, and economics, and argue that the computing and information community is positioned to respond to these challenges.



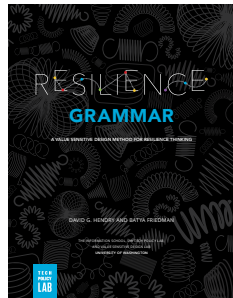
### “Ways to Grow: New Directions for Agricultural Technology Policy”

**(2022):** This white paper highlights the need for attention around automation and digitization, also known as “precision agriculture,” which is being implemented across the country. The work advocates for devoting resources to “civic agriculture,” a

more regional focus that places importance on soil restoration, storage and local supply-chain resiliency as part of environmental and economic health. As a result of the paper, a Lab team met with Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell, whose core priorities include agriculture and tech/innovation.



RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS continued



**“Resilience Grammar: A Value Sensitive Design Method for Resilience Thinking” (2023):** This white paper provides a practical approach to examine resilience pathways in the context of the real world. Each statement type includes a connecting phrase and an element, in the form of

“resilience connecting-phrase.” The types encourage consideration of interactions among elements such as stakeholders, values, stressors and assets. Informed by value sensitive design, “Resilience Grammar” prioritizes human and planetary flourishing and supports comparative policy analysis, qualitative data analysis and public education.

**“Learning in place: Reimagining design practice as ecological literacy” (2024):** This paper explores what it means to practice design in a world without human beings at its center. The author, a Lab postdoc, immersed himself in the field to look at what it means to design with a more-than-human lens, and how his search for meaningful action led him toward ecological literacy as an approach to practice. The paper offers four vignettes demonstrating how entangled more-than-human webs reshape an experience of place, five interconnected considerations for more-than-human design, and a model for grounding design practice in cultivating ecological literacy.

**“Violation of my body: Perceptions of AI-generated non-consensual (intimate) imagery” (2024):** AI technology has enabled the creation of deepfakes: hyper-realistic synthetic media. The TPL team surveyed 315 individuals in the U.S. on their views regarding the hypothetical non-consensual creation of deepfakes depicting them, including deepfakes portraying sexual acts. This study provides initial insight into public perspectives of a growing threat and highlights the need for further research to inform social norms as well as ongoing policy conversations and technical developments in generative AI.

RESEARCH PAPERS AND SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

Amanda Alvarez, Aylin Caliskan, M. J. Crockett, Shirley S. Ho, Lisa Messeri, Jevin West. “Science communication with generative AI.” Nature Human Behaviour, 2024.

Stephanie Ballard, Ryan Calo, Ishita Chordia, Batya Friedman, Elias Greendorfer, David G. Hendry, Nicholas Logler. “Ways to Grow: New Directions for Agricultural Technology Policy.” Tech Policy Lab, 2022.

Matthew Bellinger, Ryan Calo, Brooks Lindsay, Emily McReynolds, Mackenzie Olson, Gaites Swanson, Boyang Sa, Feiyang Sun. “Driverless Seattle: How Cities Can Plan for Automated Vehicles.” Tech Policy Lab, 2017.

Emily Bender, Batya Friedman, Angelina McMillan-Major. “Data Statements.” Tech Policy Lab, 2021.

Emily Bender, Batya Friedman. “Data statements for natural language processing: Toward mitigating system bias and enabling better science.” Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics, 2018.

Tamara Bonaci, Jeffrey Herron, Tariq Yusuf, Junjie Yan, Tadayoshi Kohno, Howard Jay Chizeck. “To Make a Robot Secure: An Experimental Analysis of Cyber Security Threats Against Teleoperated Surgical Robots.” arXiv, 2015.

Tamara Bonaci, Ryan Calo, Howard Jay Chizeck. “App Stores for the Brain: Privacy and Security in Brain-Computer Interfaces.” IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, 2015.

Alan Borning, Batya Friedman, Nicholas Logler. “The ‘invisible’ materiality of information technology.” Communications of the ACM, 2020.

Alan Borning, Batya Friedman, and Deric Gruen. “What Pushes Back from Considering Materiality in IT?” Fourth Workshop on Computing within Limits, 2018.

Natalie Grace Brigham, Miranda Wei, Tadayoshi Kohno, and Elissa Redmiles. " 'Violation of My Body': Perceptions of AI-generated Non-consensual (Intimate) Imagery." 20th Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security, 2024.

Aylin Caliskan and Kristian Lum. “Effective AI regulation requires understanding general-purpose AI.” Brookings, 2024

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# LEADING

## AWARDS

The Lab's work and programs were recognized as standouts in the field.

- The Lab was awarded in the area of Innovation and Experience by **Bloomberg Law's 2022 Law School Innovation Awards**. Named alongside schools like Northwestern's Pritzker School of Law and UC San Francisco's College of the Law, the UW collaboration was noted for its "innovative program that is advancing legal education." The criteria sought programs that are original and provide innovative teaching methods and experiential learning, implement new technology or bring other new approaches to legal education.
- A postdoc was named a Siegel Research Fellow by **Siegel Family Endowment**. He plans to use the grant to continue his work designing resources and tools, with a focus on policymakers and young people.
- Women in AI Ethics named two TPL associates to their 2024 list of **Rising Stars in AI Ethics**. Women in AI Ethics is a global initiative with a mission to increase recognition, representation and empowerment.
- A Co-Director received a career award from the **National Science Foundation** to help support work measuring and mitigating biases in generative artificial intelligence systems and their impact. The award is based on the project titled "The Impact of Associations and Biases in Generative AI on Society."
- A TPL student-led team was awarded in the Runner Up category at the **2024 Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium**. "Over Fences and Into Yards: Privacy Threats and Concerns of Commercial Satellites" captures efforts to better understand the public's current perception of privacy threats and concerns of commercial satellite imagery.
- Ten Allen School students earned recognition from the **National Science Foundation** as part of its Graduate Research Fellowship Program awards, which honor outstanding students who are pursuing full-time research-based degrees with the potential to produce innovative contributions in science and engineering. The Allen School honorees — eight Ph.D. students and two undergraduate students — were recognized in the "Comp/IS/Engr" or other computing-related categories.
- A Co-Director's paper received an honorable mention at the **10th Annual Best Scientific Cybersecurity Paper**

**Competition.** "Defensive Technology Use by Political Activists during the Sudanese Revolution" highlights how 13 Sudanese activists used technology during political strife. In their paper, they also examined the needs of privacy "while operating under an oppressive regime."

- A Co-Director was part of a team that won the **2021 Towards Trustworthy Products in AR, VR, and Smart Devices** request for proposals launched by Facebook. The team submitted a high-quality proposal related to secure multi-application augmented and virtual reality platforms.
- A Co-Director was honored with the **Golden Goose Award** for work on automotive cybersecurity by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- A Co-Director was honored with the **ACM Teaching Award** by the University of Washington Student Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery. The award highlighted faculty excellence in teaching.
- A Co-Director and a Faculty Associate received a **National Science Foundation** award for their work in the Security and Privacy Research Lab. They partnered with colleagues at the University of Florida and Indiana University to provide a framework for moving technology design beyond the default when it comes to user security and privacy.
- A Lab team was honored at the **20th USENIX Symposium** on Networked Systems Design and Implementation for the lasting impact of their work on third-party tracking. The group received the Test of Time Award for their work "Detecting and Defending Against Third-Party Tracking on the Web," published in 2012.
- "App Stores for the Brain: Privacy and Security in Brain-Computer Interfaces" won the Best Paper award at the **2014 International Symposium on Ethics in Engineering, Science and Technology**. This collaborative effort identified privacy and security issues arising from possible misuse or inappropriate use of brain-computer interfaces (BCI).
- A Co-Director was named an **ACM Fellow** for contributions to human values in the technical design process.
- A Co-Director was named an **IEEE Fellow**. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers is the world's largest technical professional association, and they are committed to creating technologies that benefit society.

## ENGAGING FOR CHANGE

The Lab and its leadership are consistently tapped by organizations around the world to further the mission of developing wiser tech policy.

- In 2016, the Lab and the School of Law co-hosted the first of four White House public workshops on artificial intelligence held around the country. Deputy CTO Ed Felton and other members of the **White House Office of Science and Technology Policy** spoke on panels and were in attendance for the workshop. Other speakers included Oren Etzioni, Kellye Testy, R. David Edelman, Pedro Domingos, Deirdre Mulligan, Kate Crawford, Jack Balkin, and Camille Fischer. The event was covered by *The New York Times*, *MIT Technology Review*, and *The Seattle Times*.
- In April 2018, Admiral Michael S. Rogers, then director of the **NSA** and commander of the **U.S. Cyber Command**, visited the School of Law. The Tech Policy Lab organized a small reception for Admiral Rogers with Lab Co-Directors, Faculty Associates, and other faculty from across campus.
- A Co-Director provided testimony twice to the **U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**, drawing on recommendations laid out in Lab materials to inform on augmented reality and the use of data in the fight against coronavirus. The latter, "Enlisting Big Data in the Fight Against Coronavirus," was a paper hearing, a first-of-its kind endeavor in which the committee and witnesses submitted written statements, questions, and answers.
- A Co-Director was appointed by the **World Bank Group** President as Chair of the newly formed External Expert Reviewer panel. The three-member panel, composed of experts from across the globe, acts as an independent second-tier review body for complaints regarding violations of the World Bank Privacy Policy with respect to personal data.



CO-DIRECTOR RYAN CALO, TOP, TESTIFIES IN FRONT OF THE U.S. SENATE. ADMIRAL MICHAEL ROGERS AND CO-DIRECTOR BATYA FRIEDMAN, ABOVE, AT A RECEPTION IN ROGERS' HONOR.

- Lab researchers have been called on as experts in adversarial machine learning by policymakers, scientists, and the military, working with organizations including the **Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity** and the **JASONs**, an independent group of elite scientists that advises the U.S. government on matters of science and technology.
- A Co-Director joined the **Electronic Frontier Foundation** (EFF) Board of Directors, which will support continued work to ensure technologies are equitable and liberating for all people in the world.



# LEADING

## IN THE MEDIA

Lab Co-Directors are sought out as experts by news outlets around the world.

- A TPL Co-Director participated in a discussion with **PBS News Hour** about the ongoing efforts to regulate artificial intelligence and technology.
- **The New York Times** included a statement from a TPL Co-Director in an article about Elon Musk's plan to build his own AI chatbot.
- In an article in **The Guardian** discussing AI and policing, a TPL Co-Director shared her thoughts: "When incorporating AI into our society to make decisions, we must ensure that our technologies are not just fair and just but also consider what is truly best for society."
- An article in **USA Today** examined Google's announcement that it will automatically delete location data for visits to "particularly personal" medical facilities, including abortion clinics. A TPL Co-Director was cited in the article, criticizing Google's move as "same old, same old" and writing that the policy only constitutes "certain narrow changes to its practices."
- In **Newsweek**, a Co-Director highlighted that "some [auto] companies have begun to experiment with your affect," he

explained. "Trying to figure out if you're tired and beginning to close your eyes. Or you're yawning. Where you're actually looking. Are you looking at the street? Are you looking at the console?" He prompted a discussion regarding privacy legislation in the auto industry that has already been adopted by the EU.

- An article in **The Washington Post** in 2013 quoted a Co-Director on the challenges emerging with smart devices. "Very often we see sectors of the broader industry that are not computer science experts starting to integrate computers into their systems and then start to integrate networks into those systems."
- A Co-Director's research on digital market manipulation was featured in a piece by Rebecca Rosen in **The Atlantic** looking at new digital advertising strategies that raise some eyebrows.
- **The Seattle Times** ran a full-page feature on We Robot 2022, highlighting session content and a robotics demonstration.
- The Tech Policy Lab was named to **Forbes'** "20 Leading Social Impact Platforms Making A Difference With Digital Potential" list. The article noted that TPL is focused on ensuring that AI and digital solutions have positive impacts across many industries, including healthcare, energy, emergency services, and more.

 **USA TODAY**

**The Seattle Times**

*The Atlantic*

 **PBS NEWS HOUR**

**The Guardian**

**Newsweek**

**Forbes**

**The New York Times**

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**Los Angeles Times**

## ALUMNI PROFILE



### Stephanie Ballard

**Ph.D., Information School**

Stephanie Ballard was a Research Assistant in the TPL many times during her tenure as a Ph.D. student in the Information School. During these appointments she had the opportunity to participate in and contribute to a number of projects, including the Diverse Voices initiative and the Tech Policy Training Curriculum developed by David G. Hendry. She also worked closely with Co-Director Ryan Calo on research related to fairness in AI systems and a project using futuring methods to design policies related to drones.

Ballard is currently a Director of Responsible AI Practice in Microsoft's Office of Responsible AI.

**My time at the TPL laid the foundation for the work I do today, designing and interpreting tech policy for one of the largest providers of Artificial Intelligence in the world.**

*"I spend the majority of my time supporting our first party engineering teams in compliance with AI regulations and our commitments to building AI responsibly. As part of this work I translate regulatory frameworks and research best practices into policy requirements for our development and deployment of AI technologies and assist teams as they develop the patterns, practices, and tools needed to build AI responsibly at scale. I have a particular focus on developing policy requirements for red teaming AI systems and on appropriate transparency and disclosure for AI systems and our RAI program, such as through our first annual Responsible AI Transparency Report.*

*"My time at the TPL laid the foundation for the work I do today, designing and interpreting tech policy for one of the largest providers of Artificial Intelligence in the world. In the Lab I developed an appreciation for the design work that is developing tech policy and bringing diverse perspectives into the policy-making process. It has taught me that policy design is not just about creating rules, but about envisioning and shaping the future of technology in a way that aligns with our shared values and aspirations.*

*"The TPL plays an invaluable role in training the next generation of tech policy experts, with whom I am excited to work and collaborate!"*

Our role in establishing and sustaining community is multifold. Relationships are the foundation for open conversation, problem solving and the sharing of ideas. Supporting this with event programming ensures the sustainability of a robust tech policy hub, which in turn entices top talent to both the University of Washington and the larger Seattle tech community. The Tech Policy Lab serves a unique intersection by sitting in both industry and academia, which provides networking and mentorship for students and fresh perspectives and ideas for industry.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY



**Distinguished Lecture series:** This ongoing annual series is one of the marquee programs of the Lab. Experts are invited to converse with the internal and external Tech Policy Lab community about emergent or influential topics in the tech policy space. Esteemed leaders in their fields are welcomed to present and then engage in a question-and-answer session with attendees, who are members of the community, including students and industry professionals. Over its 10 years, the Lab has hosted lectures that focus on AI, politics, smart tech and more, with the goal of building a larger tech policy community and educating the public.

**Global Summits:** In 2016 and 2018, the Lab organized the two Global Summits on Grand Challenges for Tech Policy. These events brought together a global network of experts in ethics, political science, art, policy, and technology from the continents of Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America. Conversations surfaced implications of cultural responsiveness for AI systems, which turned into original stories around AI technology situated within their own culture and perspective. This eventually became "Telling Stories" (*see page 15*).

**We Robot:** The Tech Policy Lab has twice hosted the annual We Robot conference, in 2015 and 2022. The interdisciplinary conference brings together leading scholars and practitioners to discuss legal and policy questions relating to robots. Content in 2015 featured paper discussants and panelists from programs around the country such as UC Berkeley, Stanford Law and Georgetown, as well as demonstrations and a special guest lecture. The 2022 program brought together an even larger global slate of presenters and incorporated a "poster session" where attendees could roam through presentations addressing robotics. The event was covered with a full-page feature in *The Seattle Times*.

**Tech Talks:** These quarterly events bring in experts such as authors, scholars and organization directors, among others, and are focused on building the internal University of Washington community. The more intimate gatherings support dialogue and conversation between students, faculty and guests.

## CONNECTING





# CONNECTING

## BUILDING COMMUNITY continued

**Tech Policy Discussions:** These weekly sessions offer informal opportunities for students to gather and talk about current news items. The Lab identifies and shares three topical articles for review, and then hosts a free-flowing discussion and Q-and-A. Typically welcoming between 10 and 15 students, the events are held primarily at the School of Law but rotate periodically at the Information School or the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, with special events welcoming dozens.

**Tech Industry Happy Hours:** These casual gatherings make space for getting acquainted without formal programming. The happy hours bring together industry and external partners from the Seattle professional community, including those who work in tech and attorneys who advise tech clients or work in privacy. These events were recently brought back post-pandemic and remain popular.

**Outreach:** TPL tables at Dawg Daze, UW's Welcome Week for first-year students. The event offers new students a chance to explore academic and career opportunities, as well as ways to get connected to other students and UW resources.



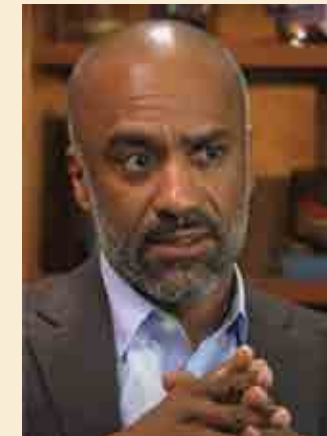
TECH TALKS, TOP, DRAW HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ABOVE, ENGAGING WITH THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY.

## OUR FUNDERS



## PARTNERSHIPS

The Tech Policy Lab leverages strong relationships to make the most out of the resources we have. We have worked to strategically partner on campus, nationally and even globally.



- Focusing on harnessing the power of UW, the Lab consistently partners with entities across campus, including its founding schools as well as associated organizations such as the **Center for an Informed Public**, the **Value Sensitive Design Lab** and the **Security and Privacy Lab**. The Center for an Informed Public is an interdisciplinary effort that aims to resist strategic misinformation, promote an informed society, and strengthen democratic discourse. The Lab works with CIP to bring to campus a variety of scholars in fields including law, computer science and artificial intelligence. For one event, a Co-Director hosted a Q&A series with visiting legal fellows Danielle Citron, Olivier Sylvain and Ari Ezra Waldman. The Lab also welcomed author Kate Crawford in partnership with CIP. At the virtual book talk Crawford discussed her work "The Atlas of AI."

- The Lab program manager serves on the steering committee for the **Public Technology Leadership Collaborative**, an initiative of Data & Society, which works to build relationships between scholars and government officials. PTLC is a peer learning collective of scholars, researchers, and government leaders committed to addressing the social and cultural implications of data and technology.

- In partnership with the School of Law, the Lab hosted Professor Colleen Chien for a conversation about her work in the **Obama White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy**. She emphasized the importance of diversity in supporting innovation.



- The Tech Policy Lab and UW have sponsored **We Robot** every year since its inception in 2012, and hosted twice. This allows us to build relationships and exponentially grow our reach. In 2022, the Lab co-hosted with MIT and Boston University, and in 2025 the event will be held at the University of Windsor in Canada. A Co-Director is always on the steering committee and also attended the first Europe Workshop.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DANIELLE CITRON, ARI EZRA WALDMAN, AND OLIVIER SYLVAIN PARTICIPATE IN A Q&A SERIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CENTER FOR AN INFORMED PUBLIC; KATE CRAWFORD; COLLEEN CHIEN.



# CONNECTING

## COLLABORATING GLOBALLY

- In partnership with Microsoft, the Lab hosted a special event welcoming Rome Call winners Dominique Monlezun and Tijs Vandemeulebroucke. The two were recognized for their doctoral dissertation on artificial intelligence for human life in 2020. Monlezun, a Professor of Cardiology in the MD Anderson Cancer Center, works on AI-accelerated population health advances, policies, and ethics to help solve our world's most urgent health challenges and inequities. Vandemeulebroucke, of the University of Bonn in Germany, is a theologian, philosopher and researcher and completed a postdoc in philosophy and ethics of technology.
- The Lab hosted various visiting scholars from around the world. Postdoctoral Researcher Beatrice Panattoni from the Università degli Studi di Verona visited for two months, where she engaged in the local community and brought fresh perspectives to discussions and work. Sara Tina visited from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan and led a Tech Policy Discussion, sharing the European Union's approach to regulating TikTok and Meta. Juliana Sakai of Transparência Brasil participated in a discussion at the Tech Policy Lab participated in a discussion around technology, government, and civil society. Theresa Prinz and Olivia Herzog of the Technical University of Munich joined for a discussion around human robot interaction. François Delerue, Assistant Professor of Law and a member of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for Law and Automation (Lawtوماتion) at IE University, partnered in a discussion and provided a great deal of insight on International Law as a framework for the regulation of technology.
- The Lab met with Mexican and French consulates to discuss tech policy, which led to a Lab postdoc working with the Mexican consulate on ways to use the Diverse Voices Method for outreach.



A TECH POLICY DISCUSSION SESSION, TOP, WELCOMES ROME CALL WINNERS DOMINIQUE MONLEZUN AND TIJS VANDEMEULEBROUCKE. ABOVE, SARA TINA PARTICIPATES IN ANOTHER DISCUSSION SESSION.

## ALUMNI PROFILE



### Katherine Pratt

**Ph.D., Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering**

Katherine Pratt was a grad student in the ECE department whose advisor, Howard Chizeck, was affiliated with the Lab. The research she did for her dissertation was a continuation of work that had been started by another student who had been involved with TPL, so when Pratt picked it up she got involved as well.

Pratt is currently at Microsoft and has worked on Responsible AI (RAI) practices with product teams and also was the program manager for Windows Hello and Enhanced Sign-in Security. Earlier this year she joined the AI Red Team and is now an operator doing pentesting on LLMs and AI models, for security issues and RAI harms.

Pratt became involved in the TPL through her dissertation, which was on the topic of side-channel attacks on brain computer interfaces.

*"I made it a multidisciplinary project (engineering+ethics+policy). To me, engineering isn't done in a vacuum and especially for emerging technologies there are policy issues that can be proactively addressed. I really enjoyed the weekly lunches that the Lab hosted so that the technical students could interface with the law students and discuss the implications of our work going in both directions.*

*"Ryan Calo and Yoshi Kohno were both on my dissertation committee. Ryan also introduced me to Travis Moore, the founder of TechCongress, which allowed me to spend 6 months in Congress as a tech policy staffer and grow my policy portfolio. Working as a technologist who is also versed in policy has been extremely useful because I understand the environment that my work is going into (e.g. BIPA when I was working on biometrics for Windows Hello)."*

Katherine believes strongly in the value the Tech Policy Lab brings to the current discourse.

*"The two hills that I will die on are that you don't need a law degree to work in tech policy, and that tech policy can be done outside of the DC beltway. I think TPL is doing a fantastic job of demonstrating both, in that it helps students from ECE, CS, and the iSchool become proficient in policy as well as providing space for research and work to happen that can shape policy."*

**The two hills that I will die on are that you don't need a law degree to work in tech policy, and that tech policy can be done outside of the DC beltway.**





And that is just the beginning. As the Lab enters its second decade, we will continue to conduct cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research, raise awareness of how technology influences our world, and build capacity in policymaking.

**Artificial intelligence:** As artificial intelligence continues to permeate conversations across demographics, cultures and industries, we see a broad opportunity to engage in education and collaboration. We will continue to look at the bias present in AI models and do research on the ethics of natural language processing and machine learning, specifically a project working to develop computational methods to identify and mitigate biases in generative artificial intelligence systems.

**Examining carceral technologies:** Public interest remains strong around how the carceral system intersects with technology and what challenges or opportunities that provides. The Lab will engage its interdisciplinary resources to examine the entire lifecycle of carceral technology, including monitoring mechanisms and extractive practices.

**Satellite privacy:** What happens with your personal information when you swab your cheek, or step outside your front door? Ancestry-investigation businesses and satellite imagery such as Google Earth have brought forward many questions about what privacy means and what our expectations of security are when we willingly offer up information about ourselves ... or don't. The Lab will continue to invest in examining these mechanisms and offering guidance about how to consider the implications.

**Materiality:** The ideological and philosophical impacts of technology are much discussed, but the physical impacts less so. The Lab will devote resources to investigating the materiality of near- and longer-term technology visions and exploring tech policy directions responsive to considerations of materiality.

**Event programming:** Our Distinguished Lectures, Happy Hours, and Tech Talks have become notable opportunities for learning, building networks and collaborating across disciplines. We will continue to build on this progress by welcoming renowned leaders in the field and opening lines of communication for students and industry professionals.

## ADVANCING

**Society + Technology at UW initiative:** This new cross-campus, cross-disciplinary initiative and community at UW is hosted at the Lab and is dedicated to research, teaching, and learning focused on the social, societal, and justice dimensions of technology. Lab Co-Directors are three of 100 S+T affiliates from across the three UW campuses and the School of Medicine.

## ALUMNI PROFILE



### María P. Ángel

*Ph.D., School of Law*

When Maria P. Angel joined the Lab in December 2019, she was in charge of running events while the Co-Directors sought a new Lab Manager. She was responsible for hosting the weekly Tech Policy Discussions and organized the 2020 Distinguished Lecture with Taeyoon Choi. She was also organizing a Tech Talk with Joseph Turow and a Happy Hour for the community, but they had to be canceled due to the pandemic.

She also worked as a Research Assistant for Co-Director Ryan Calo. In that capacity, she conducted research on topics such as dark patterns and artificial intelligence regulation; prepared the report of the 2020 Privacy Redress Options workshop organized by Microsoft and the Tech Policy Lab; supported the preparation of Calo's testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on "Enlisting Big Data in the Fight Against Coronavirus," as well as his keynote on privacy and vulnerability at the World Bank Data Privacy Day 2023; and coordinated the edition of the second volume of the Robot Law book.

Angel is currently working as a resident fellow at the Yale Information Society Project. From a Science & Technology Studies (STS) perspective, she will conduct research on commercial surveillance and artificial intelligence regulation.

*"I got involved with the Lab thanks to my advisor and Chair of my Ph.D. Committee, Professor Ryan Calo. Having a background in action research, the Lab offered an unparalleled opportunity to continue conducting research in my area of Lab expertise while having a direct impact on public policy.*

*"The Lab not only provided me with financial support but also with a community and a sense of belonging within the University of Washington. Also, through the research I conducted during these years, I was able to broaden my area of Lab expertise from Privacy Law to Law & Technology.*

*"The Lab plays a vital role in shaping the tech policy landscape in both public policy and academia. In the first place, it serves as a unique hub for interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral collaboration and engagement. Second, it produces evidence-based research and analysis that contributes to responsible and innovative uses of technology that advance the public interest. Lastly, it serves as a home for the University of Washington's tech policy community."*

**The Lab not only provided me with financial support but also with a community and a sense of belonging within the University of Washington.**

Every year, students who have worked with the Lab graduate to continue working in tech policy.

They join a network of Lab alumni who have gone on to make important contributions in government, academia, activism, and industry. Our alumni have worked with:

Adobe	Deloitte	Microsoft	University of Illinois
Alan Turing Institute	Facebook	NexHealth	University of Oregon
Allen Institute	Federal Trade Commission	Northeastern University	University of Pittsburgh
Amazon	Fermyon	Perkins Coie	University of Utah
American Express	FTC	Princeton University	U. Virginia Law
Anita B	GeoComply	Seattle Pacific University	University of Virginia School of Law
Apple	Eindhoven University	Security & Privacy Lab	University of Washington
Ballard Spahr	Harvard Belfer Center	ServiceNow	US District Court Western WA
Boston Consulting Group	Harvard Law School	Site and Search Setup	Washington State Court of Appeals
Chicago Booth	Hintze Law	Starbucks	Yale University
Connect Humanity	K&L Gates	The Policing Project	Zumo Labs
Consense Colorado	Kernel Magazine	Thermo Fisher Scientific	ZwillGen
Curie	Knobbe Martens	University of California, San Diego	
Data & Society	Medidata Solutions		

## MAKING AN IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD