The Anatomy of Accountability

Two-day symposium at the University of Sydney

Funded by a University of Sydney 'Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Collaborative Research Network' grant (2015-2016) for interdisciplinary research on accountability, and its relation to power; co-sponsored by the Sydney Democracy Network.

Human agency has two sides. Power is the capacity to act, the flexibility to choose, the freedom to move. Accountability is the duty to bear the consequences of our actions. This group brings together researchers working on the relation between power and accountability at different scales and from myriad perspectives, including social, cultural, philosophical, and psychological. Questions include: Why is there a moral intuition that power and accountability should scale together? When and why is it okay to punish or reward a person for someone else’s actions? The goal is to spark constructive interdisciplinary debate and progress in this emerging research area.

All are welcome to attend, though please note that places are limited: please register at:
http://sydneydemocracynetwork.org/events/the-anatomy-of-accountability/

Thursday 16 & Friday 17

February 2017
The Anatomy of Accountability
Symposium

Thursday 16 February 2017
DAY ONE

WELCOME LUNCH

12.30–13.30

Session 1 “Units and Contexts of Accountability” Part 1

Susan Park (USYD)
Accountability Activists and the Multilateral Development Banks

Danielle Celermajer (USYD)
The stumbling promise of transnational activist networks and the Zeitgeist of human rights as the scene of accountability

GROUP DISCUSSION

COFFEE BREAK

13.30–15.00

15.00–15.30

Session 1 “Units and Contexts of Accountability” Part 2

Vivianna Rodriguez Carreon (USYD)
Accounting for Conflict: Contextualizing Memory in the Latin American State of Emergency

Wendy Lambourne (USYD)
Deconstructing the Sites of Accountability in Transitional Justice

GROUP DISCUSSION

15.30–17.00

SYDNEY IDEAS PANEL

DROnes, LIes, and PRIVacy: TRUST AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE ERA OF MASS SURVEILLANCE

Contemporary governments frame surveillance and secrecy as evils necessary to ensure our security. Individual privacy has been trumped by the need for covert behaviour on the part of states and corporations who collect and store our personal metadata and monitor our activities via new technologies without our knowledge or consent.

We ask: how does the gathering and suppression of information subvert our right to know and preclude the media from exposing wrongdoing and holding officials accountable? What are the existing accountability mechanisms, and what are the challenges current surveillance measures pose to these?

Speakers:
Ian Shaw, Felicity Ruby and Peter Fray

Panel Chair:
Alana Mann

Law School Foyer, Level 2, Sydney Law School, Eastern Avenue

More information

20.00

Dinner for conference participants
09.00–10.00  Session 1 “Technology and Accountability” Part 1

Keynote Session
Ian Shaw (Glasgow)
Algorithms and accountability in drone strikes and robotic warfare

10.00–10.30  MORNING TEA

10.30–12.30  Session 1 “Technology and Accountability” Part 2

Peter Hobbins (USYD)
A bolt from the blue: artefacts, accidents and metahistory

Gerard Goggin (USYD)
Disability and new technologies of accountability

Fiona Martin (USYD)
No comment: voice, visibility and the problem of reciprocity

Justine Humphry (USYD)
Wireless wanderings – accountability, digital infrastructures and urban mobilities

David Mercer (Wollongong)
Exorcising the ghosts of technological determinism

12.30–13.30  LUNCH

13.30–14.30  Session 3 “People and Accountability” Part 1

Nick Enfield (USYD)
Accountability and Rational Discourse

Caroline West (USYD)
Rights to say things

14.30–15.00  COFFEE BREAK

15.00–16.00  Session 3 “People and Accountability” Part 2

Keynote Session
Jack Sidnell (Toronto)
Accountability and Freedom

16.00–17.00  GENERAL DISCUSSION

CLOSE