

# Timothy Patrick Libert

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## Research Interests

Computer Security & Privacy, Internet Governance & Policy, Web-Scale Data Mining & Analysis, Free Expression & Censorship

## Current Position

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Affiliate Researcher, Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford, 2017-Present

## Education

Ph.D. Communication, University of Pennsylvania.

Comprehensive exams passed with distinction, 2016

Degree requirements fulfilled, May 2017

**Dissertation:** *Track the Planet: A Web-Scale Analysis of How Online Behavioral Advertising Violates Social Norms*

M.A. Communication, University of Pennsylvania, 2014.

B.A. Major Sociology, Minor Computer Science, New York University, 2004.

## Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

Fellow, Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin 2016

Senior Fellow, Information Controls Fellowship Program, Open Technology Fund, 2015

Fellow, Center for Media, Data, and Society, Central European University, Budapest 2015

Flash Grant, Shuttleworth Foundation, 2015

Dissertation Fellowship, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, 2016 - 2017

Research Fellowship, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, 2012 - 2016

Top Student Paper, International Communication Association, Communication and Technology Division, 2015

Consortium on Media Policy Studies Research Fellowship, Summer 2013

## Publications

### *Peer-Reviewed*

Libert, Timothy (April, 2018). An Automated Approach to Auditing Disclosure of Third-Party Data Collection in Website Privacy Policies. *The Web Conference (WWW2018)*. *Best Paper Nominee*.

Binns, Reuben; Lyngs, Ulrik; Van Kleek, Max; Zhao, Jun; Libert, Timothy; Shadbolt, Nigel (May, 2018). Third Party Tracking in the Mobile Ecosystem. *ACM Conference on Web Science*.

Libert, Timothy (March, 2015). Privacy Implications of Health Information Seeking on the Web. *Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery* (40 Citations).

Libert, Timothy (October, 2015). Exposing the Hidden Web: Third-Party HTTP Requests On One Million Websites. *International Journal of Communication* (20 Citations).

Libert, Timothy; Grande, David, MD, MPA; Asch, David A. MD (November, 2015). What Web Browsing Reveals About Your Health. *The BMJ (British Medical Journal)*. (2 Citations).

### *In Revision*

Libert, Timothy (2018). Good News for People Who Love Bad News: Privacy, Trust, and Security Implications of Third-Party Content on U.S. News Websites

### *In Review*

Libert, Timothy; Mai, Bo (2018). Web Tracking with Chinese Characteristics: A Critical Perspective on the Online Surveillance Market in China.

### *In Development*

Maris, Elena; Libert, Timothy; Henrichsen, Jennifer (2018). Porn, Privacy and the Vulnerable: The Implications of Third-Party Tracking on Porn Websites.

### *Editorial*

Libert, Timothy; Repnikova, Maria (2015). Google is returning to China? It never really left. *The Guardian*.

Libert, Timothy; Pickard, Victor (2015). Think you're reading the news for free? New research shows you're likely paying with your privacy. *The Conversation (Republished in Newsweek & Fortune)*.

### *Whitepapers*

Libert, Timothy; Nielsen, Rasmus Kleis (2018). Third-Party Web Content on EU News Sites: Potential Challenges and Paths to Privacy Improvement. *Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford*.

Open Technology Institute. Health Privacy Online: Patients at Risk. *Comment for Submission to Federal Trade Commission*.

### *Book Chapters*

Media Activism in the Digital Age. Routledge, 2017. *Introduction to Section II: Policy Interventions*

### *Multimedia*

Privacy Implications of Health Information Seeking on the Web (Video)  
 Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqW8erWi1Wo>

## Software

webXray, GNU Public License, 2015.  
*Project Page:* <http://webxray.org>  
*GitHub:* <https://github.com/timlib/webxray>

## Expert Witness

WINSTON SMITH, et al. v. FACEBOOK, INC., et al. *United States District Court, Northern District of California, 2016.*

## Invited Lectures

Netzpolitische Abend, C-Base, Berlin, 2016  
*Web Scale Analysis of Third-Party Tracking with webXray: Techniques and Findings*

School of Public Policy, Central European University, 2015  
*Web Tracking with Chinese Characteristics*

Center for Media, Data, and Society, Central European University, 2015  
*Web Tracking with Chinese Characteristics*

University of Oxford, 2015  
*Web Tracking with Chinese Characteristics*

University of Pennsylvania, 2015  
*Ranking Digital Rights*

University of Pennsylvania, 2014, 2015  
*Internet Censorship in China*

University of Pennsylvania, 2013, 2014  
*The National Security Agency in Context.*

University of Pennsylvania, 2012, 2013  
*Privacy Risks for Online Activists*

## Conference and Seminar Presentations

Schloss Dagstuhl: Online Privacy and Web Transparency, 2017  
*Surveillance as a Regulatory Model*

Hackers on Planet Earth (HOPE), 2016  
*Deconstructing Ad Networks for Fun and Profit*

International Communications Association, 2016  
*The Logic of Connective Surveillance*

Princeton Center for Information Technology Policy / University of Vienna Media Innovation Lab Doctoral Workshop, 2016  
*Web-Scale Regulatory Failure: An Empirical Examination of Self-Regulation and Violations of Contextual Integrity on the Web*

Computers Privacy and Data Protection, 2016  
*The Logic of Connective Surveillance*

The Empiricist's Challenge: Asking Meaningful Questions in the Age of Big Data, Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (MZES), 2015  
*Web Tracking with Chinese Characteristics*

International Communications Association, 2015

*Web Tracking with Chinese Characteristics*

Union for Democratic Communication, 2015

*The Logic of Connective Surveillance*

RightsCon Southeast Asia, 2015

*Smartphones and Human Rights: Developing Evaluation Criteria for Complex Systems*

Global Implications of Mobile Ubiquity: Research, Culture, and Policy, 2014

*Ranking Digital Rights: A Framework for Evaluating Human Rights in a Mobile Context*

Chinese Internet Research Conference, 2014

*Web Tracking with Chinese Characteristics: A Critical Perspective on the Emerging Online Surveillance Market in China*

International Communications Association, Data and Discrimination: Converting Critical Concerns into Productive Inquiry, 2014

*Privacy Implications of Health Information Seeking on the Web*

RightsCon Silicon Valley, 2014

*Holding Companies Accountable On Free Expression And Privacy, Group Participant*

New York University Neil Postman Graduate Conference, 2014

*Exposing the Invisible Web: An Analysis of Corporate-Sponsored Data Collection on One Million Websites*

International Open Access Week, University of Pennsylvania Libraries, 2013

*Civic Hacking: Creating an Open Government through Technology, Invited Respondent*

## Selected Press

### Television and Radio

#### 2017

*Deutschlandfunk (Germany)*

Und sie wissen, was du tust

#### 2015

*Good Morning America*

Online Medical Searches May Be Sold

*All Things Considered, National Public Radio*

Online Health Searches Aren't Always Confidential, Interview with Robert Siegel

*ABC 6 Television News, Philadelphia*

Your Health Info May Be Bought and Sold Online

*WHYY Public Radio, Philadelphia*

Who gets access to the data my Apple Watch collects?

*WHYY Public Radio, Philadelphia*

Most health information web pages are tracked, Penn study finds

### Print and Web

#### 2018

*CBC News (Canada)*

Think twice before consulting Dr. Google, researchers say

#### 2017

*Canadian Bar Association, National Magazine*

The \$4 trillion question, How can we protect online privacy without stifling innovation?

## 2016

*Urgente 24 (Argentina)*

Una vergüenza que intereses y burocracia frenen la Historia Clínica Electrónica en hospitales argentinos

*Editor & Publisher*

Shoptalk: Why Journalists Need to Stand Up for Reader Privacy

*Netzpolitik (Germany)*

Tracking durch Drittanbieter auf einer Million Webseiten

*Vice*

What Happens to the Data Collected On Us While We Sleep

## 2015

*20 Minutes (France)*

Les recherches Web sur des problèmes médicaux ne sont pas si privées que ça

*20 Minutes (France)*

Web: Neuf sites sur dix partageraient vos données personnelles

*ADSL Zone (Spain)*

9 de cada 10 webs envían tus datos a terceros

*Advertising Age*

How Google's Alphabet Reorg Could Affect Its Health Data

*Al-Jazeera America*

The CDC knows what ails you — and now, so do many others

*Agence Science-Press (Canada)*

Internet : vous êtes encore plus suivi que vous ne le pensez

*AuthomatiseringGids (Netherlands)*

Op internet kijken minstens 5 partijen mee wat je uitspookt

*Bangor Daily News*

There's no doctor-patient confidentiality on the Internet

*Boy Genius Report*

It's almost impossible to stop Google and Facebook from knowing about your health-related searches

*Business Standard (India)*

Searching medical info online poses privacy risk

*Cambodian Times*

Online health details prone to risk of abuse

*CBS Washington, DC*

Study: 'Invisible Web' Threatens Health Privacy

*CIO*

Patients must know the perils of online medical research

*City A.M. (UK)*

Think you're not being tracked online? Our browsing habits are captured and leaked by nine out of 10 major websites

*Consumer Affairs*

Looking up medical info on the web poses a privacy risk

*elPeriódico (Spain)*

Los datos de actividad carecen de una protección específica

*Fast Company*

The Latest Privacy Risk? Looking Up Medical and Drug Information Online

*Gear & Style Cheat Sheet*

5 Things You Should Never Search on Google

*HIV Plus Magazine*

Your Anonymous Online Health Searches Are Apparently Not So Anonymous

*iHealthBeat*

Many Health-Related Web Pages Share User Data With Third Parties

*Ilta-Sanomat (Finland)*

Pornohistoriasi saattaa paljastua - selaimen yksityistila ei pelasta

*IT Forum 365 (Brazil)*

Nove de dez sites liberam dados de usuários para terceiros

*Komando*

Big business is tracking your online symptom searches

*La Nacion (Argentina)*

La historia clínica, última frontera de la privacidad

*La Nacion (Argentina)*

88% de los sitios web más populares filtran datos a terceros

*Le Vif (Belgium)*

Au moins 5 ‘voyeurs’ regardent ce que vous faites sur internet

*Lifehacker*

Why You Probably Shouldn't Look Up Health Symptoms Online

*Medical Marketing & Media*

Vice: Health search queries are being tracked

*MNO (Hungary)*

Adatterrorizmus a digitális küzdőtéren

*Naked Security*

How nine out of ten healthcare pages leak private data

*NBC News*

Cyber Monday: What Happens to Your Data When You Shop Online?

*NDTV (India)*

90 Percent of Websites Leak User Data to Third Parties: Study

*PC Magazine (Greek Edition)*

9 out of 10 website handing your data (Headline Translated)

*R & D Magazine*

Online Tracking: A Plight of the Modern Age?

*Repubblica (Italy)*

Scopre di avere un cancro, su Facebook trova la pubblicità delle pompe funebri: “Scandaloso”

*Rizopoulos Post (Greece)*

Why Facebook is threatened with a fine of EUR 250,000 per day (Headline Translated)

*San Jose Mercury News*

Health searches: Be careful who you tell about those cold sores

*SC Magazine*

Report: Majority of health-related websites leak data to third parties

*Science 2.0*

You're Being Tracked Online More Than You Realize.

*Shape Magazine*

How Safe Are Your Electronic Medical Records?

*Šibenski portal (Croatia)*

POGLEDAJTE ZAŠTO: Ovih pet stvari nikako nemojte pretraživati na internetu

*Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)*

Health information at serious risk of abuse

*Sympatico (Canada)*

Internet : vous êtes encore plus suivis que vous ne le pensez

*Techlicious*

Third-Party Advertisers Are Spying on Your Medical Searches

*Techsocal (Greece)*

Research shows that 9 out of 10 sites make data leakage to third parties (Headline Translated)

*Tech-WD (Saudi Arabia)*

Study: 90 % of websites leak your data to third parties without your knowledge - the world of technology (Headline Translated)

*Tech Republic*

Online tracking by news organizations is excessive, say researchers

*The Hill*

Overnight Cybersecurity

*The Hindu (India)*

The death of privacy

*The News Lens (Taiwan)*

90% of sites provided tracker quietly put your information with third parties (Headline Translated)

*The Next Web*

Research reveals 9 of 10 websites leak user data to third parties

*The Statesman (India)*

Online health details prone to risk of abuse

*The Tribune (India)*

Searching medical info online poses privacy risk

*Time/Money Magazine*

Your Embarrassing Online Searches About Health Problems Aren't Private

*Times of India*

Latest privacy threat: Looking for health information online

*Times of India*

Facebook, Google may be leaking your data: Study

*Version2 (Denmark)*

Google overvåger brugere på 80 pct. af alle websites og ignorerer 'Do Not Track'-ønsker

*Vice*

Looking Up Symptoms Online? These Companies Are Tracking You

*Vice*

Nine Out of Ten of the Internet's Top Websites Are Leaking Your Data

*Vice*

Your Porn Is Watching You

*Wired*

Security News This Week: 9 Out of 10 Websites Leak Your Data to Third Parties

*Wired (Italian Edition)*

Nove siti su dieci distribuiscono dati a insaputa degli utenti

*Xataka*

Cuando buscas sobre una enfermedad, es muy probable que alguien esté recolectando esos datos

*ZOL.com (China)*

Survey: 90 % site visitor information will be disclosed to third parties (Headline Translated)

## **2014**

*Fast Company*

The London Underground Has Its Own Internet Of Things

## **2011**

*Al-Jazeera*

Hactivism for Syria

*The Atlantic*

Study Finds Broad Support for Online Vigilantism (In Some Cases)

*Fast Company*

Occupy Sites Help Cops, Corps Track Occupiers

## Service

Student Representative, Information Technology Committee, 2014-2015

## Filmography

Citizenfour (2014)

*Audience Member, Uncredited*

## Miscellaneous

Professional Memberships:

*Association for Computing Machinery*

*Association of Internet Researchers*

*International Communications Association*

Programming Languages (Fluent):

*CSS, HTML, Javascript, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, PERL, PHP, Python, Regular Expressions, Shell Scripting, SQL, XML.*

Last updated: May 17, 2018