Battling Big Brother:
Privacy, Digital Rights and the Rise of Citizen Activism

Two of the world's most influential pioneers of digital rights, Simon Davies & Mike Godwin, will recount the great battles to defend privacy and free speech. They will explore how our online freedoms have been threatened by the rise of censorship, secrecy, Big Data and surveillance - and what the future may hold.

A distinguished group of panelists will then expand on these topics and describe their own remarkable experiences at the forefront of civil rights:

Annie Machon, *former MI5 Intelligence Officer*
Shahzad Ahmad*, Bytes for All, Pakistan*
Bart Van Der Sloot, *University of Amsterdam*
Caroline Hunt, *Webster University & UN whistleblower*

WHEN: Wednesday, 19 November – 5:30 – 7:30 PM

WHERE: Aula Magna Regina - Guarini Campus - Via della Lungara 233

The event will be followed by a reception.

Download the **official event invitation**

Biographical Information of the speakers and panelists

Speakers

Simon Davies
A privacy advocate and academic based in London UK, Simon Davies was the first campaigner in the field of international privacy advocacy, eventually founding the watchdog organization Privacy International in 1990 and subsequently working in emerging areas of privacy such as electronic visual surveillance, identity systems, border security, encryption policy and biometrics. He has conducted campaigns and law reform projects in almost fifty countries.

Mike Godwin
An American attorney and author, Mike Godwin was the first staff counsel of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and the creator of the Internet adage Godwin's Law of Nazi Analogies. From July 2007 to October 2010, he was general counsel for the Wikimedia Foundation. In March 2011 he was elected to the Open Source Initiative board. Godwin has served as a contributing editor of *Reason* magazine since 1994. He is currently a senior policy advisor at Internews.

Panelists

Annie Machon
A former MI5 intelligence officer, Annie left the Service to blow the whistle about criminality within the intelligence agencies. By doing this, she had to give up her career, go on the run across Europe (August 1997), live in hiding for a year, and then spend the next two years in exile in Paris. In 2005, Machon published her first book, *Spies, Lies and Whistleblowers: MI5, MI6 and the Shayler Affair* in which she gives insider criticism of MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service.

Shahzad Ahmad
Director of Bytes for All, Pakistan, Shahzad Ahmad is widely acknowledged as the country's leading Internet rights activist, regularly suing the Pakistan government over rights violations, He is a '*Take-Back-The-Tech'* campaigner and human rights worker, a development communications expert, an executive board member of the Association for Progressive Communications, and a member of the Advisory Board of Privacy International, UK. Shahzad is also a recipient of the Index on Censorship 'Free Expression' Award.

Bart Van Der Sloot
Bart Van Der Sloot is a leading privacy researcher at the Institute for Information Law at the University of Amsterdam. He is also the coordinator of the Amsterdam Platform for Privacy Research (APPR), which incorporates about 70 researchers from the University of Amsterdam and elsewhere. Although his key focus is privacy, Bart is also interested in the liability of internet intermediaries, internet regulation and copyright issues on the web.

Caroline Hunt
Caroline Hunt was one of the first UN staff members to claim protection under the newly created UN Ethics Office when it set up its operations in 2006. The following year, as a UNHCR senior investigator, she spearheaded the first legal challenge to force disclosure of the Ethics Office's decision-making, following a decision by the Office to deny her protection. She now also teaches at Webster University, Geneva.