



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON **OSTROM WORKSHOP**

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Susan Ariel Aaronson

International Affairs, George Washington University

Monday, November 2, 2020: 12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



Data is Dangerous: Comparing the Risks the US, Canada and Germany see in Data Troves

This paper attempts to examine how personal data held by private firms became a national security problem in the United States and compares the US response to that of Canada and Germany. Citizens in all three countries give personal information to many of the same data giant firms. Policymakers and scholars in all three nations have warned of potential national security spillovers of large data troves. However, Canadian and German officials are more focused on the infrastructure where data is stored and processed.

My analysis proceeds as follows. Although adversaries have long used personal data to gain an advantage, policy makers began to identify troves of personal data as a national security risk around 2012. We then discuss the relationship between personal data governance and security in the United States. We then focus on specific cases. We then compare the US response with that in Canada and Germany. Finally, we present conclusions.

[Susan Ariel Aaronson](#) is a Research Professor at GWU, where she directs the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub. The Hub trains policymakers and the public in data-driven change, data governance and digital trade and is currently mapping the governance of 3 types of data under a Tufts/Mastercard grant. [Hub webinars are free and open to all](#); previous events are available on the [YouTube site](#). Aaronson is the author of 6 books and numerous articles on international economic and human rights issues. She is also a Senior Fellow in Economics at the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

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