Everyone's a Target: How America Lost Control of the National Security Agency, and Can It be Reined In?





PRESENTED BY CITRIS CS DISTINGUISHED LECTURER JAMES BAMFORD

ARC Ballroom B - Reception 2:30pm
Thursday May 22, 2014 3:00 p.m.

In a lengthy profile last June, The New Yorker called James Bamford "The NSA's Chief Chronicler." "In 1982," wrote Alexander Nazaryan, "long before most Americans ever had to think about warrantless eavesdropping, the journalist James Bamford published The Puzzle Palace: A Report on N.S.A., America's Most Secret Agency, the first book to be written about the National Security Agency... He concludes with an ominous warning: 'Like an ever-widening sinkhole, N.S.A.'s surveillance technology will continue to expand, quietly pulling in more and more communications and gradually eliminating more and more privacy.' Three decades later," writes Nazaryan, "this pronouncement feels uncomfortably prescient: we were warned."

Since The Puzzle Palace, Bamford has written more than anyone else about the agency, including Body of Secrets and most recently, The Shadow Factory: The Ultra-Secret NSA from 9/11 to the Eavesdropping on America. In addition to his books, Bamford wrote and co-produced an Emmy-nominated documentary on NSA for PBS, and has written explosive cover stories on the agency. "With eerily good timing in light of the Edward Snowden leaks," said The New Yorker about his July cover, "Wired this month published "The Secret War," a piece by James Bamford on the National Security Agency's Director, Keith

Alexander, and the rapid expansion of America's cyber-war infrastructure. If there's one piece to read now about the N.S.A.'s hack-and-destroy offensive capabilities—which are different from its methods for gathering of information—this is probably it."

Now as new and astonishing revelations about NSA continue to appear almost daily, Bamford will take a close look at the agency – an agency created in absolute secrecy with even Congress kept in the dark - and how it went out of control. From secretly collecting everyone's telephone data (and storing it for five years) on the theory that everyone who can pick up a phone is a possible criminal, to bugging the personal cell phones of friendly allied leaders, to keeping track of visits to porn sites of innocent Americans to secretly destroy their reputations, the NSA has gone far beyond what anyone could have imagined. Fresh back from visits to Glenn Greenwald in Rio and Laura Poitras in Berlin, the only two people in control of Edward Snowden's complete set of documents – estimated by the NSA to be up to 1.7 million pages – Bamford will offer his thoughts on Snowden, privacy, and whether the agency can ever be reigned back in.



