

The Department of Political Science Presents

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THE EGG (Electro-Governance Group)  
with the kind support of the *Department of Political Science* at Western  
presents

## Shoshana Magnet

Associate Professor @ *The Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies*  
+ *The Department of Criminology*, University of Ottawa;  
author of *When Biometrics Fail:*

*Race, Gender and the Technology of Identity*  
(Duke University Press 2011), *The New Media of Surveillance*  
(Routledge Books 2010, with Kelly Gates), and *Feminist Surveillance Studies*  
(Duke University Press 2015, with Rachel Dubrofsky).

# “Biometric Emotions: Affect for the Purposes of Security”

OCTOBER 20 2017, at 1:00pm, in  
Room 5220 (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) of the  
Western University *Social Science Centre*:  
**SSC 5220**

Admission Free & Open to All

The current security climate continues to privilege the body as one of the most reliable forms of identification. Biometric technologies—and the ability to simplify the body into binary code—remain a central feature of contemporary safety measures.

From backscatter X-rays to biometric technologies, institutionalized forms of scrutiny rely heavily on codifying human bodies as part of new safety regimes.

Race and racialization are central to any contemporary understanding of surveillance. Although facial recognition receives a disproportionate amount of attention, biometric identification is not limited to the face.

The biometric identification of the body has expanded to include behaviour, launching the new field of behavioural biometrics. Behavioural biometric technologies understand each person’s behavioural patterns as unique and measurable human deeds. Industry proponents claim that these technologies work in race-&-gender-neutral ways, but in fact these technologies code existing systems of discrimination, which is revealed if we look more closely at a current example: the digital codification of the US SPOT programme, aimed at identifying suspicious behaviour in airport lines.