SPEAKER BIOS

Opening Remarks

Andrew Smith is Director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection. He came to the FTC from the law firm of Covington & Burling, where he co-chaired the financial services practice group. Earlier in his career, Mr. Smith was a staff attorney at the FTC, where he led the agency’s efforts to make several rules under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Mr. Smith has written extensively on consumer protection and financial services issues, served as the Chair of the American Bar Association’s Consumer Financial Services Committee, and is a Fellow of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers and the American Bar Foundation. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from Williams College, and a J.D. from William & Mary Law School, where he served as Professional Articles Editor of the William & Mary Law Review.

Panel 1: Health Apps

Quinn Grundy is Assistant Professor with the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto. Her program of research focuses on the commercial determinants of health and how the activities of corporations influence healthcare delivery, scientific research, and consumer information. She has conducted several studies examining the financial and data sharing relationships among top-rated health, medical and fitness apps. This research was funded by a grant from the Sydney Policy Lab from The University of Sydney. Dr. Grundy was supported by a postdoctoral fellowship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Sarah Lagan is a graduate of Harvard College and currently works as a research assistant at the Division of Digital Psychiatry at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), where she leads efforts around the integration of technology into mental health care. With a background in neurobiology, she is interested in how science and technology can together improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare.

Kenneth D. Mandl, M.D., M.P.H. is director of the Computational Health Informatics Program at Boston Children’s Hospital and the Donald A.B. Lindberg Professor of Pediatrics and Professor of Biomedical Informatics at Harvard Medical School. In his work at the intersection of population and
individual health, Dr. Mandl was a pioneer of the first personally controlled health record systems, and he co-developed SMART, an approach to enable a health app to access digital data and run anywhere in the health care system. He received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and the Donald A.B. Lindberg Award for Innovation in Informatics.

Dena Mendelsohn, J.D., M.P.H. serves as the Director of Health Policy and Data Governance at Elektra Labs. She leads Elektra Lab’s efforts to ensure that people have improved tools to evaluate whether patient signal tracking technologies are worthy of the trust the healthcare system places in them. She previously served as Senior Policy Counsel at Consumer Reports. Her advocacy around how consumers’ data are collected and used created shifts in both public discourse and policy. This research paper was not specifically funded, but its authors are affiliated with Elektra Labs, Sage Therapeutics, Healthmode, and the University of North Carolina.

John Torous, M.D., M.B.I., is a psychiatrist and the director of the Digital Psychiatry Division at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), as well as an assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School (HMS). He is also board certified in clinical informatics and has a background in electrical engineering and computer sciences. His research focuses on mobile technologies, including smartphones and sensors to predict relapse in serious mental illness. He serves as web editor for JAMA Psychiatry and chairs the American Psychiatric Association's Health IT committee, where he leads work around smartphone app evaluation and safety.

Ellen Connelly (moderator) is an attorney in the FTC’s Division of Privacy and Identity Protection, where she primarily works on children’s and health privacy matters. She also has served as an attorney advisor in the FTC’s Office of Policy Planning, where she focused on matters in the health care and technology industries, and as an attorney in the Bureau of Competition’s Health Care Division, where she led antitrust investigations into pharmaceutical companies and physician groups. Additionally, she has extensive experience providing antitrust counseling and training to international antitrust authorities, primarily in Latin America.

Elisa Jillson (moderator) is an attorney in the FTC’s Division of Privacy and Identity Protection, where she works on health privacy, general privacy, and data security matters. She was previously an attorney in the FTC’s Division of Enforcement. She has lectured on privacy as part of a consumer protection course at George Mason University’s Scalia Law School. Before joining the FTC, she was an associate at Sidley Austin LLP and a project manager for an electronic health record vendor.

Panel 2: Bias in AI Algorithms

Muhammad Ali is a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science at Northeastern University, where he researches how machine learning algorithms might have discriminatory and biased outcomes. His research has been featured in popular press, including The Washington Post, The Economist and Wired, among others. He holds a B.S. in Computer Science from the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Lahore and an M.S. in Computer Science from Saarland University in Germany, where he also spent some time working at the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems. This research was funded by the Data Transparency Lab and the National Science Foundation.
Ziad Obermeyer is an Associate Professor at UC Berkeley, where he does research at the intersection of machine learning, medicine, and health policy. He was named an Emerging Leader by the National Academy of Medicine, and has received numerous awards including the Early Independence Award—the National Institutes of Health’s most prestigious award for exceptional junior scientists—and the Young Investigator Award from the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. Previously, he was an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School. He continues to practice emergency medicine in underserved communities. This research was funded by an unrestricted grant from National Institute for Health Care Management.

Ben Rossen (moderator) is an attorney in the FTC’s Division of Privacy and Identity Protection, where he represents the Commission in privacy and data security matters. In 2019, he served on detail to the majority staff of the Energy & Commerce Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he advised the Committee on issues relating to privacy, security, and artificial intelligence, and served as a vice-chair of the ABA’s Big Data Task Force. Previously, he practiced litigation in private practice and clerked for the Hon. Carol Bagley Amon in the Eastern District of New York.

Panel 3: Internet of Things

Daniel J. Dubois is an associate research scientist at Northeastern University. His main research focuses on understanding the privacy implications of the Internet of Things. He obtained a Ph.D. in information engineering at Politecnico di Milano and then worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab and Imperial College London. The following provided funding for this research: Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorates, Data Transparency Lab, Comcast Innovation Fund, and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

Pardis Emami-Naeini received a B.Sc. degree in computer engineering from Sharif University of Technology, and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University, where she is currently a postdoctoral scholar. As part of her doctoral research, she developed a usable privacy and security label for smart devices to inform consumers’ Internet of Things-related purchase decisions. She was selected as a Rising Star in electrical engineering and computer science in October 2019, and awarded the CMU CyLab presidential fellowship for the 2019-2020 academic year. Her research has been supported in part by Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Air Force Research Laboratory, and the National Science Foundation. Additional support has also been provided by Google and by the Carnegie Mellon CyLab Security and Privacy Institute.

Danny Yuxing Huang is an assistant professor at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering. He is broadly interested in the security and privacy of the Internet of Things. He did a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University and obtained his Ph.D. in Computer Science from University of California, San Diego. This work was partially supported by awards from the National Science Foundation, along with industry funding from Cable Labs (including in-kind donation of equipment plus funding), Amazon, Microsoft, Cisco, and Comcast. Co-author Gunes Acar holds a Postdoctoral fellowship from the Research Foundation Flanders, supported by Cyber Security Research Flanders.
Phoebe Rouge (moderator) is a Technologist in the FTC’s Office of Technology Research and Investigation (OTECH). She has applied her technical and data analysis expertise to numerous Commission topics, including data breaches, payment processing fraud, and social media scams. Prior to joining the FTC, she researched the governance of emerging technologies, edited a textbook on innovation policy, and worked as a database architect, software developer, and consultant. She holds an MA from the George Washington University and an AB from Harvard University.

Panel 4: Specific Technologies: Cameras/Smart Speakers/Apps

Madelyn Rose Sanfilippo is a postdoctoral research associate at the Center for Information Technology Policy (CITP) at Princeton University and will be an Assistant Professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign in Fall 2020. Her research empirically explores governance of sociotechnical systems, as well as outcomes, inequality, and consequences within these systems, through mixed method research designs. Her research was supported by the National Security Agency and the National Science Foundation.

Christin Wilson recently graduated with a Master's degree in Computer Science from Clemson University. His research interest is in improving the privacy controls and data transparency provided to smart device users. While at Clemson, he worked with Dr. Long Cheng on security and privacy vulnerabilities in voice assistants. His research was supported by Dr. Cheng’s startup funding from Clemson University.

Shikun “Aerin” Zhang is a Ph.D. student in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. Her research interests include identifying privacy challenges arising from the Internet of Things, and exploring usable data-driven approaches. Currently, she focuses on privacy attitudes towards facial recognition technologies. The research presented in this paper was funded by Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Air Force Research Laboratory, and the National Science Foundation.

Lerone Banks (moderator) is a Technologist in the FTC’s Division of Privacy and Identity Protection. He serves as a trusted resource for research and information on technology’s impact on consumers, supporting the FTC’s enforcement, policy, and education work. He received his B.S. in computer science from Norfolk State University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in computer science from the University of California, Davis.

Panel 5: International Privacy

Guy Aridor is an economics Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University. His research focuses on understanding competition and regulatory policy in the digital economy, combining both theoretical and empirical studies. Prior to his Ph.D. studies, he was a software engineer and received his bachelor's degree in computer science, mathematics, and economics from Boston University. The research presented was funded by a National Science Foundation grant.

Garrett Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Marketing at the Questrom School of Business, Boston University. He researches digital marketing: measuring its effectiveness and examining its privacy
issues. His ad effectiveness research uses large-scale experiments to measure how and how much ads work. His privacy research both examines the impact of Europe's GDPR and studies the policy trade-offs in online behavioral targeting. Financial support for his research came from the Marketing Science Institute & the Program on Economics & Privacy at George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School.

Jeff Prince is Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy at the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University. He is also the Harold A. Poling Chair in Strategic Management and Co-Director of the Institute for Business Analytics at Kelley. His primary focus is on technology markets and telecommunications, having published works on dynamic demand for computers, Internet adoption and usage, the inception of online/offline product competition, and telecom bundling. His research also encompasses topics such as household-level risk aversion, airline quality competition, regulation in healthcare and real estate markets, and consumer valuation for product features and data privacy. This paper was supported by funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

Christine Utz is a Ph.D. student at the Chair for Systems Security, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany. She studies the influence of privacy legislation on web tracking. Currently she explores how users could be empowered to take control of the collection and use of their personal data on websites and how web developers could be incentivized to consider users' privacy when adding third-party functionality to websites. She received her B.S. degree in IT security/information technology from Ruhr University Bochum and a law degree from the University of Bayreuth. Funding sources for her research include MKW-NRW Research Training Groups SecHuman and NERD. NRW, German Research Foundation, and the National Science Foundation.

Daniel Wood (moderator) is an Economist in the Division of Consumer Protection in the FTC’s Bureau of Economics, where he works on cases protecting consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices. His research focuses on behavioral economics and game theory. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University in 2008, and was an assistant professor at Clemson University before joining the FTC in 2016.

Panel 6: Miscellaneous Privacy/Security

Hana Habib is currently a Ph.D. student in the Societal Computing program at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), advised by Lorrie Faith Cranor. Her research interests span many areas of security and privacy, and include understanding user behavior and preferences in relation to privacy and security and developing effective privacy choice mechanisms for online consumers. She completed a Bachelor’s in Computer Science and Electrical & Computer Engineering from Cornell University and a Master’s in Information Technology - Information Security from CMU. She also worked as a software engineer for the U.S. Department of Defense. Research funding for this project includes the National Science Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and Innovators Network Foundation.

Ido Sivan-Sevilla is a public policy scholar and postdoctoral fellow at Cornell Tech’s Digital Life Initiative (DLI). He will be an Assistant Professor at the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland (UMD) in 2021. He is interested in the design of, and compliance with, governance arrangements for our data capitalist society, focusing on cybersecurity, privacy, inequality,
manipulation, and discrimination problems. He completed his Ph.D. at the Federmann School of Public Policy & Government at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was a M.A. Fulbright Scholar at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, and completed his B.A. with honors in Computer Science from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. He has worked in Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office and the Israeli Air-Force (as Captain). This research was supported by the National Security Agency the National Science Foundation.

Danfeng (Daphne) Yao is a Professor of Computer Science at Virginia Tech, where she is a Turner Faculty Fellow and CACI Faculty Fellow. Her expertise is on software and system security, including data breach prevention. She received her Ph.D. degree from Brown University, and M.S. degrees from Princeton University and Indiana University. This project was supported in part the National Science Foundation.

Yixin Zou is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Michigan School of Information. Her research interests are in the area of usable privacy and security, particularly designing interventions that motivate people to take action in the face of privacy and security threats. She received a B.S. in Advertising from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This research was funded by a NortonLifeLock Graduate Fellowship.

Jamie Hine (moderator) is a Senior Attorney in the FTC’s Division of Privacy and Identity Protection. He investigates and prosecutes violations of consumer privacy and information security under Section 5 of the FTC Act, the FCRA, the FTC’s Health Breach Notification Rule, and the GLB Act. His recent enforcement actions include DealerBuilt, ClixSense, and Turn. He is also active in bankruptcy matters, notably In re RadioShack Corporation, et al. Between 2008 and 2010, he served as an Attorney Advisor to FTC Commissioner Pamela Jones Harbour. He received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and his J.D., M.S.I., and M.P.P. from the University of Michigan.