

Summary of Previous Conferences

2021

- Under a separate NSF grant (#2035358), FPF convened 350+ computer science, privacy law, social science, and health information experts in a virtual Convergence Accelerator workshop, “Privacy and Pandemics: Responsible Use of Data During Times of Crisis,” (October 27-28, 2020). The workshop examined benefits, risks and strategies for collection and protection of data in support of public health initiatives specific to COVID-19 and beyond. The workshop engaged a cross-section of co-sponsors: NSF, industry (Intel, One Trust), higher education (Duke Sanford School of Public Policy, SFI ADAPT Research Centre, Dublin City University), and nonprofit organizations (FPF, Israel Tech Policy Institute).

The RCN member list was used to identify firestarters for the moderated discussions before an audience drawn from FPF’s academic-industry-government networks, including the RCN. The workshop engaged 30 speakers, firestarters, and panelists and a worldwide audience of 343. Two keynotes were presented by UC Berkeley’s Dr. Katherine Yelick on the tools and power of data analytics and Dr. Lauren Gardner, Creator of Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Dashboard. In December 2020, FPF published the workshop’s publicly available white paper, “Workshop Report: Privacy and Pandemics: Responsible Use of Data During Times of Crisis,” which recommended a detailed roadmap for research, practice improvements, and development of privacy-preserving products and services to inform responses to the COVID-19 crisis and to prepare for future pandemics or other public crises.

- FPF co-sponsored the June 2021 PEPR conference. PEPR focuses on designing and building products and systems with privacy and respect for their users and the societies in which they operate, with the goal to improve the state of the art and practice of building for privacy and respect and to foster a deeply knowledgeable community of collaborating privacy practitioners and researchers.
 - PEPR 2021 included 43 moderators/speakers from the private sector (31), academia (10) and non-profit (2) and nine sessions: Privacy at Scale, Consent, Respectful Ethics in Practice, Data Deletion, Design, Healthcare Privacy, Architectures for Privacy, Privacy for Vulnerable Populations, and a panel discussion.
 - FPF’s Applied Privacy RCN Project Lead Dr. Sara Jordan served as the moderator for the panel discussion, “Reconciling Privacy Engineering Scholarship with Industry Needs for Privacy Engineering,” attended by 112 people. The panel explored how privacy engineering scholars can engage with the practice of privacy and how privacy professionals can guide privacy engineering scholars toward new research areas or new data. The panel featured two academics and

two industry experts to discuss how both academics and industry players can support one another to make privacy work:

- Lawrence You, Google;
 - Stacey Truex, Georgia Tech;
 - Frank Pallas, TU-Berlin; and
 - Sheila Colclasure, Interpublic, and FPF Advisory Board member.
- FPF and Highmark Health, Carnegie Mellon’s CyLab Security and Privacy Institute, hosted an October 2020 symposium on biometrics and privacy in the COVID-19 era. Speakers included Dr. Anil Singh, Allegheny Health Network and Satya Venneti, CTO and Co-founder, Telling.ai; Dr. Marios Savvides, CyLab Biometrics Center, Carnegie Mellon; and Dr. Yang Cai, Visual Intelligence Studio, Carnegie Mellon.
 - FPF continued its collaboration with Brussels Privacy Hub/VUB to virtually host the 4th Annual Brussels Privacy Symposium on December 2, 2020, gathering U.S. researchers and government representatives with industry leaders, nonprofits, and EU governing body members to discuss data protection in the context of scientific research under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Dr. Heng Xu, Professor, IT and Analytics, American University, was featured in a “Using Sensitive Data in Research to Counter (Hidden) Bias and Discrimination” panel moderated by FPF’s Gabriela Zanfir-Fortuna, with FPF Advisory Board member Knut Mager, Head of Global Data Privacy, Novartis, and Dr. Paul Quinn, Professor, VUB and Dr. Elettra Ronchi, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD. Dr. Xu discussed her recent research on the effects of anonymization and differential privacy on health disparity detection

2020

- In January 2020, as part of its participation at the Computers, Privacy and Data Protection Conference (CPDP 2020), FPF’s Senior Counsel, Dr. Gabriela Zanfir-Fortuna, was a panelist with RCN member Neil Richards, Washington University School of Law, in a discussion about the gap between research theory and practice of privacy and data protection. The session titled,
 - o “Turning the Tables: Academics in the Hot Seat,” was moderated by Helen Dixon, Data Protection Commissioner for Ireland before an audience of policymakers, regulators, and industry players.

2019

- FPF introduced the “Applied Privacy Research Showcase” at the IAPP Global Summit (May 2-3, 2019). The RCN project team arranged for several prominent researchers to present their work, both formally and informally at the IAPP Global Privacy Summit, which is attended by thousands of privacy professionals from leading companies from across the US and around the world. FPF promoted the “Applied Privacy Research



Showcase” via a variety of means, including a promotional flyer, working group calls, emails, newsletters, at the FPF Advisory Board meeting and by FPF staff encouraging IAPP Global Summit attendees to visit the FPF Exhibit Hall booth.

- o The “Little Big Stage” at IAPP provided the featured spotlight for the inaugural Applied Privacy Research Showcase. Following their talks, the presenters spent time in FPF’s booth in the Exhibition Hall, answering questions about their work. Featured Showcase presentations were:
 - “Privacy in the age of IoT”, Dr. Norman Sadeh (CIPT), a pioneer of Privacy-Enhancing Artificial Intelligence technologies, professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University, where he also co-directs the first-of -its-kind Master's Program in Privacy Engineering. Dr Sadeh is also an academic member of the FPF Advisory Board.
 - “Individual Fairness in Hindsight”, Dr. Swati Gupta, Assistant Professor in the Center for Machine Learning (ML@GT) and the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) at Georgia Institute of Technology.
- o FPF designed an engaging and inviting booth in the IAPP Exhibition Hall, which created space for applied privacy researchers to present their work directly to hundreds of summit attendees. Topics and presenters were as follows:
 - “Privacy Preserving Machine Learning”, Hassan Takabi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of North Texas (UNT).
 - “Towards Practical Differentially Private Convex Optimization”, Om Thakkar, 5th year PhD student in the Security group and the Theoretical Computer Science group, Department of Computer Science, Boston University.
 - “Ektelo: A Framework for Defining Differentially Private Computation”, Ashwin Machanavajjhala, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Computer Science, Duke University.
 - “Fast, Privacy Preserving Linear Regression over Distributed Datasets based on Pre-Distributed Data” and “Demystifying Membership Inference Attacks in Machine Learning as a Service”, Stacey Truex, 3rd year PhD Student, School of Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology
 - “Web Privacy Measurement in Real-Time Bidding Systems. A Graph-Based Approach to RTB System”, Dr Robbert van Eijk obtained his PhD in January 2019 at Leiden University at the Faculty of Law and is working as a senior inspector at the Dutch Data Protection Authority.
- “Brussels Privacy Symposium: Exploring the Intersection of Data Protection and Competition Law” on November 19, 2019. FPF continued its collaboration with the Brussels Privacy Hub/Vrije Universiteit Brussel hosting this event that brought U.S.



researchers and government representatives together with members of legal faculties, industry leaders, nonprofit organizations, law firms, and members of EU governing bodies. Sponsors of the event included ITI, Mastercard, OneTrust and SAP. Participating researchers from the U.S. included Prof. Peter Swire, Georgia Institute of Technology, Mx. Mariana Lopez-Galdos, Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), Prof. Mark MacCarthy, Georgetown University Law, and Mx. Ethan Levisohn, US Federal Trade Commission.

- In conjunction with Vrije Universiteit Brussel, FPF coordinated three new classes for its “Digital Data Flow Masterclass” series to provide opportunities for academic-industry interaction.
 - “Online Advertising Technologies,” broadcast on May 1, 2019 featured Dr. Robbert van Eijk of Leiden University and Dr. Adam Towvim of Brandeis University.
 - “Mobile Apps,” broadcast on July 25, 2019, featured Dr. Daniel Smullen of Carnegie Mellon University and Mx. Fares Alraie of Mattel, Inc.
 - “Understanding Machine Learning,” hosted live in Brussels on January 23, 2020, featured Dr. Reuben Binns, University of Oxford, along with Mx. Nicholas Schmidt of BLDS, LLC and Dr. Richard Tomset of IBM.