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Contact: Dr. Leonard Wallock, Associate Director  
Walter H. Capps Center for the Study  
of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB  
(805) 893-2317 / [leonard.wallock@cappscenter.ucsb.edu](mailto:leonard.wallock@cappscenter.ucsb.edu)

N E W S R E L E A S E

# Heidi Boghosian

## *Spying on Democracy*

Monday, February 10 / 8:00 p.m. / Free  
New Vic Theatre, 33 West Victoria Street, Santa Barbara

S U M M A R Y F A C T S

- Heidi Boghosian, Executive Director of the National Lawyers Guild and author of *Spying on Democracy: Government Surveillance, Corporate Power and Public Resistance*
- “Spying on Democracy”
- Monday, February 10 / 8:00 p.m. / Free
- New Vic Theatre, 33 West Victoria Street, Santa Barbara
- Courtesy of The Book Den, copies of *Spying on Democracy* will be available for purchase and signing at this event
- Information: Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB (805) 893-2317
- Digital copies of press materials available at <http://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/news/press-releases/>

## **Event Description:**

Until the watershed leak of top-secret documents by Edward Snowden to the *Guardian UK* and the *Washington Post*, most Americans did not realize the extent to which our government is actively acquiring personal information from telecommunications companies and other corporations. As made startlingly clear, the National Security Agency (NSA) has collected information on every phone call Americans have made over the past seven years. In that same time, the NSA and the FBI have gained the ability to access emails, photos, audio and video chats, and additional content from Google, Facebook, Yahoo, Microsoft, YouTube, Skype, Apple, and others, allegedly in order to track foreign targets.

In *Spying on Democracy*, National Lawyers Guild Executive Director Heidi Boghosian documents the disturbing increase in surveillance of ordinary citizens and the danger it poses to our privacy, our civil liberties, and to the future of democracy itself. Boghosian reveals how technology is being used to categorize and monitor people based on their associations, their movements, their purchases, and their perceived political beliefs. She shows how corporations and government intelligence agencies mine data from sources as diverse as surveillance cameras and unmanned drones to iris scans and medical records, while combing websites, email, phone records and social media for resale to third parties, including U.S. intelligence agencies. *Spying on Democracy* is a timely, invaluable, and accessible primer for anyone concerned with protecting privacy, freedom, and the U.S. Constitution.

## **Speaker Profile:**

Heidi Boghosian is currently the Executive Director at the National Lawyers Guild, co-host of the civil liberties radio show “Law and Disorder,” on Pacifica's WBAI in New York and over 40 national affiliates. She is the author of *Spying on Democracy: Government Surveillance, Corporate Power and Public Resistance* (2013), *Punishing Protest: Government Tactics that Suppress Free Speech* (2007), and *The Assault on Free Speech, Public Assembly, and Dissent: A National Lawyers Guild Report on Government Violations of First Amendment Rights in the United States* (2004).

She received her JD from Temple Law School where she was the editor-in-chief of the *Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review*. She also holds an MS from Boston University and a BA from Brown University.

## ***Spying on Democracy* Book Reviews:**

“Everyone of us is under the omniscient magnifying glass of the government and corporate spies. . . . How do we respond to this smog of surveillance? Start by reading *Spying on Democracy: Government Surveillance, Corporate Power, and Public Resistance* by Heidi Boghosian”-- Bill Moyers

“Heidi Boghosian's *Spying on Democracy* is the answer to the question, 'if you're not doing anything wrong, why should you care if someone's watching you?' -- Michael German, Senior Policy Counsel, ACLU and former FBI agent

“With ex-CIA staffer Edward Snowden’s leaks about National Security Agency surveillance in the headlines, Heidi Boghosian’s *Spying on Democracy: Government Surveillance, Corporate Power, and Public Resistance* feels especially timely. Boghosian reveals how the government acquires information from telecommunications companies and other organizations to create databases about 'persons of interest.’” -- *Publishers Weekly*

**Sponsor:**

This event is presented by the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB.

**For more information, call  
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**Editor: For color images,  
please call Dr. Leonard Wallock**