

BENJAMIN W. CRAMER, PHD

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Benjamin W. Cramer is currently an Associate Teaching Professor in Telecommunications and Media Industries, for the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications at the Pennsylvania State University. He teaches upper-level undergraduate courses in communications regulation, media law, and Internet law; and on occasion, environmental policy. Cramer developed new courses on electronic privacy and surveillance, and the environmental impacts of telecommunications. Cramer first joined the Penn State College of Communications in 2010 as a post-doctoral fellow with the Institute for Information Policy, teaching classes and serving as Managing Editor for the *Journal of Information Policy*.

In 2009-2010 Cramer worked at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary as Visiting Professor of Telecommunications and Public Policy, teaching graduate and law students. He has also worked as a research assistant for a variety of educators and foundations devoted to knowledge in media law, telecommunications, and political communications. Cramer received a doctorate from the College of Communications at the Pennsylvania State University in 2009, and has achieved more than fifteen peer-reviewed journal publications, more than twenty conference presentations, several book chapters, and an academic press book.

Cramer's research and teaching in mass communications and public policy focus primarily on the public interest and human rights implications of media law (particularly access to government-held information), privacy and surveillance, and telecommunications regulation. Environmental law and intellectual property law are significant side interests. He has presented research in government transparency, human rights, intellectual property law, political communications, media literacy, comparative international public policy, and environmental law. Cramer also has nearly a decade of experience as a curriculum designer and classroom instructor in the information technology field, and is the author/editor of several general interest books on outdoor recreation.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Doctor of Philosophy, Mass Communications

Pennsylvania State University, College of Communications, 2009

Teaching and Research Focus: Media law, telecommunications policy, political communications, media literacy

Dissertation Title: *Freedom of Environmental Information in America*

Master of Arts, Media Studies

Pennsylvania State University, College of Communications, 2004

Research Focus: Political economy of communications, political communications, media literacy

Thesis Title: *Dick Cheney's Energy Task Force: The Political Economy of Mainstream Media Coverage*

Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration

Syracuse University, School of Management, 1993

Major Focus: Marketing

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2017-Present

Associate Teaching Professor, College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University.

- Courses taught: Telecommunications Regulation, Internet Law & Policy, Telecommunications & the Environment (a writing-intensive course), Privacy & Surveillance (a writing-intensive course), International Telecommunications Law (a writing-intensive course), International Telecommunications: Central Europe
- Leader or co-leader of three international student trips (Guyana in 2019, Czech Republic in 2018, Hungary in 2017)
- Faculty adviser for a large student group.
- Faculty representative to several college committees.
- Students taught: Undergraduates in 400-level courses.

Other Responsibilities: Reviewer for papers submitted to the Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (Law & Policy division), frequent peer reviewer for journals in media law and telecommunications, occasional moderator or discussant at research conferences and workshops.

2014-2017

Senior Lecturer, College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University.

- Courses taught: Telecommunications Regulation, Mass Communications Law, Privacy & Surveillance (a writing-intensive course), Telecommunications & the Environment (a writing-intensive course), Internet Law & Policy, Introduction to Media and Telecommunications.

- Editorial assistance for *Journal of Information Policy* (temporarily phasing out of previous position), and other research and planning responsibilities for the Institute for Information Policy.
- Faculty adviser for a large student group.
- Students taught: Undergraduates in 100-, 300-, and 400-level courses.

Other Responsibilities: Reviewer for papers submitted to the Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (Law & Policy division), frequent peer reviewer for journals in media law and telecommunications, occasional moderator or discussant at research conferences and workshops.

2010-2014

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Institute for Information Policy, Pennsylvania State University.

- Managing editor of *Journal of Information Policy*. Responsibilities include design and operation of the website for the online journal, all technical and managerial editing, and coordination of the peer review process.
- Conference promotion and coordination.

Instructor, Department of Telecommunications, Pennsylvania State University.

- Courses taught: Telecommunications Regulation, Mass Communications Law, Media Industries & Politics (a writing-intensive course), Privacy & Surveillance (a writing-intensive course), Video Games & Interactive Media, Introduction to the Politics of the Environment, Internet Law & Policy.
- Developed two special-topics courses (Media Industries & Politics; Privacy & Surveillance); assisted in the development of a permanent course (Video Games & Interactive Media).
- Students taught: Undergraduates in 100-, 300-, and 400-level courses.

Other Responsibilities: Reviewer for papers submitted to the Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (Law & Policy division), frequent guest lecturer at other institutions (including two appearances in Asia), frequent peer reviewer for journals in media law and telecommunications, occasional moderator or discussant at research conferences and workshops.

Spring 2010

Research Associate, Center for Media and Communications Studies, Central European University (Budapest, Hungary).

- Part time, remote research work in comparative telecommunications policy.
- United States correspondent for multi-country study on the independence of telecommunications regulators in preparation for the implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) by the European Union.
- Project Affiliations: University of Hamburg, Hans Bredow Institut (Germany); Central European University (Hungary).

Fall 2009

Visiting Professor of Telecommunications and Public Policy, Department of Public Policy, Central European University (Budapest, Hungary).

- Courses taught: Fundamentals of Media and Telecommunications Policy; Global Broadcasting and Telecommunications Law (both courses featured an international and comparative focus).
- Students taught: primarily MA students, plus some Law students.
- Frequent guest lecturer at affiliated institutions.
- Masters' thesis advising and evaluation.
- Manager of curriculum for Media, Information, and Communications Policy Stream (a track within a Public Policy MA major).
- Research Associate, Center for Media and Communication Studies.

2006-2009

Doctoral Candidate and Teaching Assistant in media law and telecommunications policy, Pennsylvania State University.

- Course taught: Mass Communications Law, 400-level, 2008-2009.
- Research Assistant, Pennsylvania Center for the First Amendment.
- Member of the student advisory board for the Don Davis Program in Ethical Leadership and the College of Communications Committee on Academic Integrity.
- Frequent guest lecturer in undergraduate courses. Occasional lecturer and workshop facilitator on technical or academic matters for other graduate students.
- Two second-place awards for best research paper in college-wide graduate student competitions. Two research papers on telecommunications and the environment cited by Pennsylvania wildlife activists while addressing state and local lawmakers.
- Technical editor for four issues of the AEJMC divisional newsletter *Media Law Notes*.

2004-2005

Senior academic computing lab consultant and crew manager at Penn State University.

1995-2003

Corporate information technology consultant, technical writer and editor, curriculum developer, classroom instructor, database manager, team leader, and training development manager for implementations of complex business/industrial software applications. Includes approximately 4.5 years at IBM.

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Institute for Information Policy, Pennsylvania State University (2010-present)

Center for Media and Communication Studies, Central European University (2009-2010)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Academic Press Book:

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Freedom of Environmental Information*. LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC, El Paso, TX, 2011.

Peer-Reviewed Academic Journal Articles and Refereed Law Review Articles:

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Moral Hazard of Lax FCC Land Use Oversight for Advanced Network Infrastructure*, TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY vol. 46 (2022).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Nearly Extinct in the Wild: The Vulnerable Transparency of the Endangered Species List*, JOURNAL OF CIVIC INFORMATION vol. 3, pp. 1-28 (2021).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Envirodemic: Unconstitutional Restrictions on Environmental Protests from the Attacks of 2001 to the Struggles of 2020*, LAW JOURNAL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE vol. 14, pp. 79-115.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *In Strife We Trust: Why We Should Question Surveillance Technology Before a Crisis* [short article], ACADEMIA LETTERS (May 2021).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Not Over My Backyard: The Regulatory Conflict between 5G Rollout and Environmental and Historic Preservation*, DIGITAL POLICY, REGULATION AND GOVERNANCE (DPRG) vol. 23, pp. 97-112 (2021).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *From Liability to Accountability: The Ethics of Citing Section 230 to Avoid the Obligations of Running a Social Media Platform*. JOURNAL OF INFORMATION POLICY vol. 10, pp. 123-150 (2020).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Privacy Exceptionalism Unless It's Unexceptional: How the American Government Misuses the Spirit of Privacy in Two Different Ways to Justify Both Nondisclosure and Surveillance*. OHIO STATE TECHNOLOGY LAW JOURNAL vol. 16, pp. 306-350 (2020).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Crossing the Danube: A Comparative Study of Central European and American Access-to-Information Laws*. COMMUNICATION LAW & POLICY vol. 25, pp. 189-224 (2020).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Influence of Topography and Fracking on Cellular Network Availability in Unserved Areas of North Central Pennsylvania*. JOURNAL OF INFORMATION POLICY vol. 9, pp. 238-279 (2019).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *A Proposal to Adopt Data Discrimination Rather than Privacy as the Justification for Rolling Back Data Surveillance*. JOURNAL OF INFORMATION POLICY vol. 8, pp. 5-33 (2018).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Old Love for New Snoops: How Exemption 3 of the Freedom of Information Act Enables an Irrebuttable Presumption of Surveillance Secrecy*. COMMUNICATION LAW & POLICY vol. 23, pp. 91-124 (2018).

- Cramer, Benjamin W. and Martin E. Halstuk, *Crash and Learn: The Inability of Transparency Laws to Penetrate American Monetary Policy*. WILLIAM & MARY BILL OF RIGHTS JOURNAL, vol. 25, pp. 195-234 (2016).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *Right Way Wrong Way: The Fading Legal Justifications for Telecommunications Infrastructure Rights-of-Way*. TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, vol. 40, pp. 996-1006 (2016).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *What the Frack? How Weak Industrial Disclosure Rules Prevent Public Understanding of Chemical Practices and Toxic Politics*. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERDISCIPLINARY LAW JOURNAL, vol. 25, pp. 67-105 (2016).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *Privacy Exceptionalism and Confidentiality versus the Public Interest in Uncovering Universal Service Fraud*. COMMUNICATION LAW & POLICY vol. 20, pp. 149-190 (2015).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Two Internet Freedoms: Framing Victimhood for Political Gain*. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION vol. 7, pp. 1074-1093 (2013).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *Unasked Questions and Unquestioned Answers: The Perils of Assuming Diversity in Modern Telecommunications Policy*. COMMUNICATION LAW & POLICY vol. 17, pp. 265-298 (2012).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *Man's Need or Man's Greed: The Human Rights Ramifications of Green ICTs*. TELEMATICS AND INFORMATICS vol. 29, pp. 337-347 (2012).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *For the Birds: The FCC and Avian Mortality at Communications Towers*. INFO: THE JOURNAL OF POLICY, REGULATION, AND STRATEGY FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION, AND MEDIA vol. 14, no. 3, pp. 3-15 (2012).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *"The Nation's Broadband Success Story": The Secrecy of FCC Broadband Infrastructure Statistics*. HASTINGS COMMUNICATIONS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW JOURNAL (COMM/ENT) vol. 31, pp. 339-368 (2009).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Human Right to Information, the Environment, and Information about the Environment: From the Universal Declaration to the Aarhus Convention*. COMMUNICATION LAW & POLICY vol. 14, pp. 73-103 (2009).
- Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Power of Secrecy and the Secrecy of Power: FACA and the National Energy Policy Development Group*. COMMUNICATION LAW & POLICY vol. 13, pp. 183-230 (2008).

Refereed Book Chapters:

Cramer, Benjamin W. *International Counter-Corruption Actions*. Published in *Government Counter Corruption Strategies: A Public Solutions Handbook*, ed. Yahong Zhang & Cecilia Lavena. (M.E. Sharpe, 2015).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Environmental Problems*. Published in *International Encyclopedia of Digital Communication & Society*, ed. Sandra Braman (Wiley-Blackwell, 2015).

Halstuk, Martin E., Benjamin W. Cramer, & Michael D. Todd. *Tipping the Scales: How the U.S. Supreme Court Eviscerated Freedom of Information in Favor of Privacy*. Published in *Transparency 2.0: Digital Data and Privacy in a Wired World*, ed. Charles Davis & David Cuillier (Peter Lang Publishing, 2014).

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sleep? Free Speech vs. Privacy in America's Resistance to Robocalls*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications Southeast Colloquium, Memphis, TN, March 2022.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Nearly Extinct in the Wild: The Vulnerable Transparency of the Endangered Species List*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, virtual/online, August 2021.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Envirodemic: Unconstitutional Restrictions on Environmental Protests from the Attacks of 2001 to the Struggles of 2020*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications Southeast Colloquium, virtual/online, March 2021.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Moral Hazard of Lax FCC Land Use Oversight for Advanced Network Infrastructure*, presented at the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, virtual/online, February 2021.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Not Over My Backyard: The Regulatory Conflict between 5G Rollout and Environmental and Historic Preservation*, presented at the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, Washington, DC, September 2019.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Privacy Exceptionalism Unless It's Unexceptional: How the American Government Misuses the Spirit of Privacy in Two Different Ways to Justify Both Nondisclosure and Surveillance*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Toronto, ON, August 2019.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *From Liability to Accountability: The Ethics of Citing Section 230 to Avoid the Obligations of Running a Social Media Platform*, presented at the invitational workshop TAMING AND NURTURING THE WILD CHILD: GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATE POLICIES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA, International Communications Association (pre-conference), Washington, DC, May 2019.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Influence of Topography and Fracking on Cellular Network Availability in Underserved Areas of North-Central Pennsylvania*, presented at the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, Washington, DC, September 2018.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Old Love for New Snoops: How Exemption 3 of the Freedom of Information Act Enables an Irrebuttable Presumption of Surveillance Secrecy*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Chicago, IL, August 2017.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *A Proposal to Adopt Data Discrimination Rather than Privacy as the Justification for Rolling Back Data Surveillance*, presented at the invitational workshop DIGITAL INEQUALITIES AND DISCRIMINATION IN THE BIG DATA ERA, International Communications Association (pre-conference), San Diego, CA, May 2017.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Crash and Learn: The Inability of Transparency Laws to Penetrate American Monetary Policy*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications Southeast Colloquium, Baton Rouge, LA, March 2017 and the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Minneapolis, MN, August 2016.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Right Way Wrong Way: The Fading Legal Justification for Telecommunications Infrastructure Rights of Way*, presented at the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, Arlington, VA, September 2015.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Conflicting Administrative and Critical Paradigms in Modern Telecommunications Policy Disputes: A Lazarsfeldian Analysis*, presented at the invitational workshop ADMINISTRATIVE VS. CRITICAL RESEARCH: IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTEMPORARY INFORMATION POLICY STUDIES, International Communications Association (pre-conference), San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 2015.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *What the Frack? How Weak Industrial Disclosure Rules Prevent Public Understanding of Chemical Practices and Toxic Politics*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications Southeast Colloquium, Knoxville, TN, March 2015.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Too Big to Care: The Moral Hazards of Exploding Surveillance and Imploding Accountability*, presented at the invitational workshop WHOSE INFORMATION IS IT ANYWAY? IN SEARCH OF A NEW BALANCE, New America Foundation, Washington, DC, September 2014.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Privacy Exceptionalism and Confidentiality vs. the Public Interest in Uncovering Universal Service Fraud*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications Southeast Colloquium, Gainesville, FL, March 2014.

Lee, Ju Young, Sangyon Han, and Benjamin W. Cramer. *Why Are College Students Targeted? The Enforcement of the Graduated Response Policy on Campus*, presented at the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, Arlington, VA, September 2013.

Halstuk, Martin E., Benjamin W. Cramer, & Michael D. Todd. *Public Interest . . . what Public Interest? How the Rehnquist Court Created the FOIA Privacy Exceptionalism Doctrine*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Chicago, IL, August 2012 (presentation by Yong Tang).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Unasked Questions and Unquestioned Answers: The Perils of Assuming Diversity in Modern Telecommunications Policy*, presented at the invitational workshop DIGITAL DIVERSITY: SERVING THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AGE OF BROADBAND, Fordham University, New York, NY, May 2011. Expanded research presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications Southeast Colloquium, Blacksburg, VA, March 2012.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *An Extinction of Transparency: The Opaque Endangered Species List*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, St. Louis, MO, August 2011.

Cramer, Benjamin W., Michael D. Todd & Martin E. Halstuk. *Clearing Up the FOIA Transparency Question: How Congress Can Break the Coming Deadlock Between President Obama and the Supreme Court*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Boston, MA, August 2009 (presentation by Michael D. Todd).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *"The Nation's Broadband Success Story": The Secrecy of FCC Broadband Infrastructure Statistics*, presented at the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, Arlington, VA, September 2008.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Human Right to Information, the Environment, and Information about the Environment: From the Universal Declaration to the Aarhus Convention*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Chicago, IL, August 2008.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Unplanned Obsolescence: American Participation in Redundant Multilateral Copyright Agreements*, presented at the International Communications Association annual conference, Montreal, Canada, May 2008.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Commun(ica)ting with Nature: The FCC and Federal Environmental Regulations*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications Southeast Colloquium, Auburn, AL, March 2008.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Fine-Feathered Adversaries: The FCC and Avian Mortality at Communications Towers*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications mid-winter conference, Pittsburgh, PA, February 2008.

Worawongs, Worapron T., Kathleen M. Kuehn & Benjamin W. Cramer. *Internet Dependency and Student Behavior in Wired Classrooms*, presented at the National Communications Association conference, Chicago, IL, November 2007 (presentation by Kathleen M. Kuehn); and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications mid-winter conference, Reno, NV, February 2007 (presentation by Worapron T. Worawongs).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *University Computer Networks and the Taming of Napster: A Political Economy Analysis*, presented at the Union for Democratic Communications conference, Vancouver, Canada, October 2007 (presentation by Amit M. Schejter).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Power of Secrecy and the Secrecy of Power: FACA and the National Energy Policy Development Group*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Washington, DC, August 2007.