wNYU Migration Network

2026 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Welcome Address
9:45 AM -10:00 AM

Clay Shirky



Clay Shirky is Vice Provost for AI and Technology in Education. In this role, he designs, develops, and enhances all academic aspects of technology-based teaching and learning, University-wide; oversees the development of NYU's instructional technology strategy, working with deans, faculty, NYU IT, and other university offices; maintains an inventory of online education offerings; and helps schools use educational technology to recruit new students, help existing students learn and progress, and generate costs savings or new revenues. He chairs the University's Future of Technology-Enhanced Education Committee. Shirky is Associate Professor at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute in FAS and Associate Arts Professor in Tisch School of the Arts' Interactive Telecommunications Program.

Natasha Iskander



Natasha N. Iskander, James Weldon Johnson Professor of Urban Planning and Public Service, conducts research on the relationship between migration and economic development. Her most recent book, *Does Skill Make Us Human?: Migrant Workers in 21st Century Qatar and Beyond* (Princeton University Press, 2021), examines the use of skill categories to define political personhood, in ways that have become increasingly salient with the hardening borders and the pressures of climate change.

Ethics, AI, and Immigration Policy
10:00 AM -10:15 AM

Charlton McIlwain



Charlton McIlwain has been at NYU since 2001. As Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication at NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, his scholarly work focuses on the intersections of race, digital media, and racial justice activism. He is the founder of the Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies and the author of the new book, *Black Software: The Internet & Racial Justice, From the AfroNet to Black Lives Matter*, by Oxford University Press. He also co-authored the award-winning book, *Race Appeal: How Political Candidates Invoke Race in U.S. Political Campaigns*.

How is AI being used for Immigration Policy and Enforcement?
10:30 AM -12:00 PM
Moderated by Natasha Iskander

Saira Hussain



Saira Hussain is a Senior Staff Attorney focusing on litigation at the intersection of racial and immigrant justice, government surveillance, and technology. Among her work at EFF, she has represented U.S. travelers challenging border searches of their smartphones and other electronic devices; protesters for racial justice challenging police's live camera monitoring of their movement; Asian community leaders challenging a utility company and police's dragnet surveillance of customers' energy usage data; immigrant rights advocates challenging California law enforcement's out-of-state sharing of automated license plate reader data, including with ICE; and academic researchers challenging the California prison system's withholding of race data (to build an AI tool that can detect patterns of bias in parole denial determinations).

Katya Schwenk



Katya Schwenk is a journalist based in Brooklyn. She is currently a staff reporter at The Lever, an investigative news outlet, where among other things, she covers the corruption and profiteering in our courts and the criminal legal system. Her work has been published in Rolling Stone, The Intercept, The Baffler, Lux, Jacobin, the American Prospect, Business Insider, and elsewhere.

Chinmayi Sharma



Chinmayi Sharma is an Associate Professor at Fordham Law School. Her research and teaching focus on open source, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, as well as regulation of and liability for technology harms. She is an advisor to the American Law Institute's Principles of Law, Civil Liability for Artificial Intelligence and a member of the Microsoft Responsible AI Committee. She is a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Institute for Law & AI, a member of the Global Academic Network at the Center for AI & Digital Policy, a Distinguished Fellow at the Georgetown Center on Privacy and Technology, as well as a Non-Resident Fellow at the Strauss Center, and the Atlantic Council.

Steven Hubbard



Steven Hubbard, Ph.D., is a Senior Data Scientist at the American Immigration Council, where he leads research and data visualization projects on immigration policy and demographic change. His work combines data science, design, and visual storytelling to make complex immigration data accessible to policymakers, researchers, and the public. He previously served as a Zolberg Fellow with The New School and the International Rescue Committee, researching Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Jay Stanley



Jay Stanley is Senior Policy Analyst with the American Civil Liberties Union's Speech, Privacy and Technology Project, where for more than 20 years he has been researching, writing, and speaking about technology-related privacy and civil liberties issues and their future. Stanley has written numerous influential ACLU reports and white papers as well as hundreds of blog posts on privacy and other technology policy issues.

Keynote

What even is AI and why does the answer matter for immigration enforcement and governance?

12:15 PM -1:15 PM

Meredith Broussard



Data journalist Meredith Broussard is a professor at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute of New York University, research director at the NYU Alliance for Public Interest Technology, and the author of several award-winning books, including "More Than a Glitch: Confronting Race, Gender, and Ability Bias in Tech" and "Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World."

Introduced by
De Angela Duff



De Angela L. Duff creates and leads university-wide workshops and conferences on AI for NYU faculty, including the upcoming seventh NYU Teaching and Learning with AI Virtual Symposium. She led an NYU student advisory group that developed AI guidelines for NYU students by NYU students and continues to host conversations with students across the university, keeping her work grounded in how students are using and thinking about AI. She holds a dual appointment as Associate Vice Provost at NYU and Industry Professor of Integrated Design & Media (IDM) at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering. In the Office of the Provost, she works closely with Clay Shirky, Vice Provost for AI and Technology in Education, to advance AI and technology-enhanced teaching across the university.

What does the use of AI in immigration policy application and enforcement mean for all of us?

1:30 PM -3:00 PM

Margaret Hu



Margaret Hu is the Davison M. Douglas Professor of Law and director of the Digital Democracy Lab at William & Mary Law School. She is also a research affiliate with the Institute for Computational and Data Sciences at Penn State University, and the School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics and the Global Research Institute at William & Mary. She is the author of *AI Law & Policy* (Aspen Publishing), co-editor of *AI in Society* (Oxford University Press), and editor of *Pandemic Surveillance: Privacy, Security, and Ethics* (Elgar Publishing). Her research interests include the intersection of national security, cybersurveillance,

		and AI and civil rights. Previously, she served as senior policy advisor for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and also served as special policy counsel for immigration-related discrimination in Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C.
Faiza Patel		Faiza Patel is senior director of the Brennan Center's Liberty and National Security Program. She is a nationally recognized expert on government surveillance, especially its targeting of minority communities, domestic terrorism, and the impact of technology on civil rights and civil liberties. Patel has testified before the Senate and House Homeland Security Committees in favor of limits on government surveillance programs. She has authored and coauthored several reports, including *Social Media Monitoring* (2019), *Countering Violent Extremism in the Trump Era* (2018), *Extreme Vetting and the Muslim Ban* (2017), *Countering Violent Extremism* (2017), *Overseas Surveillance in an Interconnected World* (2016), *What Went Wrong with the FISA Court* (2015), *A Proposal for an NYPD Inspector General* (2012), and *Rethinking Radicalization* (2011).
Jacob Silverman		Jacob Silverman is a journalist in New York. He's the author of "Terms of Service: Social Media and the Price of Constant Connection" and "Gilded Rage: Elon Musk and the Radicalization of Silicon Valley." He's the co-author of "Easy Money: Cryptocurrency, Casino Capitalism, and the Golden Age of Fraud," which was a New York Times best seller. He writes about the politics of the tech industry, illicit finance, and how cryptocurrency corrupts the political system.
Iván Chaar López		Iván Chaar López is an assistant professor in Digital Studies in the Department of American Studies at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin. His research and teaching examine the history and politics of computing and information infrastructures, and their relation to racial formation. He is especially interested in the place of Latina/o/es as targets, users, and developers of digital lifeworlds. His first single-authored book, *The Cybernetic Border: Drones, Technology, and Intrusion* (Duke University Press, 2024), shows how US borders are more than instruments of blockage like walls or fences; since the mid-twentieth century they are recursive regimes of datafication and racialization.
Sarah Lamdan		Sarah Lamdan is a lawyer, librarian, researcher, and writer. She studies how emerging technologies and policies affect information access. Sarah was part of the effort to save climate change data from government websites. She explores the ways informational capitalism impacts research platforms and advocates for open access to public information and data privacy. She also writes about government data brokers. Her essays have appeared in Wired and the Georgetown Law Technology Review. Her book Data Cartels was recommended by the New York Times,

reviewed in the Times Literary Supplement, and selected as a notable privacy and security book by privacy expert Daniel Solove in 2022.

Moderated by
Cristina Beltrán



Cristina Beltrán is an associate professor in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University. A political theorist by training, her research and interests focus on modern and contemporary political theory, democratic theory, Latino Studies/Latino politics in the U.S., feminist theory, American political thought, race and ethnicity, and gender and sexuality. She is author of "The Trouble with Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity" (Oxford University Press, 2010) and "Cruelty as Citizenship: How Migrant Suffering Sustains White Democracy" (University of Minnesota Press).

What are avenues for action and accountability?
3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

Ellen Noonan



Ellen Noonan is Clinical Professor of History and Director of the Archives and Public History MA program at New York University. She has nearly three decades of experience as a public historian, digital historian, and history instructor. She is a co-founder of the *Migrants and the State* project, which is developing open source machine learning tools for making U.S. government archival migration records (known as A-files) more accessible to scholars and members of migrant communities.

Eleni Manis



Eleni Manis is Research Director at S.T.O.P., where she has led the organization's research program since 2020. Eleni sets S.T.O.P.'s research agenda and directs the work of the research team, which has produced over 30 reports documenting how mass governmental surveillance threatens privacy and civil rights, particularly for marginalized communities. Her work covers surveillance technology (including facial recognition, gunshot detection, and drones); surveillance databases (including DNA and gang databases); and how police share and purchase data to defy constitutional limits on government spying.
Before joining S.T.O.P., Eleni worked on government technology policy at the NYC Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer and the NYC Mayor's Office of Operations, where she conducted research for the nation's first automated decision systems task force. She began her career as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Franklin & Marshall College, focused on justice in democracies. Eleni earned her PhD in philosophy from the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor, MPA from NYU's Wagner School, and BA from Dartmouth College.

Meg Young



Meg Young is the program director of Data & Society's AI Civics program, working with civic institutions and community-based organizations to deepen public participation in decision-making about how AI is adopted in government, workplaces, and schools. She applies participatory action methods to research on technology governance, with a focus on how to support the public to contest and shape data and AI systems. Meg has collaborated with activists, advocacy groups, and public agencies on capacity-building for technology oversight and public engagement, and previously served as project director of Data & Society's Algorithmic Impact Methods Lab. Much of her research focuses on promoting digital rights in municipal government.

Moderated by
Radha Sarma Hegde



Radha Sarma Hegde is Professor in the Department of Media, Culture and Communication at New York University. Her research publications, editorial work and teaching focus on migration, global media flows, South Asian diaspora and transnational feminism. She is the author of Mediating Migration; co-editor of Routledge Handbook of Indian Diaspora; and editor of Circuits of Visibility: Gender and Transnational Media Cultures. Radha is also one of the co-founders of Manavi, a South Asian women's rights organization.

Virtual Explainers

AI-powered Surveillance and Civil Liberties – 1st Amendment

October 14, 12:00 PM-12:15 PM

Carrie DeCell



Carrie DeCell is a senior staff attorney and legislative advisor at the Knight First Amendment Institute and a lecturer in law at Columbia Law School. Her litigation focuses on freedom of speech on social media, government surveillance of speech at the border, and digital-age threats to freedom of the press. DeCell has been published or quoted in the New York Times, The New Yorker, the Washington Post, The Guardian, The Intercept, and Just Security, and she has appeared on Democracy Now!, NPR's All Things Considered, ABC's The Signal, and Al Jazeera's The Listening Post.

In conversation with
Adam Cox



Adam Cox is the Robert A. Kindler Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, where he teaches and writes about immigration law, constitutional law, and democracy. Before coming to NYU, he was a professor of law at the University of Chicago Law School. He clerked for Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. After his clerkship he served as the Karpatkin Civil Rights Fellow for the American Civil Liberties Union, where he was involved in racial profiling and public defender reform litigation, and practiced at Wilmer, Cutler, and Pickering, where he first litigated immigration cases.

AI-powered Surveillance and Civil Liberties – 4th Amendment

October 21, 12:00 PM-12:15 PM

Matthew Tokson



Matthew Tokson is a Professor of Law at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law and a leading expert in Fourth Amendment law. He also writes about issues in privacy, artificial intelligence, judicial decision-making, and criminal punishment. He graduated from the University of Chicago Law School and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg and to the Honorable David H. Souter of the United States Supreme Court.

In conversation with
Jason Schultz



Jason M. Schultz is a Professor of Law, Director of NYU's Technology Law & Policy Clinic, and Co-Director of the Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy. His clinical projects, research, and writing primarily focus on practical frameworks and policy options to help traditional areas of law such as intellectual property, privacy, consumer protection, and civil rights adapt in light of new technologies and the challenges they pose. His most recent work focuses on the social and legal implications of machine learning, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things.

Regulating AI

October 28, 12:00 PM-12:15 PM

Julia Lane



Julia Lane is a Professor Emerita at the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She was a senior advisor in the Office of the Federal CIO at the White House, supporting the implementation of the Federal Data Strategy. She recently served on the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building and the National AI Research Resources Task Force, the Secretary of Labor's Workforce Innovation Advisory Committee and the National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee on Cyberinfrastructure. She currently serves on the advisory boards of the UK Data Service, Te Pūnaha Matatini (NZ), BERD@NFDI (Germany), Electronic Privacy Information Center (US), and the National Data Platform (US).

In conversation with
Thom Blaylock



Thom Blaylock is a Clinical Professor of Public Policy at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. At Wagner, he teaches professional and public policy communications and is the Clinical Director of the Master of Science in Public Policy Program. Previously, he taught at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Thom has worked as a writer, editor, and consultant. Thom received his bachelor's from Rice University and an MFA from Columbia University's School of the Arts.

Global Comparisons Panel
Wednesday, November 4th, 12 PM-1:30 PM EST

Caitlin Chandler		Caitlin Chandler is a longform journalist and writer covering migration, security and human rights (among other topics). Her stories and essays appear in publications including The New York Times Magazine, The New York Review of Books, Harper's, The Baffler. She is a correspondent for Now Voyager magazine. She teaches journalism and creative nonfiction writing as adjunct faculty at the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) in Berlin and at the Berlin Writers Workshop.
Marie McAuliffe		Marie McAuliffe (PhD) is an international migration expert with over 30 years of experience in migration as a practitioner, program manager, senior UN and government official and researcher. She currently works as an independent consultant delivering migration and displacement data, research and policy services for research institutes, UN agencies, government and industry. Marie is also the part-time Director of the Migration Shift Hub at the PoliSync Centre for International Policy Engagement in Geneva, Switzerland. Previously, she served as the head of the Migration Research and Publications Division at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Geneva (2016 - 2025) and Editor of IOM's flagship World Migration Report series (2016 - 2026).
Emre Eren Korkmaz		Emre Eren Korkmaz is a political scientist and international relations expert. He is driven by a passion to shed light on the social and political impact of technological innovation, focusing surveillance technologies in migration management, border security, and international development. His first monograph, *Smart Borders, Digital Identity and Big Data: How Surveillance Technologies Are Used Against Migrants*, was published by the Bristol University Press in December 2023. He co-edited Data Science for Migration and Mobility - with Professor Albert Ali Salah (University of Utrecht) and Dr. Tuba Bircan (University of Cambridge) - which was published by the Oxford University Press Proceedings of the British Academy in November 2022.
Will Tao		Will Tao is Founder/Counsel at Heron Law Offices, an Immigration, Refugee, Citizenship, Public and Administrative Law Firm based in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. He has over 12 years of experience in the field. Will's work in the AI governance space includes having testified in front of and been cited by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Immigration (CIMM) with respect to IRCC's use of automation tools, consulting as part of a Federal Court of Canada Working Group on their Use of AI Directive, and providing feedback to the Treasury Board Secretariat on their Algorithmic Impact Assessment reviews.

He is the co-founder of a civil society organization called AIMICI, incorporated in October 2025, that explores the use of artificial intelligence technologies in immigration systems in Canada and globally. His litigation work of late is tackling the use of automated systems in Canada's national security screening process, particularly around espionage and subversion-related issues.

Moderated by
Jared McCormick



Jared McCormick is the Director of Graduate Studies at NYU's Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from Harvard with a secondary degree in Critical Media Practice. His research explores tourism, visual cultures, and the cultural imaginations of place across the Middle East.