**Speaker Report #1: "Smart City Data Governance" by Teresa Scassa**

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On Monday, February 21, 2019, the 'Interdisciplinary Research Lab on Cities and Contemporary Urban Processes', directed by Professor Vincent Mirza, hosted Professor Teresa Scassa for a talk entitled "Smart City Data Governance." Scassa is the Canada Research Chair in Information Law and Policy and a full professor in the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Common Law. In her talk, she discussed the growth of smart cities in Canada and the importance of data governance, considering questions of privacy, transparency, intellectual property and licensing, civic engagement, and collaboration between the public and private sectors.

According to Scassa, smart cities are broadly understood to be urban spaces where technology and data collection are combined with infrastructure and other ordinary objects, such as public buses, energy meters, or smartphones. They aim to address social, economic, and environmental problems by promoting digitally mediated and data-driven governance. Drawing on Canadian examples, such as the Waterfront Toronto & Quayside project and the Edmonton Open City project, Scassa explained how the large amounts of data gathered by smart cities projects require a careful balance of transparency, to promote innovation, and privacy, to protect the personal information of urban citizens. Given the rise in smart cities projects and the ongoing introduction of new technologies, these projects change and evolve on an ongoing basis, which requires responsible data governance in the present to protect the rights of citizens in the future. Many issues surrounding confidentiality and transparency stem from the involvement of the public and private sector in smart cities projects, and center around data localization, data security, liability, and access. The relationship between the public and private sector involved in smart cities projects poses questions for all those involved. When and how does data governance start? On what terms should data be shared? Who are the parties involved in these projects? In response to these questions, Scassa explored a variety of potential models or best practices, including civic data trusts, a form of stakeholder-led trust put in place to manage cities' digital information and governance.

Following the talk, those in attendance asked questions that touched on themes of privacy, data ownership, and the broader impacts smart technologies have on urban spaces and residents. Specifically, questions focused on the ways individuals could protect their privacy in smart cities, with Scassa suggesting that individual countermeasures are limited, highlighting the need for good data governance practices. In regards to data ownership, the discussion centered on control and licensing costs, as well as

intellectual property. Scassa indicated that one of the major concerns for those involved in smart cities projects is how to ensure that the private and public sector responsibly handle the sharing of data, particularly given the economic value of this data. Finally, the impact of smart cities technology on residents was also discussed, including how technological changes may affect vulnerable groups, such as the homeless and low-income populations who cannot access many of these technologies. Other questions Scassa's talk raised included: What steps ought municipal, provincial, and federal governments be taking to promote data governance as part of smart cities projects? What are the valuable contributions and ongoing challenges of smart cities projects here in Canada? How will the growth of Smart Cities in Canada affect municipalities and urban residents? Do companies have an obligation to share data with those within the geographical boundaries of their data collection?

More information about Teresa Scassa's work is available at her website (http://www.teresascassa.ca), and for those interested in learning more about smart cities and data governance, take a look at Open North's Open Smart Cities project (https://www.opennorth.ca/open-smart-cities-guide) or MaRS primer on civic data trusts (https://marsdd.gitbook.io/datatrust/). Additionally, for those interested in data discrimination as a social problem, Scassa recommends *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism* by Safiya Umoja Noble.