

# Bard Berlin Conference

## Conference 2015

### Can We Have Some Privacy?

**This international conference is a cooperation between Bard College Berlin, A Liberal Arts University, the ICI Berlin, and the Hannah Arendt Center and the Center for Civic Engagement at Bard College in New York.**

Privacy, as its English usage suggests, is a place and a possession as much as an idea or abstract right—a physical realm supposedly separate from public view. In a world in which technology permeates the personal, the everyday, the intimate, what meaning does this value have? Where privacy is voluntarily surrendered, what is it worth to individuals? And where the internet makes possible mass surveillance, what protections are there for the space, and the experience, of privacy? This conference examines not only the legal arrangements affecting privacy—and the time-lag between law and technological advance—but privacy as a philosophical concept and a cultural tenet. What divisions of activity and status created the idea of “privacy” in the first instance? Is it a disappearing value, or is its erosion a source of crisis? Does the sheer extensiveness of the surveillance enabled by technologies of communication cancel the significance of such monitoring, or generate new forms of persecution?

### Guest Speakers

- Roger Berkowitz, Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities, Bard College, Annandale
- Kerry Bystrom, Bard College Berlin
- Alexander García Düttmann, Universität der Kunste
- Christian Heller, blogger & film critic
- Scott Horton, attorney
- Thomas Keenan, Human Rights Project
- Anna Kim, writer
- Hubertus Knabe, Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial
- Ewa Majewska, Bard College Berlin
- Anatoli Mikhailov, European Humanities University, Minsk
- Catherine Toal, Bard College Berlin
- Ben Wizner, American Civil Liberties Union