

Background Biosketch, 2018

Richard Sobel explores the relationships between citizens and governments, particularly in the policy analysis of privacy and confidentiality issues. These include constitutional and policy questions about governmental surveillance and identification schemes. He also explores the influence of public opinion on foreign and national security policies in the U.S. and cross-nationally. The privacy and foreign policy strands became more closely connected in the post-911 era with concerns for how international issues like anti-terrorism and national security affect the domestic realm, including privacy, civil liberties, citizenship, and public attitudes.

Recently, Dr. Sobel has been a Visiting Scholar at the Buffett Institute and a faculty associate of the Transportation Center at Northwestern. He is an associate of the African American Studies Department and has been an Associate and non-resident fellow of the Du Bois Institute (now Hutchins Center) at Harvard. Previously, he was a Fellow at the Berkman Center on Internet & Society at Harvard Law School. During his fellowship, he worked on issues of privacy and cyberspace," including organizing a session on [Privacy and Cyber/Spaces: Medical and Other Cases](#). He was also a Fellow at the Shorenstein Center on Press, Politics and Public Policy in the Kennedy School of Government, and in the Division of Medical Ethics at Harvard Medical School. He was a Senior Research Associate at the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research in Storrs, CT. He has been a Senior Research Associate and Policy Director, and continues as a Participant and presenter in the Program in Psychiatry and the Law at Harvard Medical School. He is an associate of the Scholars Strategy Network (SSN) and of the Ronin Institute.

In teaching and researching at Princeton, Smith, University of Connecticut, Harvard and Northwestern, his courses include public policy analysis, the social consequences of technology, social movements, the Supreme Court and Privacy, public opinion in foreign policy. He has also taught the Press, Pentagon and Public while a Visiting Professor at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism. He is a former board member of the Eastern Connecticut Civil Liberties Union and of the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union Technology and Privacy Committee. He is a founder and director of the [Cyber Privacy Project](#) in Cambridge and Chicago. He has been a member of the *New York Times* College Program Advisory Board, the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations (CCFR) and Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Midwest Political Science Association, American Association of Public Opinion Research, American Sociological Association, and the American Political Science Association. He has been a consultant on public opinion to the *New York Times*/CBS News poll, the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations study of American Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy, the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute on Race and Justice, and organization concerned with privacy, rights and medical confidentiality.

Dr. Sobel is author and editor of eight books and numerous scholarly, law and policy

[publications](#). His most recent book is *Citizenship as Foundation of Rights: Meaning for America* (Cambridge, 2016), the winner of the George Orwell Prize for contributions to public discussion in 2017. Other books include *The Politics of Joint University and Community Housing Development: Boston, Cambridge and Beyond* (Lexington, 2015), *Public Opinion and International Intervention: Lessons from the Iraq War* (Potomac, 2013), *People and Their Opinions: Making Sense of Public Opinion* (with Eric Shiraev, 1st edition, Longman 2006) and *International Public Opinion and the Bosnia Crisis* (with Eric Shiraev; Lexington, 2003), *The Impact of Public Opinion on U.S. Foreign Policy Since Vietnam: Constraining the Colossus* (Oxford, 2001), and *Public Opinion in U.S. Central America Policy: The Controversy over Contra Aid* (Rowman & Littlefield, 1993). His first book was *The White Collar Working Class: From Structure to Politics* (Praeger, 1989). He is a member of the Cambridge Academic Editors Network (CAEN) and has served as developmental editor on other books.

His articles include: "[The Degradation of Political Identity Under a National Identification System](#)" (*Journal of Science and Technology Law*, Winter 2002), "[The Demeaning of Identity and Personhood in National Identification Systems.](#)" *Journal of Law and Technology* (Spring 2002), respectively, pre- and post-September 11th perspectives on national ID systems, and "[No Privacy for All? Serious Failings in the HHS Medical Records Regulations.](#)" *Journal of Biolaw and Business*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 2002. "[The Right to Travel and Privacy: Intersecting Fundamental Freedoms.](#)" *John Marshal Journal of Information and Privacy Law* (Summer 2014), "[The Right To Travel: A Fundamental Right Of Citizenship.](#)" with Ramon Torres, *Journal of Transportation Law, Logistics and Policy* (Spring 2013). He has also contributed to amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court on the [Hiibel Identification case and Voter ID cases.](#) He authored the report, . [The High Cost of 'Free' Photo Voter Identification](#) for the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute at Harvard Law School, recently cited in a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

Dr. Sobel's work and comments on privacy, confidentiality, and public and foreign policies have appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, [CNN.com](#), [Cambridgeblog.org](#), *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Newsday*, *USA Today*, *Time International* and *Washington Post*. He has been interviewed on privacy, confidentiality, citizenship, immigration, and foreign affairs on NPR, WGN, CNN and CBS radio affiliates and on WGBH and Global TV. He has spoken on "The Bill of Rights," "National Identity Systems," "[The HIPAA Paradox: The Privacy Rule that's Not.](#)" and "[The Impact of Public Opinion on U.S. Foreign Policy since Vietnam.](#)" He keynoted "The Conference on International Information Policy and E-Society" at National Chengchi University in Taiwan and "When Worlds Collide: Emerging Intersection in Privacy, Information Access and Intellectual Property," at John Marshall Law School. He presented the invited lecture on "Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy" at the World Affairs Council, University of Illinois/Springfield. He delivered Grand Rounds on "The HIPAA Paradox" at the Fineberg School of Medicine at Northwestern.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Sobel received a bachelor degree from Princeton University and

a doctorate from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He can be contacted by email at rsobel@hms.harvard.edu