MARCH 12, 2014
REFLECTIONS ON MEDIATED SOCIAL CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE
PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

David Altheide, PhD, is Emeritus Regents’ Professor on the faculty of Justice and Social Inquiry in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University, where he taught for 37 years. His work has focused on the role of mass media and information technology in social control. His most recent books are Qualitative Media Analysis (2nd edition, Sage, 2012) and Terror Post 9/11 and the Media (Lang, 2009). Dr. Altheide received the Cooley Award three times, given to the outstanding book in symbolic interaction, from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction: in 2007 for Terrorism and the Politics of Fear (2006); in 2004 for Creating Fear: News and the Construction of Crisis (2002); and in 1986 for Media Power (1985). Dr. Altheide received the 2005 George Herbert Mead Award for lifetime contributions from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, and the society’s Mentor Achievement Award in 2007. In fall 2012 he was a Fulbright Specialist in Germany (Zeppelin University) and a Distinguished Research Professor in Australia (Law Faculty, University of New South Wales).

Three decades of research have shown how media logic reflexively shapes interaction process, routines, and institutional orders. An emerging ecology of communication clarifies how technologies reflect, refine, and contribute to negotiating social interaction within institutionally mediated contexts as everyday life activities integrate media forms. The pervasive role of mediation has increased surveillance and provided more technology for preventing and constructing fear, on the one hand, and enabled creative resistance to symbolic presentations of resistance to such control efforts, on the other hand.