

James Walsh, PhD

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Oshawa, ON, CA

International immigration and border security expert analyzes society's role in monitoring and reporting issues or potential threats

In the wake of escalating terrorist attacks around the world, heightened concerns about border safety and security have captured the critical attention of government and law enforcement agencies. International immigration expert, James Walsh, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, examines the timely issues of border security and migration control in some of the largest Western nations: Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

His global research dovetails into the study of domestic policing and crime control including the ways government agencies partner with businesses, community groups, and the public at large to facilitate law enforcement. One of those ways explores the role of university employees in governing and regulating the migration of international students in the U.S., U.K. and Australia. Dr. Walsh's research also evaluates the effectiveness of anonymous tip lines related to undocumented migrations in several countries. His latest research investigates the use of social media including official twitter feeds by immigration departments and border security in Canada, the U.S. and Australia. He is studying their methods to enlist public support for the use of tip lines and other means of anonymously reporting violations of the law. His work also relates to crime and media, and draws on the parallels of reality television shows about border security in Australia, the U.S., and the U.K. to better understand their deeper societal consequences.

Attempts to involve the public with migration policing speak to the patterns of inequality and social exclusion, and help create of a culture of suspicion in today's society. Dr. Walsh's research aims to address concerns about interethnic relationships within democratic societies and the harm these policies inflict without the proper checks.

One of three countries he wrote his dissertation on, Dr. Walsh moved to Canada to join UOIT in 2015, following the completion of a post-doctoral fellowship with the Social Science and Policy Forum at the University of Pennsylvania. Previously, he served as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Richmond in Virginia. He obtained both his Doctorate and Master of Arts in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and History at the University of Kansas.

Education/Learning, Public Safety, Research, Security, Safety, Social Media

Surveillance Security and Social Control, Borders Mobility and Migration, Policing, Law and Society, Crime and Justice, Global and International Studies, Political Sociology, Crime and Media

American Society of Criminology, American Sociological Association , Law and Society Association

Border Theatre and Security Spectacles: Surveillance, Mobility, and Reality-based Television
Thought Exchange Program – Toronto Public Library

The Impact of Foreign-Born Scientists and Engineers on American Nanoscience Research Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics 25th Annual Meeting

Quantifying Citizens: Neoliberal Restructuring and Immigrant Selection in Canada and Australia
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting

From Border Control to Border Care: Humane Borders and the Political and Ethical Potentials of Countersurveillance
2010 Law and Society Annual Meeting

University of California, Santa Barbara
PhD Sociology

University of California, Santa Barbara
MA Sociology

University of Kansas
BA Sociology and History

Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
Awarded a one-year, post-doctoral fellowship within the Social Science and Policy Forum. While in residence, Dr. Walsh attended weekly seminars and conducted research on immigration policy.

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