

Charity Number 1117449

Surveillance Studies Network

**Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 April 2008**

**Charity Number 1117449
Company Number 5794137**

Surveillance Studies Network
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Surveillance Studies Network
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The Directors present their report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2008.

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: Surveillance Studies Network

Charity Registration Number: 1117449

Company Registration Number: 5794137

Registered Office: 26 Woodholm Road
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S11 9HT

Board of Directors

Dr Kirstie Wright
Professor Stephen Graham
Professor David Lyon
Dr David Murakami Wood
Ms Laurie Nicholls Treasurer
Professor Clive Norris

Company Secretary

Dr Kirstie Wright

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank, PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Solicitors

Simmons and Simmons, CityPoint, One Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9SS

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The organization is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25th April 2006 and registered as a charity on 4th January 2007. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which contained the objects and powers of the charitable company, and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of the board of directors

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Board of Directors are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting for a further three years. No director may serve more than six consecutive years on the board.

Surveillance Studies Network's primary aim is to inform and educate the public about current developments in surveillance practice through its free to access online journal, 'Surveillance and Society'. Surveillance Studies Network was founded to form a legally independent home for the journal, and so the first board of directors are the journal's co-founding editors. In future years, individuals will be eligible to stand for election to directorship if they are a member of the Network and Editorial Board of the charitable company, which is described later in this report. Each director is required to be an appointed academic whose main research interest is an aspect of the surveillance society, as evidenced through their scholarly publications and practice.

Director induction and training

Every director is already familiar with the practical work of Surveillance Studies Network, each having served as a founding co-editor of the journal Surveillance and Society since its inception in 2002. Since its registration as a Charitable Company, each director has been diligent in familiarising themselves with the responsibilities associated with director/trustee role, as outlined by the Charity Commission, and in the Nolan principles. Directors have collaborated to produce a code of conduct and have undertaken to adhere to the newly-drawn-up internal governing document of the charitable company. One director has undertaken additional training concerning the role of the Company Secretary.

Risk Management

As part of the registration process the directors considered the major risks to which the charitable company was exposed, which primarily concerned the viability of running Surveillance Studies Network as a going concern. The main risk in this respect concerns competition. As it is the first formal academic organization in this field of study (Surveillance Studies) it does not have any direct competitors. As a trans-disciplinary sub-discipline of sociology, geography, organization theory, political science, art, literature, film studies and international studies (among others), it is not envisaged that we are in competition for membership with larger academic associations (such as the British Sociological Association, or the British Criminological Association, for example). Campaigning organizations such as

Privacy International or the Electronic Privacy Information Centre (EPIC) are not our direct competitors as their core activities concern activism rather than education.

Becoming a charitable company is itself a risk management strategy for the journal and its editors in two significant ways. First, it gives the journal independent legal status which protects it from being sold to publishing houses, thereby ensuring that it remains free to access for the general public. Second, it protects the editors from personal legal liability in the event of any dispute surrounding the content of the journal.

Organisational Structure

The organisational structure of Surveillance Studies Network is derived from the following:

- It has two classes of member: ordinary members and executive members
- It has two streams of activity: administration of the charitable company and production of its journal

Executive Members comprise the directors and the members of the Network and Editorial Board. Executive members have various responsibilities regarding the management of the charitable company's activities, and are entitled to vote at annual general meetings. Ordinary members pay a biannual subscription and as part of their membership are entitled to:

- The opportunity to stand for election to the board of Surveillance Studies Network and Surveillance and Society
- Discounts on all SSN-sponsored conferences and events
- Approval and sponsorship of their research bids and events about surveillance
- Access to a member's area on the website, containing network and knowledge building opportunities
- Optional entry onto a list of media experts

The charitable company is governed by the Executive Board, which is constituted by its five directors, a treasurer and a company secretary, which deals with overall matters of governance and policy relating to the charitable company. When the charity is fully launched and ordinary members are able to join, there will be two seats on the executive board for members' representatives.

The day to day running of the journal is completed by the Network and Editorial Board, where the directors and other executive members work together on journal production. The relationship between the two boards is shown in the diagram below. The diagram also shows the content of our two websites – one relating to the charitable company (surveillance-studies.net) and one containing our journal (surveillance-and-society.org) – and how they inter-relate.

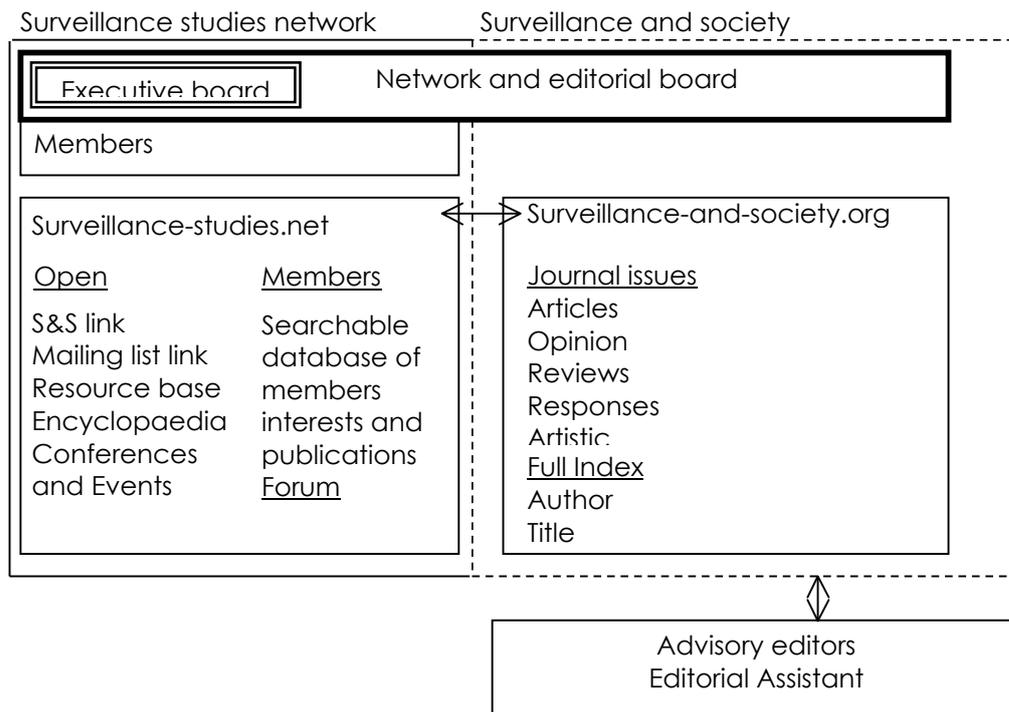


Figure 1: Governance structure of Surveillance Studies Network, incorporating our two websites *Surveillance-Studies.net* and *Surveillance-and-Society.org*

Currently, the Network and Editorial Board comprises 16 members. The aim is to have as many areas of the world represented as possible, cutting across as many disciplines and areas of expertise relevant to surveillance studies. So far the disciplines represented are: Sociology; Human Geography; Urban Studies; Science and Technology Studies; Organization Studies; Government; Media and Communication Studies; Gender Studies. The geographic regions represented are: Canada; Europe (Finland, Germany, Norway, UK); Australasia; India and Japan.

There are a few specific mandates for board members, but individual roles are still emerging. General responsibilities for board members are:

- Generating proposals for new issues based on their own research and expertise; or pressing issues within the field
- Identifying potential guest editors and reviewers
- Suggesting journal content which is representative of their geographical area or region
- Attendance at and contribution to decisions and discussion items at board meetings
- Suggesting fund raising ideas

Specific responsibilities which have emerged so far include:

- Communications editor: responsible for website development
- Book review editor

The only selection criteria are that the editorial board member has a record of scholarly research and publication in Surveillance Studies and has strong collegial values. Everyone's contributions to the organization are on a purely voluntary basis. The editorial board is supported by an editorial assistant, whose time is currently being donated by Queen's University, Canada. In future years, it is hoped that enough funding will be raised to pay a small honorarium to a post-graduate student for editorial assistance.

The advisory editors referred to in figure one are external advisors who are not part of the governance structure of the organization, but who are sufficiently experienced in order to advise the journal on technical and academic matters as and when they arise.

Objectives and Activities

The objects for which the Company is established are to advance education for the public benefit by promoting the study of surveillance as a facet of contemporary social and technological change, and the study of its consequences for individuals, groups, organizations, nations and regions. Pursuant to this overall objective we also:

- Support and promote the free exchange of academic information about surveillance across academic disciplines and cultures
- Promote learning and the sharing of knowledge about surveillance between scholars, students, organisations and the public world-wide;
- Own and publish the journal 'Surveillance and Society' and other online resources devoted to the publication of communications which advance knowledge concerning the study of surveillance and society.

The main objectives for the year 2007 – 2008 concerned continuing to establish Surveillance Studies Network as an organization, which primarily involved:

- Raising awareness of Surveillance Studies Network
- Ensuring continuation of funding by running our biannual conference
- Developing surveillance-studies.net
- Continuing to publish Surveillance and Society
- Sponsoring other events and conferences

Achievements and Performance

In this section we report against each objective set for this year which we regard as pursuant to our overall charitable objects.

Raising awareness of Surveillance Studies Network

Prior to its registration as a charitable company, the directors of Surveillance Studies Network successfully tendered for a contract to write 'A Report on the Surveillance Society' for the Information Commissioner of the United Kingdom. In the year's activities covered by the current annual report and accounts, the Directors, and members of the Network and Editorial Board have continued to appear regularly in

the international and national broadcast and print media to comment on aspects of The Surveillance Society.

The growing influence of Surveillance Studies Network has led to its appointment, in January 2008, as partner to a Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MRCI) funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada entitled 'The New Transparency'. The New Transparency is a seven year funded project, which aims to foster communication, collaboration, and co-ordinate research activities between leading scholars, graduate students, and policymakers who research and regulate The Surveillance Society. Specifically, the project aims to address questions surrounding the expansion, supporting infrastructures and consequences of the Surveillance Society. The project is led by one of the directors, Professor David Lyon of Queens University, Canada, which holds the funding and the project began on the 1st April 2008. Surveillance Studies Network will support the project by publicizing its activities and findings, and enabling issues of its journal, *Surveillance and Society*, to become available for the dissemination of specific project outcomes.

Finally, the British government has responded to 'A Report on the Surveillance Society' by conducting a House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee enquiry into the Surveillance Society in 2007. A House of Lords Constitution Committee enquiry into the Surveillance Society was also launched in April 2007 and is still ongoing. Professor Charles Raab, from the University of Edinburgh, a member of the Network and Editorial Board, is the specialist advisor to the House of Lords committee.

Ensuring continuation of funding by running our biannual conference

The Surveillance Studies Network/*Surveillance and Society* biannual conference is the main way to raise funds two reasons. First, because it enables members to join the organization, and second, because a small proportion profits raised at the conference are going to be donated to the organization.

'Invisibilities: The Politics, Practice and Experience of Surveillance in Everyday Life', our third biannual conference, took place at the University of Sheffield on the 2nd and 3rd April 2008. A total of 54 papers were presented, which explored a broad range of perspectives on and incidences of surveillance in society. Young scholars, in particular, made excellent contributions. An exciting keynote speech was given by Dr John McGrath, author of 'Loving Big Brother' and now Artistic Director of the National Theatre of Wales. The highlight, however, was the reading of a paper specifically written for the conference by one of the world's leading sociologists, Professor Zygmunt Bauman, with a response delivered by Professor David Lyon.

As well as being a stimulating intellectual event, the conference also achieved its objective of recruiting members and raising funds (see note 11 to the accounts).

Developing surveillance-studies.net

The website is the main vehicle through which we promote our activities and events, and eventually it will serve as a networking hub and resource base for our members.

Work is progressing on the web site in order that members may join Surveillance Studies Network and make donations through it. In the current reporting year we have commissioned some software which will enable us to administer membership through our website.

Continuing to publish Surveillance and Society

Publication of the journal Surveillance and Society is the main way that we pursue our charitable objectives. We aim to publish either three or four issues a year with an average of six articles per issue. We encourage submissions in a number of formats:

- Full length peer reviewed article (8000 words)
- Opinion piece (3000 words)
- Review article (3000 words)
- Book reviews (1200 words)
- Artistic submissions (images, videos, poetry, performance pieces etc)

Our peer review process is of the highest standard. For each issue of Surveillance and Society, either the editor in chief, a member of the editorial board, or a set of guest editors are responsible for the review process. In the case of the latter, a member of the editorial board is usually on hand to answer any queries from the guest editors. The editorial assistant deals with administration of each issue and communication with the authors, editors and reviewers.

Upon receiving a submission, the editor in chief or guest editor reads the submission to decide whether it is to be sent out for review. If not, the submission is rejected, if so, the submission is sent to a minimum of two referees, selected by the editor on the basis of their expertise in the subject matter of the submission. The identity of the author is not revealed to the referees, nor that of the referees to the author. Referees are encouraged not to accept the submission for review if they think they recognise the work.

Referees are provided with a set of detailed guidelines by which to write their reviews. They rate the submission, and then provide separate comments for the authors and the editor of the issue. In each case, the editor in chief or guest editor constructively summarises the reviews for the authors, and prioritises the most critical or important revisions.

In the current reporting year we have published one open issue for general contributions and two themed special issues concerning Crime, justice and CCTV. In total we have published 12 full length academic articles, 1 opinion piece and 15 book reviews in this period. Publication of the journal has been aided by a part time editorial assistant, whose time was donated by The Surveillance Project at Queens University, Canada, of which one of the directors is leader.

Sponsoring other events and conferences

As part of their academic roles, several of the directors and other colleagues have successfully applied for funding to the UK's Economic and Social Research Council to run a 6 part seminar series entitled 'The Everyday Life of Surveillance'. While this

does not mean that material funding will accrue to Surveillance Studies Network, the Network is able to lend its name to the series for publicity purposes.

The first seminar of this series took place in the current reporting year. On 1st April 2008, a seminar was held at The University of Sheffield, entitled 'Exposure: Understanding the experience of surveillance'. Co-ordinated by Dr Kirstie Ball and Professor Clive Norris, two of the directors. It featured talks by four leading academics addressing surveillance and performance art (Dr John McGrath, National Theatre of Wales), reality television (Dr Gareth Palmer, Salford University), the electronic tagging of offenders (Professor Mike Nellis, Strathclyde University) and webcams (Dr Hille Koskela, Academy of Finland).

Financial Review

As this is the second year of operation for Surveillance Studies Network, we have very limited financial resources. It has been very difficult to develop our activities beyond the core objectives of publishing Surveillance and Society and enabling the organization to function as intended.

Principal funding sources

All of the work undertaken for the charitable company by the directors and editorial board is on a voluntary basis, and the work of our part time editorial assistant is a gift in kind from Queens University. However, once surveillance-studies.net is fully functional, and our conference has taken place, membership fees will be the main source of funding. These funds are primarily to be used to generate a small honorarium for editorial assistance, and to cover support costs. In future it may be that we will be able to offer small travel grants and research pump priming grants to members. We will also be able to apply for funding to develop aspects of its website, for example, an online resource base about surveillance.

Investment policy

Aside from retaining a small amount in reserves most of the charitable company's resources are to be spent in the short term so there are no funds available for long term investment.

Reserves policy

As the amount held by the charity in reserves is extremely small, the only policy relating to the reserves is that they are held as a buffer in case of any unexpected start up and support costs.

Plans for future periods

The charitable company plans to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements. Surveillance Studies Network will always operate on a small scale, only intending to cover the costs of producing our journal, particularly those associated with editorial assistance. With the main source of funding as our biannual conference and membership fees, any further income will need to be secured through grant applications. It is of fundamental importance that the journal remains free to access online and as such journal production is our core business and will remain a priority in the coming years.

