

# Sean O'Brien

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## EDUCATION

**University of South Africa**, Pretoria, Gauteng, ZA

Ph.D. Student, Law

Current

Focus: Technology and Comparative International Law

**University of Connecticut**, Storrs, Connecticut, USA

M.A.Ed., Educational Technology

2008

Focus: Command Line Literacy

B.A., Interactive Digital Media

2005

Concentration: Creative Writing

## EXPERIENCE

**Purism SPC**, San Francisco, California & Seattle, Washington, USA

**Director of Business Development**

Oct 2018 – Present

Purism sells high-quality privacy, security, and freedom-focused computers and software.

PureOS is a user friendly, secure, and freedom-respecting operating system.

Librem 5, the world's first ethical, user-controlled smartphone will be shipped in 2019.

**Yale University**, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

**Lecturer in Law, Yale Law School**

Aug 2018 – Present

Developing curriculum with Prof. Scott J. Shapiro for Cybersecurity, LAW 20310

Hands-on learning via Raspberry Pi, Debian GNU/Linux, FreedomBox, and Kali Linux penetration testing.

Development of custom software, network topology, and lab design.

**Visiting Fellow, Yale Privacy Lab**

Jun 2017 – Present

Founder of this initiative of the Information Society Project, focusing on privacy and security.

Digital forensic analysis of Android applications, with press in 80+ international news outlets.

Design of cybersecurity and Surveillance Self-Defense curriculum, emphasis on censorship circumvention.

**Asst. Director of Technology, International Students & Scholars**

Jan 2013 – Oct 2018

Drupal development and design of custom Web applications.

Deployment of middleware for various systems and databases (fsaATLAS, Banner, Workday).

Improvement of inter-office communication (Jabber/XMPP, wikis, phpBB).

**University of Connecticut**, Storrs, Connecticut, USA

**Website Manager, Student Financial Aid Services**

Aug 2001 – Jan 2013

Design and maintenance of multiple websites, blogs, and wikis.

Systems administration with GNU/Linux and Apache, desktop repair and troubleshooting.

Development of custom Web applications, integration with Oracle/PeopleSoft.

## PRESS & PUBLICATIONS

"I Cut the Big Five Tech Giants From My Life. It Was Hell"

*Gizmodo*

Feb 2019

"I Cut Google Out Of My Life. It Screwed Up Everything"

*Gizmodo*

Jan 2019

"Grassroots Networks Mobilize From Coast-to-Coast to Promote Digital Rights"

*Electronic Frontier Foundation Deeplinks*

Dec 2018

"Facebook Is Not Equipped To Stop The Spread of Authoritarianism"

*TechCrunch*

Dec 2018

"Privacy & Security Reading List"

*Purism Blog*

Dec 2018

"Ads Are Tracking You in the Real World, Too"

*Firewalls Don't Stop Dragons*

Dec 2018

“Securing The Institutions We Rely On: A Grassroots Case Study” <i>Electronic Frontier Foundation Deeplinks</i>	Dec 2018
“IRL Ads Are Taking Scary Inspiration From Social Media” <i>Medium Technology</i>	Nov 2018
“Cybersecurity Class Hacks Raspberry Pi Smart Pumpkin” <i>BoingBoing</i>	Nov 2018
“Break-in Attempted at Assange’s Residence in Ecuador Embassy” <i>Consortium News</i>	Nov 2018
“At MozFest, Spend 7 Days Exploring Internet Health” <i>Mozilla Blog</i>	Oct 2018
“Privacy Up-Settings: When Private Becomes A Selling Point” <i>India Times</i>	Sep 2018
“EBGAP: Error Between Google and Privacy” <i>BoingBoing</i>	Aug 2018
“Google weiss, wo Sie jetzt gerade sind” <i>SonntagsZeitung</i>	Aug 2018
“What You Can Do To Prevent Google From Tracking Your Phone” <i>Popular Science</i>	Aug 2018
“Google Tracks Users Who Turn Off Location History” <i>BBC World Radio</i>	Aug 2018
“Every Move You Make, Every Step You Take, Google’s Tracking You” <i>NPR AirTalk</i>	Aug 2018
“Google Stores Users’ Location Regardless of Privacy Settings” <i>Consumer Affairs</i>	Aug 2018
“Google Tracks Your Movements, Like It or Not” <i>Associated Press Exclusive</i>	Aug 2018
“Hard Questions of Privacy and Freedom with the Yale Privacy Lab Podcast” <i>BoingBoing</i>	Aug 2018
“Yale Cyber Leadership Forum Reports on Key Areas of Cyber Risk” <i>Yale News</i>	Jul 2018
“The Critical Flaw in India’s Mobile Security” <i>Economic Times</i>	Jul 2018
“Facebook Domination vs. Self-Determination” <i>BoingBoing</i>	Jul 2018
“GDPR: Don’t Forget To Bring a Towel!” <i>BoingBoing</i>	May 2018
“Episode 41: Ultrasonic Tracking” <i>Twenty Thousand Hertz</i>	Apr 2018
“The Secret Sharers: Are Your Favorite Apps Watching You?” <i>Yale Alumni Magazine</i>	Mar 2018
“BSNL Cyber Security Could Have Been Fixed Two Years Ago” <i>Business Today</i>	Mar 2018
“Bad Aadhaar Cybersecurity Tramples on the Right to Privacy” <i>Business Today</i>	Feb 2018
“Reviving the Independence of Cyberspace” <i>BoingBoing</i>	Feb 2018

“Love, Sex, and Trackers - Tinder and Other Dating Apps Are Spies In Your Bedroom” <i>BoingBoing</i>	Jan 2018
“Android Users: To Avoid Malware, Ditch Google’s App Store” <i>WIRED</i>	Jan 2018
“Apple Health Data Is Being Used as Evidence in a Rape and Murder Investigation” <i>Motherboard/VICE</i>	Jan 2018
“How And Why Apple, Google, And Facebook Follow You Around In Real Life” <i>Fast Company</i>	Dec 2017
“The Targets of Mobile Apps: Your Health, Your Ancestors, and Your Baby” <i>Motherboard/VICE</i>	Dec 2017
“Gillette Knows Whether You Shave Because Tinder Told It About You” <i>CBC Spark</i>	Dec 2017
“Three Quarters of Android Apps Track Users with Third Party Tools – Study” <i>The Guardian</i>	Nov 2017
“Uber, Tinder, Snapchat and Other Top Apps Include Trackers That Secretly Watch Everything Users Do” <i>The Independent</i>	Nov 2017
“Surprise: Android Apps Are Riddled with Trackers” <i>The Register</i>	Nov 2017
“Les mouchards des applications mobiles - nous rapprochent d’un monde à la Minority Report” <i>Le Monde</i>	Nov 2017
“Staggering Variety of Clandestine Trackers Found in Popular Android Apps” <i>The Intercept</i>	Nov 2017

**TEACHING & PRESENTATIONS**

Cybersecurity, LAW 20310, Yale Law School <i>Lecturer in Law</i>	Aug 2019 – Dec 2019
“Teaching Privacy and Security via Free Software”, LibrePlanet Conference, MIT <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Mar 2019
“Law, Technology, & Cybersecurity”, Yale Cyber Leadership Forum <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Mar 2019
“Digital Self-Defense Workshop”, RebLaw Conference, Yale Law School <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Feb 2019
Cybersecurity, LAW 20310, Yale Law School <i>Lecturer in Law</i>	Aug 2018 – Dec 2018
“Privacy Lab: Digital Self-Defense Workshop”, Information Society Project at Yale Law School <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Nov 2018
“Privacy Lab: Mobile App Analysis”, Yale Center for Engineering Innovation and Design <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Nov 2018
“Tracking Mobile Trackers”, Mozilla Festival 2018 <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Oct 2018
“Privacy Lab: Mapping Surveillance Devices”, Information Society Project at Yale Law School <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Oct 2018
“FreedomBox, Your Private Server”, Information Society Project at Yale Law School <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Oct 2018
“Privacy Lab: Tracking Mobile Trackers”, Information Society Project at Yale Law School <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Sep 2018

“Penetration Testing with the Raspberry Pi”, NewHaven.io, MakeHaven <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Jul 2018
“Privacy Through Action: Proactive Strategy”, Guggenheim Securities <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Jun 2018
“Facebook Surveillance: Cambridge Analytica and Privacy”, Yale School of Management <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Apr 2018
“Interactive Cyber Attack Simulation”, Yale Cyber Leadership Forum <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Apr 2018
“Exposing Hidden Surveillance in Mobile Apps”, LibrePlanet Conference, MIT <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Mar 2018
“Resolved: Protect Net Neutrality”, Yale Political Union <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Jan 2018
“Cyber Freedom & Security”, Information Society Project at Yale Law School <i>Instructor</i>	Fall 2017
“Privacy Lab: International Students & Scholars”, International Center, Yale University <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Nov 2017
“Privacy Lab: Information Systems”, Quinnipiac University <i>Guest Lecturer</i>	Oct 2017
“Privacy Lab Skillshare: Digital Self-Defense”, Information Society Project at Yale Law School <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Sep 2017
“Privacy Lab: Library Freedom”, Yale Law Library <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Aug 2017
“Citizen FOSS: What Snowden Knew”, Information Society Project at Yale Law School <i>Instructor</i>	Spring 2017
“What Snowden Knew: Privacy, Anonymity, & Freedom”, RebLaw Conference, Yale Law School <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Feb 2016
“Stay Secure! Digital Survival”, International Center, Yale University <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Nov 2015
“Free/Open-Source Software”, NAFSA Regional Conference, New Britain, Connecticut, USA <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Oct 2015
“Thomson Reuters Speakers Series: Cryptography & Open-Source Solutions”, Yale Law School <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Oct 2014
“New Haven Software Freedom Day”, Free Software Foundation & MakeHaven <i>Organizer</i>	Sep 2014
“Cryptoparty: Learn how to use encryption tech”, Information Society Project at Yale Law School <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	Apr 2014
“Software Blowback: Studying the FOSS response to the Snowden disclosures”, Yale ISP <i>Presenter</i>	Mar 2014
“Ideas Lunch: Makerspaces and MakeHaven”, Information Society Project at Yale Law School <i>Co-Presenter</i>	Oct 2013
“New Haven Software Freedom Day”, Free Software Foundation & MakeHaven <i>Organizer</i>	Sep 2013
“Classroom Surveillance”, Liberating Education Conference, Wesleyan University <i>Invited Speaker</i>	Mar 2013

<b>CONTINUING EDUCATION</b>	<i>Blockchain Specialization</i> (Verified Certificate) University at Buffalo and The State University of New York via Coursera	Pursuing 2019
	<i>Cybersecurity Electronics Division Meeting</i> (Seminar) NDIA workshop on hardware security at Lockheed Martin, Arlington, Virginia	2019
	<i>Global Human Rights Teach-Out</i> (Seminar) SDG Talk via Coursera	2018
	<i>Software Freedom Law Center Fall Conference</i> (Seminar) New York CLE, Columbia University	2018
	<i>Cybersecurity Electronics Division Meeting</i> (Seminar) NDIA workshop on hardware security at Lockheed Martin, Arlington, Virginia	2018
	<i>Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) Assurance</i> (Seminar) NDIA workshop on chipset security at MITRE, McLean, Virginia	2018
	<i>Project Management for Yale Professionals</i> (Seminar) PDU, Yale University	2018
	<i>Understanding EU Privacy Law and GDPR</i> (Audited) Reading group at Yale Law School, Yale University	2018
	<i>Software Freedom Law Center Fall Conference</i> (Seminar) New York CLE, Columbia University	2017
	<i>Mozilla &amp; Stanford HCI Open Design Drive</i> (Design Team) Accessibility design via Slack	2017
	<i>Cybersecurity Due Diligence in Technology M&amp;A Transactions</i> (Seminar) American Bar Association CLE, Yale University	2017
	<i>Artificial Intelligence (AI)</i> (Audited) ColumbiaX CSMM.101x, Columbia University via edX	2017
	<i>International Courts and Tribunals in The Hague</i> (Audited) Universiteit Leiden via Coursera	2017
	<i>Cybersecurity: Technology, Application and Policy</i> (Verified Certificate) MITProfessionalX CSx, Massachusetts Institute of Technology via edX	2016
	<i>USCIS SEVP Developer Meeting</i> (Seminar) Discussion of SEVIS software, Arlington, Virginia	2016
	<i>Surveillance Law</i> (Audited) Facilitated by Prof. Jonathan Meyer, Stanford Law School via Coursera	2015
	<i>Computer Science and Programming Using Python</i> (Verified Certificate) MITx 6.00.1x, Massachusetts Institute of Technology via edX	2015
	<i>GPL Enforcement and Legal Ethics</i> (Seminar) Free Software Foundation seminar at Suffolk University Law School	2014
	<i>Constitutional Law</i> (Verified Certificate) Facilitated by Prof. Akhil Reed Amar, Yale Law School via Coursera	2014
	<i>Introduction to Linux</i> (Verified Certificate) LFS101x, Linux Foundation via edX	2014
Linux Foundation Certified Engineer (LFCE) and Sysadmin (LFCS) Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)	Pursuing 2019 Pursuing 2019	
<b>PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS</b>		
Mozilla Open Leaders, San Francisco, California, USA Mentor		2019 – Present

OpSecEdu, Bend, Oregon, USA Advisor	2019 – Present
ISO PC 317 Technical Advisory Group, “Privacy by Design”, Washington, DC, USA Member	2019 – Present
OASIS Technical Committees, “Cyber Threat Intelligence”, “Emergency Management Adoption”, “Legal Citation Markup”, Burlington, Massachusetts, USA Member	2019 – Present
Yale Center for Engineering Innovation & Design, New Haven, Connecticut, USA Member	2017 – Present
MakeHaven Makerspace, New Haven, Connecticut, USA Member	2012 – Present
Free Software Foundation, Boston, Massachusetts, USA Member	2009 – Present
Mozilla Open Leaders, San Francisco, California, USA Open Leader	2018
W3C Data Privacy Vocabularies & Controls, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA Member	2018
MakeHaven Makerspace, New Haven, Connecticut, USA Board Member	2015 – 2018
Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, New Haven, Connecticut, USA Board Member	2014 – 2015
NAFSA Association of International Educators, Washington D.C., USA Member	2013 – 2014
University of Connecticut Software Licensing Group, Storrs, Connecticut, USA Member	2006 – 2013

#### INTERESTS

I am an avid homebrewer of beer, wine, and cider. I am a certified bartender (CT SMART 2005, PSCC 2014, TIPS 2015), and continue to learn more about craft breweries, wine, and spirits (Cicerone CBS 2014, PSCC Advanced Wine Knowledge 2014, PSCC Advanced Liquor Knowledge 2014).

#### REFERENCES

<b>Scott J. Shapiro</b> <i>Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy, Yale Law School</i>	scott.shapiro@yale.edu
<b>Rebecca Crootof</b> <i>Executive Director, Information Society Project at Yale Law School</i>	rebecca.crootof@yale.edu
<b>Todd Weaver</b> <i>Founder and CEO, Purism SPC (Private, Secure Hardware &amp; Software)</i>	todd.weaver@puri.sm