

# The NSA: Secrecy and the Security State in the Social Media Age

**Professor Paul S. Rundquist, PhD**

The National Security Agency has likely received more press coverage in the last seven months than it has in the sixty years since NSA was established as a modern day incarnation of eavesdropping soldiers who served in the old Signal Corps, deciphering coded messages and listening to radio broadcasts. Since 1954, the NSA's job has become both easier and infinitely more complex. Since modern technology gives the NSA the ability to do much more than it ever has before, does that mean that it should be allowed to do whatever it can do in the name of safety and security in an unquiet age? President Obama has outlined a path to alter the authority of the NSA and to adjust the American government's policies with regard to intelligence gathering and privacy. Will Obama's plans mute criticism of the NSA and yet provide adequate information about possible security threats? The talk hopes to examine these competing and conflicting policy goals, and see if a resolution to them is possible.

Paul S. Rundquist, Ph.D., is a former congressional operations specialist with the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress where he worked for 31 years. He has travelled and worked extensively for international organizations on developing constitutions and new legislative rules in new democracies. He has served as an adjunct professor at the George Washington University, the Catholic University of America and the American University, Washington and taught at the London School of Economics (LSE) in the 2005-2008 academic years. In 2006/07, he was a Fulbright professor of politics at the University of Halle/Wittenberg, in 2007/08 a Fulbright professor of International Relations at the School of International Studies at TU Dresden. In the 2013-14 academic year, he teaches at Martin Luther University Halle/Wittenberg, and lectures frequently at various German universities, including TU Dresden's School of International Studies (ZIS), as well as at programs sponsored by several German foundations.

Datum: **Dienstag, 28. Januar 2014**  
Beginn: **18:30 Uhr**  
Ort: **Hörsaalzentrum, Bergstraße 64, Raum 304**