technology, policy & ethics

LECTURE SERIES AT CAL POLY, SLO

Who: **PROF. SHANNON VALLOR, Santa Clara University**

When: **THURS, MAR 5, 2015 @ 4:00-5:30p**

Where: **Building 7, Advanced Technology Laboratories (ATL)**

Ethics for Software/App Design

This talk is *free* and *open* to the public!

Sponsored by:

- *College of Liberal Arts & its Lottery Speakers Fund*
- *College of Engineering & its Cybersecurity Center*
- *Science, Technology, and Society (STS) Minors Program*
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Abstract: Software apps are shaping the 21st century world. And when ethics is missing, app developers suffer **blowback** from users, media critics, industry leaders, and regulators. Think of Uber's GodView tool that tracks users without their permission, to Facebook's Year-in-Review app clumsily celebrating deeply personal and tragic events in users' lives, to Snapchat's sluggish response to data security lapses—and **too many other examples**. Ethics is hard, and today's app developers must confront dizzying trade-offs among competing values, such as privacy, security, transparency, control, usability, cost and quality of user experience. In her talk, Prof. Vallor will outline the emerging ethical issues in app development, and explain how practical judgment—with the right training—can help app developers **safely** navigate this rocky terrain.

Bio: Shannon Vallor, PhD, is the chairperson of the Philosophy Department at Santa Clara University in Silicon Valley, where she explores the ethical implications of emerging technologies— including social media, robotics and digital surveillance—especially the impact of technology on the cultivation of virtues. She is the author of a forthcoming book: *21st Century Virtue: Cultivating the Technomoral Self*. Among her many roles, she is Vice-President and President-Elect of The Society for Philosophy and Technology (SPT) and a Scholar of Santa Clara's Markkula Center for Applied Ethics.

For more info: Dr. Patrick Lin at **palin@calpoly.edu** • **http://ethics.calpoly.edu**