

**University of Southern California  
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism**

**INFORMATION/FACTS SHEET FOR NON-MEDICAL RESEARCH**

**Defying Censorship, Evading Surveillance:  
The Political Economy of Circumvention Technology**

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Nathalie Maréchal under the supervision of Dr. Patricia Riley at the University of Southern California because of your experience within the Internet Freedom/Digital Rights community. Research studies include only people who voluntarily choose to take part. This document explains information about this study. You should ask questions about anything that is unclear to you. You have the right to withdraw from participation in this study at any time.

**PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

This research project considers the power relationships between governments, civil society, and the private sector — the “multistakeholders” of Internet governance — with respect to digital rights by analyzing the goals, successes, failures, business models, norms, beliefs, values, and worldviews of the civil society groups (as well as their individual members) that develop circumvention technology. As someone who is active in the Internet Freedom/Digital Rights movement and may use, develop, or fund circumvention tools yourself, I am interested in your experiences, perceptions and opinions on this topic.

**PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT**

If you are willing, I would like to interview you about your use of circumvention technology, and your involvement with any projects or organization that develop or fund circumvention tools. The interview will proceed like a conversation, during which I will take notes on my laptop. You do not have to answer any questions you don’t want to, and you have the right to stop the interview at any point.

**ALTERNATIVES TO PARTICIPATION**

Your alternative is to not participate. Your relationship(s) with any event, conference, or organization where your interview may take place will not be affected whether or not you participate in this study.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

With your consent, your name, e-mail address or other identifying information will be stored separately from my interview notes. Only information that is necessary for the purpose of the study will be collected. With your permission, I may contact you again in the future to ask follow-up questions. At the conclusion of the interview, you will have the opportunity to read over my

notes and make any corrections you deem necessary. If you wish to make substantive changes to my notes, we will discuss the discrepancy until consensus is reached. If consensus is not possible you may decide to withdraw your participation in the study and I will delete my notes.

My computer is fully encrypted, and no one has the encryption key but me. Backups are likewise fully encrypted and are stored in my locked office at my home. Interview notes as transcribed onto my computer will be retained indefinitely for future research purposes, such as my dissertation and related journal articles or a future book project based on the dissertation. With your consent, I will attempt to re-contact you for a follow-up interview between finishing the dissertation and starting the book project.

The members of the research team and the University of Southern California's Human Subjects Protection Program (HSPP) may access the data upon request. The HSPP reviews and monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research subjects.

When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, no identifiable information will be used unless you explicitly consent. If you initially consent to being identified by name, you may withdraw that consent at any time. In keeping with participatory research principles, I plan to share research findings with members of the digital rights community at conferences such as the Internet Freedom Festival, Citizen Lab Summer Institute, Chaos Computer Congress, and similar events, as well as at academic conferences such as the Association of Internet Researchers and International Communication Association.

### **INVESTIGATOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact either myself ([marechal@usc.edu](mailto:marechal@usc.edu), +1-202-213-1596) or my Faculty Sponsor, Patricia Riley ([priley@usc.edu](mailto:priley@usc.edu)).

### **IRB CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about your rights as a research participant or the research in general and are unable to contact the research team, or if you want to talk to someone independent of the research team, please contact the University Park Institutional Review Board (UPIRB), 3720 South Flower Street #301, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0702, (213) 821-5272 or [upirb@usc.edu](mailto:upirb@usc.edu).