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THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jim Jones

The CINA Center is four years old this fall. The Biometric Center of Excellence was founded 17 years ago. CINA is about 15 years old, and our current research lab 215 years old, and online, perhaps. But what are we really about? What is our purpose? And what is the purpose of the CINA Center? I think the answer to the first question is easy: to preserve the identity and privacy of every person.

I have never seen a role as unique and interesting as the one we have at CINA. We work on the frontiers of biometric identity privacy. Is it a sexy, high-profile job? No. Is it a high-volume, high-impact job? No. Is it important? Yes.

A person's identity can be national, biographical or social. A person's physical characteristics or biometrics are an increasingly recognized means of preserving identity. These characteristics can be fingerprint, face, fingermarks, DNA or other features. This raises new questions and ethical considerations. Some of these will be addressed in the pages that follow.

The CINA Center's mission and research portfolio prioritized is to engage in applied research and training to advance understanding of the interplay among biometrics, privacy, and national security. We work on the analysis of criminal networks, the evaluation of biometric systems and capabilities, the presentation of evidence in court, and support investigators, helping them to make sense of the data they do have, and pointing to where precious resources might be allocated to yield the greatest inferential value or greatest benefit. We also seek to engage in interdisciplinary work that is not centered enforcement models. In-person attendance is on a first come first serve basis. You must register in advance to attend.

Contents of this Month's Update

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Distiguishe Speaker Series

Gretchen Peters: "How Organized Crime Weaponized Social Media" - Wednesday, October 13 - Hybrid, In-person

Lindsey Roberson: "Human Trafficking - A Global Concern in the 21st Century" - October 20 - Virtual Event

Maria Tillyer: "Open Source Data and Predictive Modeling for High-Density Crime Areas" - Thursday, November 11 - Virtual Event

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