The anonymity of the Dark Web can be used for both noble and nefarious purposes, posing a clear challenge for policymakers. FBI takedowns of child abuse imagery sites such as Playpen help prevent harm to innumerable children worldwide, but also generate legal disputes within the US surrounding the scope and application of the Fourth Amendment. Dark Web illegal markets, such as Silk Road or AlphaBay, worsen the US opioid-addiction problem, but operate on the same hidden infrastructure as whistleblowing sites and benign Dark Web social media platforms. Cryptocurrencies act as an alternative source of money and store of value, even as they are used to complete trades for illegal goods and services.

How to deal with the negative excesses of the Dark Web and other anonymity-granting technologies without harming those who use these tools for benign activities is one of today’s most pressing policy challenges. This conference gathers researchers, government officials, civil society activists and private industry experts to engage in constructive debate and dialogue. The conference will explore the topography and implications of Tor Hidden Services and debate the various ways in which online anonymity poses unique normative and policy challenges.

Speakers Include

Nicolas Christin
Carnegie Mellon University
Indexing Illegal Markets

Eric Nunes
Arizona State University
Malicious Hacker Markets on Tor

Andrew Linder
Skidmore College
Interest in Tor and State-Level Crime

Eric Jardine
Virginia Tech
Cryptocurrencies and Dark Web Markets

Gareth Owenson
College of Computing
University of Portsmouth
Indexing and the Dark Web – is it Reliable?

James Hawdon
Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention
Online Extremism in the U.S
Register at https://darkweb-implications.eventbrite.com
Registration is free. Space is limited.
For questions, contact Dr. Eric Jardine at ejardine@vt.edu