

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**SOC 4860c
Fall 2022**

Doing Secrecy Research: Secrets and Power

Instructor: William Walters

Office Hours: TBA

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Course Schedule: Thurs 2.30-5.30pm

Method of Delivery: In person weekly seminars; online forums; short videos

Course Description:

Keeping secrets. Exposing secrets. Hiding in the closet. Leaking information. Spreading rumours. Conspiring. These are just some of the ways that secrets shape our social interactions, configure identities, and generate power relations within contemporary societies. But how can we research secrecy, especially when the very object we seek to research may be designed to evade public scrutiny? This course offers an introduction to secrecy studies. It looks at theories and concepts of secrecy, methods for researching secrecy, and cases and contexts where we can study secrecy in action. It will give students the tools to undertake case-based research on secrecy topics of their choice.

Prerequisites: None

Reading (s)/Textbook (s): No textbook; all material on ARES or internet.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

- Seminar participation;
- weekly online forum posts responding to readings and videos;
- mid-term test;
- final written assignment (eg, research paper or research project proposal).