

Is Source Protection Dead? A Polis/ Journalistfonden report

In November 2014 Swedish Journalist [Carl Fridh Kleberg](#) spent a month at LSE as the Polis/ Journalistfonden Fellow.

His research paper [Is Source Protection Dead: Protecting journalists' sources in a post-Snowden age](#) was the result.

Some of its conclusions are:

- The revelations of mass surveillance by Edward Snowden have highlighted the potential threat to the privacy of journalists' communication and data, calling into question the ability to protect anonymous sources.
- Threats to the privacy of journalists can come from a number of sources including government agencies, employers and service providers.
- There are a number of tools available to help maintain privacy of communication but using these can sometimes draw unwanted attention in themselves and there is no tool that is 100% safe.
- There is a need for training and awareness-raising amongst journalists, and media organisations will expect the next generation of journalists to be more 'data savvy' -something that is not yet the case.
- There are a number of simple steps you can take to increase data security such as continuous 'password hygiene' and an awareness of privacy and location settings on devices like mobile phones.
- When assessing risk to a source, journalists need to be aware of the compromising potential of electronic communications and may need to go 'offline' for the most risky of cases.



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