

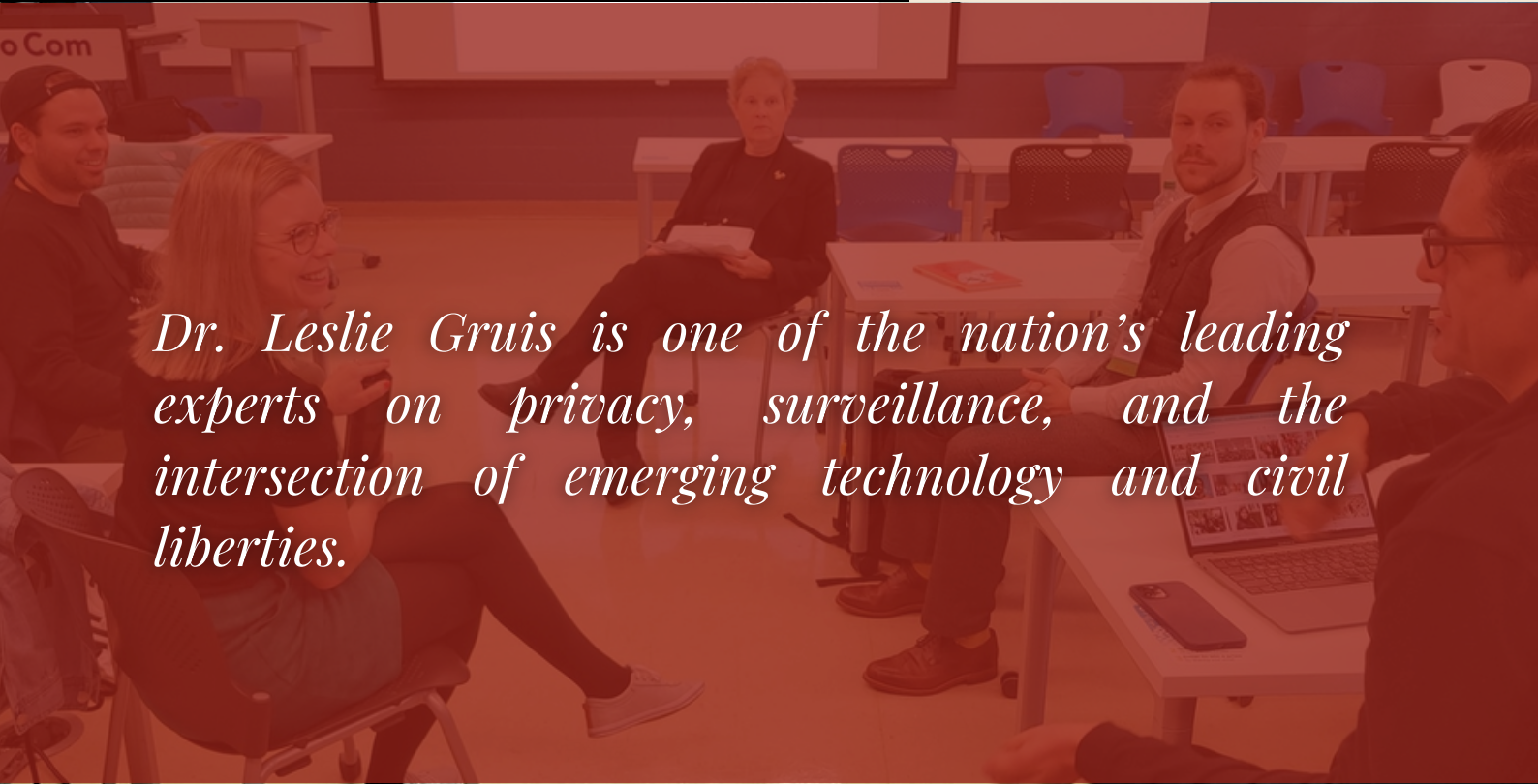


# DR. LESLIE GRUIS

**MEDIA KIT** 2026

# DR. LESLIE GRUIS

2026 MEDIA KIT



*Dr. Leslie Gruis is one of the nation's leading experts on privacy, surveillance, and the intersection of emerging technology and civil liberties.*

A former senior intelligence officer at the National Security Agency (NSA), Leslie spent more than 30 years inside the U.S. intelligence community, where she led work on data governance, national security strategy, and the ethical use of advanced technologies. She holds a Ph.D. in applied mathematics and brings a rare combination of deep technical expertise and real-world policy experience.

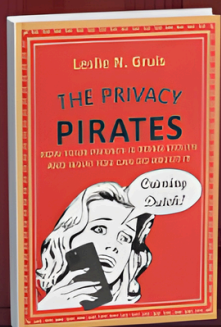
Today, Leslie is an author, educator, and public speaker focused on making privacy understandable and actionable for the public. She is the author of ***The Privacy Pirates***, a book designed to help students, parents, and everyday citizens navigate the risks of the digital age. Her work centers on transparency, accountability, and protecting civil liberties as AI, surveillance tools, and data collection become embedded in daily life. She also wrote the academic text ***Privacy Past, Present, and Future***.

Leslie's sharp wit and approachable style make her a standout voice in a sea of tech jargon. She has a natural ability to connect with younger audiences, thanks in part to her years spent tutoring students in math and science, where she learned that a well-timed joke can make even the driest material stick. Whether she's breaking down the risks of a new AI tool or answering a teen's question about their phone settings, Leslie brings clarity, compassion, and just the right dose of levity to the conversation. Her audiences leave not only informed but energized and empowered to take control of their digital lives.



Leslie regularly speaks on issues including AI in education, workplace and government surveillance, biometric data collection, and the national security implications of unchecked data sharing. She is known for translating complex technical concepts into clear, practical insights that resonate with non-technical audiences.

A sought-after speaker and media commentator, Leslie brings decades of intelligence experience to today's most urgent conversations about privacy, democracy, and technology. She challenges institutions to balance innovation with responsibility and empowers individuals to understand and defend their digital rights.



### **THE PRIVACY PIRATES**

A must for every American - the key to how your Privacy is being exploited and what you can do about it.



### **PRIVACY: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

A penetrating and detailed analysis of Privacy in America and how we got to where we are.



## **AREAS OF EXPERTISE:**

- Privacy, Surveillance & Civil Liberties
- Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies
- Government & Public Sector Data Policy
- STEM Education & Women in
- Tech

# Keynote Topics:

- **The Privacy Pirates: What Every American Should Know About Data Collection**

In this eye-opening talk based on her book *The Privacy Pirates*, Leslie demystifies the invisible world of data tracking and surveillance. With decades of experience inside the NSA, she helps everyday people understand what's really happening to their information, who profits, and how to reclaim their digital autonomy.

- **AI, Ethics, and the Future of Privacy**

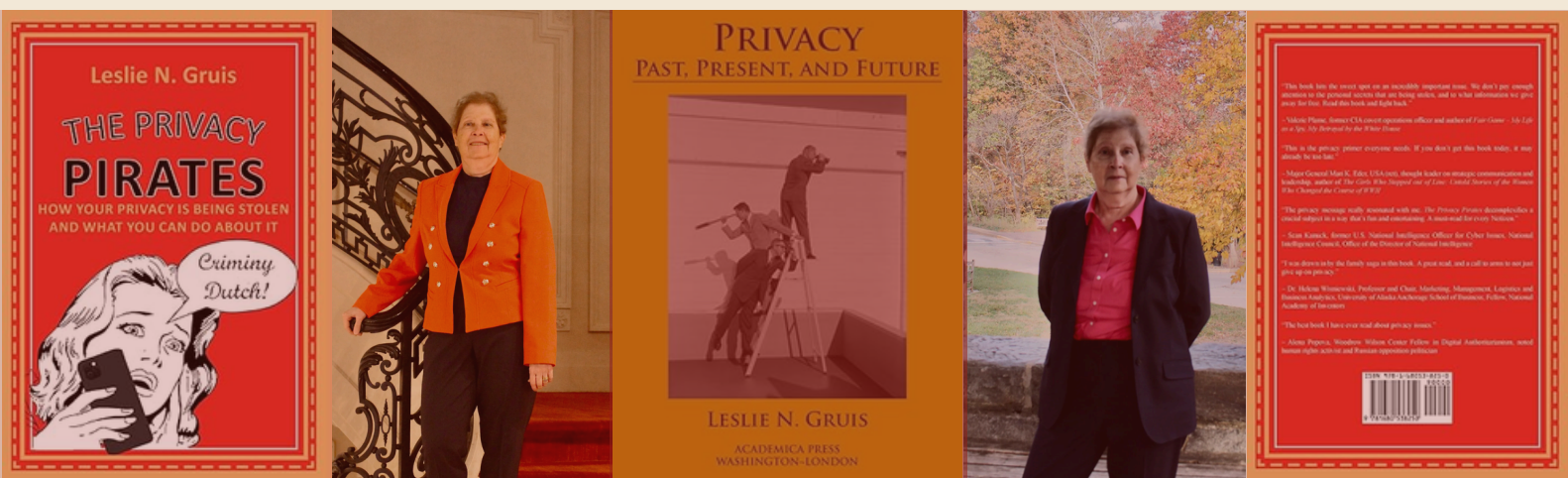
Artificial intelligence is transforming society, but at what cost to our privacy and civil liberties? Leslie unpacks the real-world implications of AI on surveillance, discrimination, and data ethics. This talk is perfect for audiences seeking to navigate the moral dilemmas of emerging tech.

- **From the NSA to the Classroom: Protecting Student Privacy in the Age of Chatbots**

Leslie explores how AI tools in education like chatbots, learning analytics, and surveillance software, impact student privacy. She examines what schools, parents, and policymakers must consider to protect children's rights in an increasingly data-driven learning environment.

- **Digital Rights are Civil Rights: Why Privacy Should Matter to All of Us**

With storytelling and urgency, Leslie makes the case that privacy is not a luxury, it's a cornerstone of democracy. She connects historical examples, modern surveillance tactics, and today's political climate to show how privacy erosion affects marginalized groups first and what we can do to push back.



# LESLIE GRUIS

has presented nationwide at conferences, universities, libraries, and community organizations, speaking to educators, parents, technologists, and everyday citizens concerned about digital privacy. Her recent engagements have focused on empowering individuals—especially those navigating digital systems for the first time to better understand their rights, risks, and roles in today's surveillance-driven world