Recently, liberals and conservatives have denounced the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, a product of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), as a “rubber stamp” and a “kangaroo court.” Why did an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress approve FISA in 1978? In this talk, based on the just-published *Reining in the State: Civil Society and Congress in the Vietnam and Watergate Eras* (Kansas, 2013), Scott will explore how the tragedies of Vietnam and Watergate during the long 1960s emboldened the media, public interest groups, and their allies in Congress to challenge state power. These unheralded reformers, she will suggest, turned public opposition to domestic surveillance programs into congressional support for landmark legislation including the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, and FISA.

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