Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) Presents

The Michael Samek Lecture in Information Science and Culture

“Rumors and Legends Surrounding the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks”

Prof. William Aspray, Information Science, University of Colorado

Open to the Public
Andersen Library Room 120,
Wed. October 30, 2019 12:30 to 1:30
Pizza lunch will be served at 12.15

Abstract: The talk will present an analysis of the different kinds of rumors and legends that circulated in connection with the 9/11 terrorist attacks immediately after and in the decade following the attacks. The analysis is based on an examination of studies by snopes and exchanges on the Usenet newsgroup alt.folklore.urban. As time permits, there will also be a discussion of how snopes evolved and the problems it faced as it changed its focus from urban legend debunking to political fact-checking.

William Aspray is professor of information science and adjunct professor of media studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. A leading social informatics scholar and IT historian, Aspray has published more than 20 books. This lecture draws from his two just published co-authored books: From Urban Legends to Political Fact-Checking (Springer) and Fake News Nation (Rowman & Littlefield).

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