Human Rights and Digital Technology

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Digital Tightrope

palgrave
macmillan

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ISBN 978-1-137-58804-3 ISBN 978-1-137-58805-0 (eBook)
DOI 10.1057/978-1-137-58805-0

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016957155

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Printed on acid-free paper

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The registered company is Macmillan Publishers Ltd.
The registered company address is: The Campus, 4 Crinan Street, London, N1 9XW, United Kingdom

For Andrew and Gilbert

Relevant International Human Rights and Humanitarian Declarations and Treaties

Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (New York, 1948)
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. (New York, 1965)
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. (New York, 1966)
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. (New York, 1966)
Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. (New York, 1979)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. (New York, 1984)
Convention on the Rights of the Child. (New York, 1989)
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. (Rome, 1998)
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (New York, 2006)

Preface and Acknowledgments

The scholarly collaboration that led to this book began nearly twenty years ago in the analogue age. When we first met in the 1990s, one was publishing her work on artificial intelligence, while the other was learning to send her first emails. One was well into her career as a human rights defender, while the other's only experience with the law had been to file for a marriage licence. In short, neither knew much about the other's disciplinary expertise.

Cross-disciplinary collaboration requires clarity, intellectual flexibility and a good sense of humour. Our early conversations stretched across a multitude of subjects. As our interest in interdisciplinary work grew, we developed the friendly habit of patiently explaining the technicalities of our discipline(s) to one another, a habit we have put to good use in writing this book. Our experience reinforced what we had already suspected: designing sustainable and just solutions for our digital world requires unabashed navigation across disciplinary boundaries. The negotiation of alternative approaches also demands a broad view and willingness to compromise. Our understanding of these trade-offs forms the core of this book.

The awarding of a European Commission grant to work on privacyby-design methodologies in 2013 gave us the means to move forward with our scholarly collaboration. Under the auspices of Project PRIPARE (PReparing Industry to Privacy-by-design by supporting its Application in Research at: http://pripareproject.eu), we designed a mixed curriculum on human rights and digital technology (with a focus on privacy) and were able to test-drive our course with students at The American University of Paris. We began to co-publish on a range of technology-related issues and

to exchange ideas with colleagues from across Europe, as we collaborated to develop privacy methodologies adapted to the digital age. Our book is far richer thanks to input from our students and colleagues, and we would like to thank them here.

Students in our team-taught course, Human Rights and Digital Technology, learned with us as we experimented with a curriculum that mixed law and science. Our PRIPARE colleagues Antonio Kung (Trialog and AUP), Frank Kargl (University of Ulm) and David Wright (Trilateral) joined us in the classroom for individual lectures on their areas of expertise; our exchanges with them have been particularly enriching for us and for our students. Our gratitude also goes to José María del Álamo (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid), Fanny Coudert (KU Leuven), Alberto Crespo Garcia (ATOS), Hisain Elshaafi (WIT), Christophe Jouvray (Trialog), Henning Kopp (University of Ulm), Inga Kroener (Trilateral), Yod Samuel Martín (UPM), Daniel Le Métayer (Inria), Nicolás Notario McDonnell (ATOS), Carmela Troncoso (Gradiant), Pagona Tsormpatzoudi (KU Leuvan), and the many others we cannot mention here, for their insightful input, organizational skills and warm hospitality.

Our student researchers Jed Carty, Alyssa Evans, Rachel Fallon, Anna Wiersma and Zona Zaric provided steady support, as did our professorial colleagues Kerstin Carlson, Kathleen Chevalier, Waddick Doyle, Philip Golub, Julie Newton, Claudio Piani, and Georgi Stojanov. We deeply appreciate their enthusiasm and scholarly feedback. Julie Thomas' comments on a late draft of the book were especially precious and we are sincerely grateful for her suggestions.

Finally, Christina Brian and her editorial team at Palgrave have championed this book from the earliest stages. We thank Christina warmly for her support throughout. Christian van den Anker generously provided invaluable input in the latter stages of this work. Last, but not least, our families have been very patient as this book has taken form. We dedicate our work to them.

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Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction: A Question of Balance 1
1.1 Historical Overview 4
1.2 Five Critical Issues 8
Notes 15
Bibliography 17

Chapter 2 The Great Debate on Wireless Technology 19
2.1 The Regulator's Dilemma 22
2.2 Contested Science and Technology 24
2.3 Measuring the Biological Impact of EMF 25
2.4 Setting Standards 29
2.5 Legislative Dearth in the USA and Europe 32
2.6 Grassroots Activism in Paris 34
2.7 Expanding the Regulatory Framework 36
Notes 43
Bibliography 53

Chapter 3 User Privacy in a World of Digital Surveillance 63
3.1 Privacy Threats in Digital Systems 66
3.2 The Legal Framework for Privacy 71
3.3 Privacy-by-Design 76
3.4 Digital Privacy as a Collective Value 80
Notes 85
Bibliography 90

Chapter 4 Online Censorship 95
4.1 New (and Old) Censorship Theory 97
4.2 Censorship Technology in China and in Europe 98
4.3 Freedom of Expression in China and in Europe 105
4.4 Contested Content and the Impact of Censorship 110
Notes 116
Bibliography 123

Chapter 5 The Internet of Things 131
5.1 Internet of Things Scenario One: Enabling the Disabled 133
5.2 Wireless Technology 134
5.3 Internet of Things Scenario Two: Tracking User Profiles 136
5.4 Location Privacy Issues 137
5.5 Legal Ownership of Global Public Goods 139
5.6 Extending Rousseau's Social Contract 144
5.7 Scenario Three: What a Day! 146
5.8 The Internet of Things—Technology 147
5.9 Human-Machine Protocols 149
5.10 Killer Robots, Prostheses, and Avatars 149
Notes 154
Bibliography 158

Chapter 6 Teaching Human Rights and Digital Technology 163
6.1 Progressive Rights 167
6.2 Attention in the Blended Classroom 170
6.3 Teaching Human Rights and Digital Technology 175
6.4 Digital Learning and Higher Education 179
Notes 181
Bibliography 186

Chapter 7 Conclusions: Collective Human Rights and Low-Tech 191

Index 199