

(Re)thinking Privacy after this Pandemic

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Research Question

How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect and possibly compromise privacy especially of marginalized groups?

Research Objective

Develop a definition of privacy that ensures privacy protection for everybody.

Observations and Project Baseline

Imperative to stay at home
for the sake of societal well-being and
welfare, health, life



Observed effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (selection); privacy dimensions according to Rössler 2005

Interdisciplinary Reconsiderations of Privacy: Philosophy, Law, Political Science, ...

- Can privacy be understood to be a positive right rather than just a defensive right?
- What effects did pandemics historically have on privacy?
- What concrete privacy infringements have occurred in particular countries and what might be their consequences for privacy protection in the future?
- Do political measures to contain infections imply a colonization of the private (Buhr 2020)?
- What risks do (new) technologies pose for privacy?
- What about private choices such as the freedom to choose an occupation (Art. 15 CFR)?
- Have new compromises of privacy for white-collar workers arisen in the context of the pandemic that have been a reality for marginalized workers all along?
- Does the digitization of the workplace (home office, remote working) increase the power imbalance between employer and employee through new possibilities of surveillance (Anderson 2017)?
- Has the pandemic been a further step towards a „government by proxy“ in which all the state's functions are outsourced to private companies (Dilulio 2002)?
- What to do if the home all of a sudden gets certain attributes, that usually are typical for a “total institution”, meaning sleep, play and work in the same space (Goffman 1961)?
- How could the “imperative” to stay at home look like for those who don't have a physical roof above their head (homeless people and refugees) (Honig 2020)?

Preliminary project results and conference submissions

Symposium 15 & 16 September 2022
Confirmed keynote speaker: Beate Rössler

Manifesto for the Future of Privacy
What do we want our society to look like
based on our experience?

New Conception of Privacy

References

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