



GOVERNING PRIVACY

POLITICAL, LEGAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Privacy debates in the internet age are prominent focal points of all the challenges arising from increased network connection, new data generation and collection techniques and conflicting cultural values. The proposed volume seeks to address the governance challenges of privacy focusing on the ways in which privacy conceptions, norms, and regulations are negotiated on a global level. The issue of privacy, contested as it is, remains fluid and permanently in flux as new social settings, technological innovations, business models and political issues emerge. Therefore, instead of foregrounding the substantial definition of privacy, we are interested in the processes, discourses, actions, and decisions through which particular ideas are turned into actual governance.

We wish to address three areas in particular:

1. Travelling ideas - the transfer of understandings of privacy between different fora

Research questions include:

- How are privacy issues perceived and discussed in arenas of global governance (e.g. IGF, UN, IETF, ITU, ISO but also global corporations and activist groups)?
- How and when do conceptions of privacy migrate between different arenas of global regional, and national governance?
- What are the factors influencing the cultural and normative perceptions of privacy held by different actors and groups in a globalizing world and how does that impact governance?

2. Influential actors - the setting of (de-facto) standards by interested parties

Research questions include:

- What is the role of specific actors in the governance of privacy and how are their interests reflected in institutions, norms, and processes?
- How are changing or consolidating structures of governance influenced by actor's differential interests?
- How can differential impacts of actors on the governance of privacy be explained?

3. Enabling technology - technological discourses and instruments in privacy governance

Research questions include:

- How do technological, legal, social and economic modes of governance interact with regard to privacy?
- How do understandings of privacy governance differ between technical and social science and (why) does it matter?

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