international
society for
ethics and
information technology

INSEIT quarterly newsletter
vol. 8, no. 3

From the Co-Directors -

Hello All,

Wow, I have just taken a look at all the activities and achievements chronicled in this issue. If the letter from the President is any indication, this is truly an exciting time for INSEIT and its members. I'll just take a moment or two to point out some of the highlights.

In our Member Spotlight this time is Rafael Capurro— Take a few minutes to enjoy his journey so far in his own words. We also have some notes from the field—Maria Bottis tells us about her experiences at the First International Seminar on Information Law which wrapped up just a few weeks ago.

One of the things that struck me in both of these articles is the passion and level of engagement that both of these members possess. I think that passion is one of the hallmarks of information ethics and certainly abounds among our membership, which is the perfect segue to say congratulations to each of our new INSEIT Fellows, Tony Hoffmann, Erin Hvizdak, Mariarosaria Taddeo and Antonino Vaccaro. Each of the fellows will be working with mentors from INSEIT, Keith Miller, Philip Brey or Luciano Floridi. Please see page 8 to learn more about everyone's plans.

As usual, we round out the newsletter with Calls for Papers and other announcements and contact information for the board and executive directors.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue—it is a particularly great one.

On behalf of Elizabeth and myself,

Happy Reading and Safe Travels

contents

FROM THE
PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues:

I hope that you are enjoying either a restful or a productive summer, or perhaps some combination of both. There is much to report in this issue of the Newsletter, as the INSEIT Board has recently approved and implemented some exciting new initiatives and programs. Before commenting on these initiatives/programs, however, I first have some sad news to report. As some of you may already know, Brian O'Connell passed away in May 2008. Brian was a professor of law, computer science, and philosophy at Central Connecticut State University (USA). He recently served as president of the IEEE's Society for Social Implications of Technology (SSIT), which hosts the annual ISTAS (International Symposium on Technology and Society) event, and he had been an active member of the editorial board of IEEE Technology and Society Magazine for many years. I had the good fortune to know Brian personally and to interact with him at various conferences. As those of you who also knew him will no doubt agree, Brian was a witty, affable, and warm human being, as well as a first-rate scholar. For information about some of Brian's contributions to our field, see Keith Miller's write-up in this issue of the Newsletter.

In an earlier message (included in the May 2008 issue of the Newsletter), I mentioned that the Board had approved the INSEIT Fellow's Program, which would take effect in July 2008. I am pleased to announce that the Adjudication Committee received some very impressive applications and that it selected four fellows for this year's program: Anthony Hoffmann, Erin Hvizdak, Mariarosario Taddeo, and Antonino Vaccaro. Please join me in congratulating Anthony, Erin, Mariarosario, and Nino on their selections to the first cohort of INSEIT fellows. The 2008 Fellows will be mentored by Philip Brey, Luciano Floridi, and Keith Miller. Special thanks to Philip, Luciano, and Keith for agreeing to take on their respective duties as INSEIT mentors for the coming year.

The INSEIT Board has also recently approved a proposal for an award to be given every two years to an individual who has "made a significant contribution to the field of information and computer ethics, through his or her research, service, and vision." We have named this award the INSEIT/ Joseph Weizenbaum Award in Information and Computer Ethics, in recognition of Professor Weizenbaum's groundbreaking and highly influential work in computer ethics in the 1970s, which helped to shape the field as we know it today. (Dr. Joseph Weizenbaum, German-American author and Professor Emeritus in Computer Science at MIT, passed away in March 2008.) We are grateful to the Weizenabum family for permission to use Professor Joseph Weizenbaum's name for this INSEIT award. An adjudication committee will be formed to evaluate nominees for this award, and we plan to present the first Weizenbaum Award next June at the CEPE 2009 Conference.

The Board continues to welcome proposals for various initiatives that INSEIT members wish to put forth. So, please let us know if you have any ideas that you would like us to consider. Also, please continue to send to Kat and Elizabeth any "member news items" you have concerning your recent accomplishments, publications, etc., for inclusion in future issues of the INSEIT Newsletter.

We strongly encourage you to submit an abstract/paper for the CEPE 2009 Conference, which will be held next June in Corfu, Greece. See the Call for Papers included on the CEPE 2009 Web site for instructions on how to submit paper abstracts, and be sure to read Maria Bottis' note in this issue of the Newsletter describing some of the exciting social events in Corfu that are planned for the conference. Also, see the Call for Papers for the Network Ethics Conference, hosted by The Center for Ethics Business and Economics (CEBE) of the Catholic University of Lisbon (Portugal in June 2009), included in this issue of the Newsletter. Note that this conference immediately precedes CEPE 2009; so you may want to consider travel plans that would enable you to attend both. You can contact Antonino Vaccaro regarding questions you might have about the Network Ethics Conference.

The next INSEIT meeting is planned for September 2008 at the Ethicomp Conference. We look forward to seeing many of you in Italy in the fall.

Best wishes,

Herman Tavani

IN MEMORIAM

Brian M. O'Connell passed away on May 21, 2008 at the age of 47. Brian had been seriously ill for some time.

At the 2008 ISTAS meeting in New Brunswick, a group of Brian's friends gathered to remember him by swapping stories. Those of you who knew Brian can imagine that this was a time of strong and mixed emotions. On the one hand, we were all deeply saddened by the loss; on the other hand, Brian's excitement for living, his incredible energy and his famous sense of humor naturally led to some great stories. Alternating tears and raucous laughter, the group remembered Brian well.

In 1983, Brian O'Connell received his B.A. from Trinity College in Philosophy and Psychology. In 1987, he received his J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Brian practiced constitutional law, worked as a systems programmer and as a network designer. In 1996 he became a faculty member at Central Connecticut State University, eventually becoming an associate professor with a joint appointment in Computer Science and Philosophy.

Brian was an important scholar in issues of computing, law, and ethics. He was also an effective advocate who pressed technical people to pay attention to many issues that INSEIT members hold dear. Brian was especially active in the IEEE, holding positions in the Society on Social Implications of Technology, the Computer Society, the Technical Activities Board, and the Sensors Council. He was also an official and unofficial ambassador to many other organizations, all of which benefited from his unique mixture of mirth and intellectual gravitas.

As Brian's illness became known, many of us communicated about the latest news of his health. I was amazed at how many different people whom I knew because of their technical work, were also friends of Brian. Researchers and practitioners in robotics, software reliability, and medical technology, to name just a few of the specialties, had been touched by Brian and were concerned about him. Brian had encouraged us, inspired us, and made us laugh. None of us wanted him to go.

Being touched by Brian O'Connell was a memorable experience. While it is sad that not everyone had that privilege, it is a good thing that so many of us did. -Keith Miller

Rafael Capurro
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

How did you begin your work in information ethics?

It was in the early eighties when I started working as an assistant to the scientific-technical Director of FIZ Karlsruhe (Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe) a producer and supplier of bibliographic and numerical data bases in science and technology that built together with ACS (American Chemical Society) in STN International. The Scientific and Technical Network in 1983. I had just finished my Ph.D. on the concept of information and was thinking about writing a book on hermeneutics and computers, linking something that at that time (and sometimes even today!) seemed very strange, coming from the continental tradition of Husserl, Heidegger and Gadamer. I mean 'strange' in both directions: almost nobody working in the computer and documentation field understood what phenomenology and hermeneutics were about, and vice versa, philosophers coming from this tradition were critical and even scornful towards these kind of connections although the 'founding fathers' themselves, at least Husserl and Heidegger, were pioneers in the field of philosophy of science and philosophy of technology respectively. For me it was clear from the very beginning that hermeneutics means to bind epistemology, ontology and ethics in a fundamental way similar to what American pragmatists, and newly Richard Rorty, had done. But, luckily, I was not alone. There was Don Ihde, Hubert L. Dreyfus, Carl Mitcham, and Albert Borgmann – to mention just a few and all of them Americans, as you can see – for whom this connection was not an oxymoron. And there was Joseph Weizenbaum, of course, who published his seminal book "Computer Power and Human Reason" in 1976 (San Francisco: Freeman) and whom I met at the Open Forum Davos shortly before he died.

I wrote my first paper on what is now called information ethics in 1981 in the Nachrichten für Dokumentation (online: http://www.capurro.de/infoethik81.html). In 1985 Stephan Schwarz, Director of the Royal Institute of Technology Library (Stockholm, Sweden), invited me to talk about ethical and epistemological issues of information science (online: http://www.capurro.de/moral.htm and http://www.capurro.de/trita.htm). At that time this was a pretty sophisticated stuff. The first articles I read on information ethics were N. J. Belkin and S. E. Robertson "Some ethical and political implications of theoretical research in information science" (paper presented at ASIS Annual Meeting, 1976), Barbara J. Kostrewski and Charles Oppenheim "Ethics in information science" (Journal of Information Science 1 (1980), 227-283), the papers by Stephan Schwarz particularly "Research, integrity and privacy. Notes on a conceptual complex" (Social Science Information 18 (1) (1979), 103-136), the contributions by A.M. Woodward, M.E.D. Koenig, B.V. Tell, and Manfred Kochen. John Ladd's paper "The quest for a code of professional ethics: an intellectual and moral confusion (published in Deborah G. Johnson and J. W. Snapper, Eds., Ethical Issues in the Use of Computers Wadsworth, Belmont, 1985, pp. 8-13) was (and is) crucial as he made clear the difference between morality and ethics, i.e., between the object of reflection

and the reflection itself. There are "codes of morality" but a "code of ethics" is indeed an intellectual and moral confusion. We seldom confuse the economy and economics, don't we?

In the middle seventies, during the time I wrote my Ph.D. at Düsseldorf University, I had good contacts with the Institute of Philosophy where Alwin Diemer and Norbert Henrichs (my Ph.D. supervisor) were pioneers in the field of philosophy (of) documentation. When I wrote my "Hermeneutik der Fachinformation" (Hermeneutics of Scientific Information) (Munich: Alber 1986) – that later on became my post-doc thesis called in Germany 'habilitation' – between 1981 and 1986, I became more and more acquainted with the ethical challenges of the information field and particularly with those of its core field, namely information retrieval. The word "Informationsethik" (information ethics) is mentioned in the subject index of this book with a "see" reference to "Ethics" and "Ethics of scientific information". Although the book deals mainly with scientific and technical information its scope is broader. Since 1 986 I started working at the Technical University of Librarianship (a former institution of today's Stuttgart Media University) and since then my interest in information ethics has been growing from year to year.

I would also like to mention three for me important events during the middle/late eighties and beginning of the nineties. Firstly, the international conference Phenomenology and Technology held at the Philosophy and Technology Studies Center, Polytechnic University (New York) in 1986 organized by Wolfgang Schirmacher and Carl Mitcham, where I met Don Ihde. Secondly, the conference Software Development and Reality Construction organized by Christiane Floyd and her co-workers of the Technical University of Berlin in 1988 where I could experience a fruitful in depth academic dialogue between hermeneutics, ethics, and computer science. I had the privilege and the pleasure to meet there Heinz von Foerster, Gordon Pask, Donald E. Knuth, Kristen Nygaard and many other outstanding colleagues (See: Christiane Floyd, Heinz Züllighoven, Reinhard Budde, Reinhard Keil-Slawik (Eds.): Software Development and Reality Construction, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer 1992, p. 363-375). This conference took place two years after the publication of Terry Winograd and Fernando Flores "Understanding Computers and Cognition. A New Foundation for Design" (Norwood, NJ: Ablex 1986) that had a strong impact on the discussions during this event. And finally, the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science in Pittsburgh 1992 where I participated at a panel section on "Information Democracy: Power and Control Issues". It was during these years that a close friendship with Tom Froehlich, Marti Smith, Barbara Rockenbach, Bernd Frohmann and many other colleagues with a common interest in information ethics began and led me to the creation of the International Center for Information Ethics.

Tell us about the formation and work of ICIE?

It started ten years ago. My colleague Wolfgang von Keitz suggested me to create a platform on information ethics in order to better manage my projects and personal connections in this field. The goal was from the very beginning not just to provide a collection of links to relevant documents and web sites but to create a community. This goal was not obvious at that time. What I called "center" was in fact a network that should bring colleagues closer to each other with regard to their common interest in information ethics. Martha M. Smith and Barbara Rockenbach suggested to mirror the ICIE web site at Yale University in order to make it easier accessible and more well known particularly in the US. In 2001 a cooperation agreement was set up with the Center for Art and Media (ZKM), Karlsruhe (Germany) (http://www.zkm.de) which hosts since then our web site. ICIE has now some 300 members.

Since 2001 we started the ICIE symposia together with Thomas Hausmanninger (Augsburg University, Germany). The first meeting in 2001 dealt with conceptions of information ethics, the second, in 2002, with the digital divide. In 2004 we organized an international meeting: "Localizing the Internet. Ethical Issues in Intercultural Perspective" sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation. It was the first international meeting on what we now call intercultural information ethics. The University of Pretoria (South Africa), the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the ICIE organized the First

Africa Conference on Information Ethics that took place in Pretoria in February 2007 under the patronage of UNESCO and sponsored by the Government of South Africa.

Since 2005 I work closely with Dr. Michael Nagenborg (Tübingen University, Germany) in all these activities. Michael organized the last German-speaking ICIE meeting that took place this year in Karlsruhe (Germany) and dealt with the question whether the changes in the internet bring about a new information ethics.

The ICIE book series edited by Thomas Hausmanninger and myself started in 2002 at the prestigious Fink Verlag, Munich. We have published four volumes so far. Eventually we created in 2004 the International Review of Information Ethics (IRIE) (http://www.i-r-i-e.net/) thanks particularly to the support of Dr. Felix Weil. IRIE is a peer review online journal free of charge. I am the Editor in Chief. The co-editors are Dr. Felix Weil, Professor Thomas Hausmanninger, Professor Makoto Nakada (University of Tsukuba, Japan) and Professor Johannes Britz (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee). Each issue deals with a specific topic such as ubiquitous computing, robotics, health care, e-games, and search engines. Our next issue, due to July 2008, addresses the question of the internet as a challenge for religions. We plan an issue on business intelligence for December.

Your recent work on Africa and Information Ethics has been phenomenal. What lead you to take this on, and what is the future of your work with Africa?

Yes, I think so. Thanks to the commitment of Hannes Britz and our South African colleagues, particularly Professor Theo Bothma (University of Pretoria). In a few weeks we organize a meeting on "Ethics and e-Government in sub-Sahara Africa" with the support of UNESCO, the Government of South Africa and SAP. We will organize a meeting with colleagues teaching information ethics in some twelve African universities. Denis Ocholla (University of Zululand, South Africa) will take the lead of this event. We plan a second Africa meeting on information ethics that will take place in Cameroon probably in 2009. We also support an initiative of UNESCO to held an Afro-Arabic Congress on Information Ethics in Morocco also next year.

Who are you currently reading for fun?

I like the Japanese writer Haruki Murakami (Nobel Prize 2006), particularly "Kafka on the Shore." I am a fan of Takano, who can neither read nor write and doesn't like to decide what to do after he reaches a goal until he reaches it! I enjoy Murakami's fantasy, sense of humor and the hybridization of Japanese and Western cultures. In some way I am reading also "for fun" Assimil Japanese. I like learning new languages!

Another favorite writer is Fernando Pessoa. When I was in Lisbon last year I bought "Prosa íntima e de autocohecimiento" (ed. R. Zenith, Lisbon: Assírio & Alvim 2007, Obra Essencial, vol. 5) a collection of autobiographic writings, many of them in English and Portuguese.

And I am reading the works of the German Egyptologist Jan Assmann who takes me to Thomas Mann's "Joseph and his Brothers". The first sentence is breath-taking: "Tief ist der Brunnen der Vergangenheit. Sollte man ihn nicht unergründlich nennen?" ("Deep is the fountain of the past. Shouldn't it be called unfathomable?")

What information ethics issue concerns you the most?

What we call 'globalization' is a fascinating human experiment with deep roots in the past, as Thomas Mann would say, but of a new kind with regard to the former philosophical or metaphysical – for instance in the case of Greek philosophy and its further developments that lead to modern science – and geographical global

experiments. I mean particularly the age of modern "discoveries" and exploitation of non-European and, more generally, non-Western societies.

The rise of non-Western "global players" such as Japan, China, Japan, India, Russia, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and the Arab world, not to forget the sub-Sahara African countries following the example of South Africa, makes manifest the complexity of social, political, cultural, economic, legal, religious etc. interactions that are now possible through ICT and the need for practical solutions as well as for in-depth academic research that should include the analysis and comparison of norms of communication, storage and distribution of messages on any means and in different epochs and cultures. This is the field of intercultural information ethics (IIE).

The possibilities of not only international but also cross-cultural communication through modern information and communication technology (ICT) are so impressive that we take them for granted after a very short period of some thirty years. What brings us symbolically near to each other through writing and visual media makes also, paradoxically, clear our differences. There are new forms of power structures in the ICT field emerging and disappearing very quickly. We are looking for universal norms that allow us to respect each other and to guarantee a minimum of international etiquette including legal or quasi-legal norms und far beyond what we used to call the netiquette some twenty years ago. The whole process of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) including its Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action are an expression of this need to further develop the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is a tension between the aim of universality and the respect for singularity that we must learn to deal with without falling neither into purely abstract principles nor into relativistic isolation. In other words, we must learn how to become translators, as Susan Sontag would say. This is a practical-political activity that can take place at the level of international institutions such as UNESCO but also at the local level of learning how to better communicate with our neighbors within a family, a town, a region, different countries. The analysis of the practical impact of ICT on different cultures and economies is of the outmost importance for the lives of millions of people particularly in the developing world.

In a more general sense, i.e., beyond the analysis of communication and information moralities, I use to call Angeletics – in etymological resonance to the Greek word for message (angelia) and messenger (angelos) – the study of power structures (norms, institutions, customs etc.) that lie behind everyday practices of message control and that concern the analytical difference or the code, as Lawrence Lessig or Niklas Luhmann would say, of what we want to communicate and what we want to conceal. This is broader than and not identical with the difference between the public and the private that is one main topic of today's information ethics together with, say, the question of ownership of information.

I think that the right to conceal or the right to secrecy is a basic human right no less than the right to communicate or to un-conceal. Since the Enlightenment and nowadays since the rise of the internet we have the tendency to see communication or un-concealment as morally good and secrecy or concealment if not as morally bad at least as something that needs a special justification. Our democratic system(s) praises the right to inform and be informed. I think this is legitimate, particularly within the background of, say, the misuse of secrecy in France's Ancien Régime. Democracy is about transparency and participatory process for which open information is a sine qua non condition. At the same time, not only public policy but also capitalism, rest on the right to conceal under due conditions and (public) democratic control. The present economic crisis is, I think, an example of the importance of this code public/secret at a local and global level. As far as I can see, we have no well elaborated ethical thinking and comparative intercultural studies on this code.

Fellowship Announcement
INSEIT 2008-09 Fellows Program Recipients

We are very pleased to announce the INSEIT 2008-09 Fellows and Mentors! This was the first year of the program and we are extremely happy with the response to the program and with the high quality of the Fellows' proposals.

- Anthony Hoffmann, MLIS Candidate, Research Assistant, Center for Information Policy Research, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

- Erin Hvizdak, MLIS Candidate, Research Assistant, Center for Information Policy Research, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

- Mariarosaria Taddeo, PhD Student, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Padua (Italy), Junior Research Associate - Information Ethics Group (IEG), University of Oxford

- Antonino Vaccaro, Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Department of Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University

Tony will be working with Keith Miller, exploring the emerging dichotomy of hypercontextualization/ decontextualization in online experiences and their relationship to privacy.

Erin will be mentored by Philip Brey, and investigate such questions as what technological measures could be put in place to better facilitate informed consent in Internet research? Are information technology students taught the role that their designs play in human subjects research? To what extent are information technology programs teaching value-sensitive design?

Mariarosaria engages questions of e-trust with Luciano Floridi, and will explore the definitions of e-trust, the role that e-trust might have in the informative and epistemic processes of distributed systems, and the relation between the occurrence of e-trust and the emergence of ethical behaviours in a given system.

Nino will also study under Luciano Floridi, and address issues in net neutrality: What is the ethical nature of Internet neutrality? Should Internet neutrality be endorsed when considering its ethical implications? What ethical frameworks should be endorsed for regulating Internet traffic?

The Fellows Program was designed to encourage young and promising scholars to pursue information ethics research under the supervision of a senior colleague. Both Fellows and Mentors will receive a stipend and will work towards scholarly publication. We extend our thanks to Luciano, Philip, and Keith for their dedication and willingness to serve as mentors, and we congratulate Tony, Erin, Mariarosaria, and Nino and wish you a successful year!
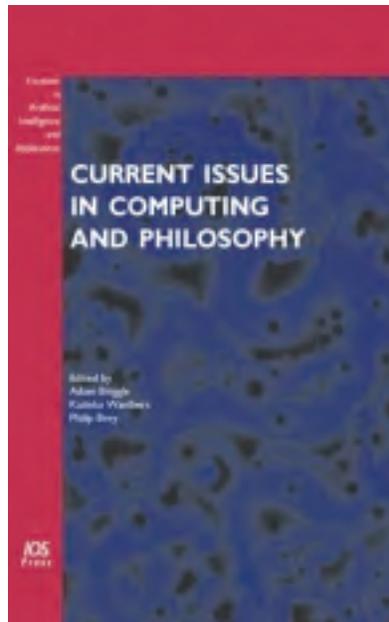
CURRENT ISSUES IN COMPUTING AND PHILOSOPHY
Edited by A. Briggle, K. Waelbers and P.A.E. Brey

The theme of this volume is the multi-faceted 'computational turn' that is occurring through the interaction of the disciplines of philosophy and computing. In computer and information sciences, there are significant conceptual and methodological questions that require reflection and analysis. Moreover, digital, information and communication technologies have had tremendous impact on society, which raises further philosophical questions.

This book tries to facilitate the task to continuously work to ensure that its diversity of perspectives and methods proves a source of strength and collaboration rather than a source of instability and disintegration.

The first three contributions explore the phenomenon of virtual worlds. The next four focus on robots and artificial agents. Then a group of chapters discusses the relation between human mentality and information processing in computers and the final section covers a broad range of issues at the interface of computers and society.

Contents:

Part I. Me, My Avatar, and I: Exploring Virtual Worlds

• Meta Ethics for the Metaverse: The Ethics of Virtual Worlds / E.H. Spence
• On the Ecological/Representational Structure of Virtual Environments / O. Rosas
• The Dynamic Representation of Reality and of Our Self Between Real and Virtual Worlds / L. Piwek

Part II. Living with the Golem: Robots and Autonomous Agents

• Can a Robot Intentionally Conduct Mutual Communication with Human Beings? / K. Ishii
• On the Ethical Quandaries of a Practicing Roboticist: A First-Hand Look / R.C. Arkin
• How Just Could a Robot War Be? / P.M. Asaro
• Limits to the Autonomy of Agents / M. Noorman

Part III. Mind and World: Knowing, Thinking, and Representing

• Formalising the 'No Information Without Data-Representation' Principle / P. Allo
• The Computer as Cognitive Artifact and Simulator of Worlds / P. Brey
• The Panic Room: On Synthetic Emotions / J. Vallverdú and D. Casacuberta
• Representation in Digital Systems / V.C. Müller
• Information, Knowledge and Confirmation Holism / S. McKinlay
• Phenomenal Consciousness: Sensorimotor Contingencies and the Constitution of Objects / B. Fischer and
   D. Weiller

Part IV. Computing in Society: Designing, Learning, and Searching

• Towards an Intelligent Tutoring System for Propositional Proof Construction / M. Croy, T. Barnes and J. Stamper
• Toward Aligning Computer Programming with Clear Thinking via the Reason Programming Language /
   S. Bringsjord and J. Li
• Ethics and the Practice of Software Design / M. Turilli
• How to Explain the Underrepresentation of Women in Computer Science Studies / M. Pohl and M. Lanzenberger
• How the Web Is Changing the Way We Trust / D. Taraborelli

Visit our website for more information or online ordering: www.iospress.nl/ OR www.booksonline.iospress.nl
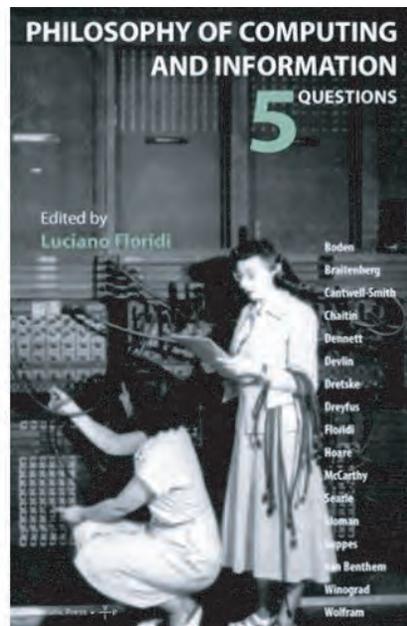
PHILOSOPHY OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION: 5 QUESTIONS
Edited by Luciano Floridi

Computing and information, and their philosophy in the broad sense, play a most important scientific, technological and conceptual role in our world. This book collects together, for the first time, the views and experiences of some of the visionary pioneers and most influential thinkers in such a fundamental area of our intellectual development. This is yet another gem in the 5 Questions Series by Automatic Press / VIP.

Interviews with Margaret A. Boden / Valentino Braitenberg / Brian Cantwell-Smith / Gregory Chaitin / Daniel C. Dennett / Keith Devlin / Fred Dretske / Hubert L. Dreyfus / Luciano Floridi / Tony Hoare / John McCarthy / John R. Searle / Aaron Sloman / Patrick Suppes / Johan van Benthem / Terry Winograd / Stephen Wolfram

Automatic Press - VIP / ISBN 978-8-7921300-99 / 204 pages / July 1, 2008

CONFERENCE RECAP:
First International Seminar on Information Law
Corfu, Greece. June 27-29, 2008

It is a great pleasure to write about the first international seminar on information law. It brings back special memories of an event that combined high standard presentations on information law with fun, laughter and a special feeling of connectedness among the participants and our graduate students.

Left to right: Ken Himma, Maria Bottis, John Palfrey

On Friday 27, 2008, noon, my husband Antonis and I were delighted to invite Pr. Simon Rogerson and his wonderful wife Ann for a boat trip with our Grady White up north the island, at St. Stephanos bay. Pr. Hatzimihail was also our guest. We showed our esteemed guests all the fantastic villas and huge yachts occupying many spots of this spectacular sea. Images of green and blue, I believe we will all remember - as well as, pehaps, some of the delicious dishes in one of our best tavernas. (Corfu is not a place for diets, so keep this in your mind for CEPE 2009).

The seminar opened officially on Friday, 27 June 2008, with a stunning presentation of John Palfery's book (with Urs Gasser), titled Born Digital (forthcoming, Basic Books, August 2008). Palfery was presented by the Director of our graduate program, Pr. Asonitis. Palfery, Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, captured his audience for more than an hour with his eloquent, simple in terms, but yet deep, analysis of what the book is about and what observations the two researchers laid down about the present and the future of the digital natives-our kids, born in the digital technology and the Internet society. Fascinating. In the middle of the presentation, Pr. Urs Gasser had just arrived from Zurich, so he immediately joined the seminar and added his valuable insights and comments. His friendship with the co-author, Palfery sent around very warm feelings. Gasser had spent three years as a Fellow at the Berkman center, at Harvard, where Palfery was the Executive Director, until June 2008. The first day of the seminar ended with a reception at the Corfu Palace Hotel, in front of the sea and yet, almost in the heart of the city of Corfu, where dinner inluced a huge BBQ buffet (what did I tell you about Corfu and diets?) and live Greek music.

On the second day, the 'real seminar' began with a general overview of theoretical aspects of information law. Pr. Simon Rogerson, well known in the academy of course, and Director of the Center of Computing and Social Responsibility, impressed the audience with his well known vitality and brightness; he spoke on Information Paradigms and the law in the Information Age. Simon comes from the industry; he is not a lawyer as he hastened to explained, which made his comments

Ann Rogerson, Maria Bottis, Bernt Hugenholtz, Urs Gasser, John Palfrey

all the more valuable, to people who usually think 'in the box' as lawyers. His power points were so good I almost forbade him to show them to my students. Ken Himma followed with an excellent analysis of the moral justification of intellectual property. Ken is, no doubt, the person to explain these strenuous ideas and theories to students, who understood him perfectly. The Greek Professor Aristeides Xatzis closed this first part with his paper 'there is no such thing as too much information-Mill's moral confrontation and the importance on diversity.'

The opening of the second session belonged to Pr. Bernt Hugehnoltz, whose important contribution to information law in Europe is difficult to underestimate. I had read a lot of Bernt's works, available also in the site of his center for information law IVIR, but it is equally impressive to listen to his talk on peer-to-peer liability issues. Students were particularly impressed. Then, Ken Shadlen from the London School of Economics, analysed issues of patents and the distribution of knowledge in the developing countries, a facet of information law that I have a preference for and which Ken presented very lively. Pr. Hatzimihail offered us food for thought on the transnational dimensions of information law. Urs Gasser closed the seminar with a summing-up of the speeches; an impressive exposition of what a mind like Gasser's can produce in a very few minutes, almost as a theatrical improvization....

Greek dancers at Tripas

I must mention that chairing from the colleagues, attorneys at law and collaborators of the Hellenic Copyright Organization, Dafni Papadopoulou and Maria Synanidou was very successful.

Lunch followed at the traditional restaurant in the old town, Rex, where apart from food, we also booked, at the initiation of inquiet personalities like Gasser, a table at the night club Villa Mercedes....

And really, after dinner at the world known music taverna TRIPAS (the CEPE 2009 conference dinner's location), where we all danced at Greek traditional live music syrtaki, etc., we all went at the club Villa Mercedes until early hours...rumors say that Gasser and Palfrey left from Villa Mercedes only to pick up their baggage and go directly to the airport, for their morning flight to Athens and then the States.

For my part, I thank every participant, every professor, and every student for being there. I know the people who lived with us these days will not forget this seminar. I am very optimistic for the second seminar on information law, 24-25 June 2009, just before CEPE (you are all invited).

And then, I am very optimistic for CEPE 2009. CEPE is a big event: it necessarily is much more promising. What I am going to do, as I had the honor that important people trusted CEPE 2009 to me, is to combine no-nonsense academia (papers and discussions with the brightest and most successful of people) with a particular sense of happiness coming from nature and the arts and from nature. I want people to leave Corfu with a set of ideas, sounds and images and - the most important - warm feelings forever 'saved' in their minds.

Maria

Calls and Announcements

Workshop Announcement
The Use of Implants in Ethical Surveillance Infrastructures: Towards a Transdisciplinary Ontology
Center for Interdisciplinary Research
Bielefeld University
September 3-5, 2008

Organized by: Michael Nagenborg, Kirstie Ball, Torin Monaham, David Murakami Wood, Karsten Weber

This workshop will debate the ethical and surveillance-related consequences of the material implantation of human beings. The objective of the workshop is to define and map an inclusive and transdisciplinary ontology of implants as they are used currently, and in near and distant futures. Our focus will be on implants with biological-sensing and data-generating capabilities, as opposed to more traditional implants such as joint replacements or physiological augmentations.

More Info at: http://www.iethik.de/implants/

Call for Papers
Cultural Issues and Software Quality
Software Quality Journal Special Issue

With software development an increasingly globally integrated activity involving a complex chain of cooperating partners it is clear that culture can play an important role in determining the efficiency of the process and the efficacy of the software produced. SQJ wishes to address this important area in the form of a Special Issue.

Topics of particular interest on "Cultural issues and Software Quality" include but are not limited to:

- Impact of cultural diverse project teams
- Cultural Software Quality perspectives
- Culturally-sensitive Software development models and methods
- Cultural Theory and Software Quality
- Life Cycle Issues and cultural difference
- Innovative quality culturally varying practices in software engineering
- Measuring culture in software development
- Empirical Case Studies highlighting cultural issues or ramifications

Submitted papers will be rigorously refereed. Papers should be submitted to the special issue through Editorial Manager http://sqjo.edmgr.com selecting the article type "Special Issue: Cultural Issues" on or before May 2, 2009.

Submission of a manuscript to the Software Quality Journal is a representation that the manuscript:

      (a) has not been previously published,

      (b) is not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere, and

      (c) will not be submitted elsewhere until a decision is made regarding its suitability for publication in Software Quality Journal.

Submission is also the representation that the work has been approved for open publication if performed under an official sponsorship requiring such an approval.

Conference Announcement

Network Ethics: The New Challenge in Business, ICT, and Education.

Catholic University of Lisbon
June 23-25, 2009

The Center for Ethics Business and Economics (CEBE) of the Catholic University of Lisbon - FCEE, Carnegie Mellon University, and the University of Northern Iowa are joining efforts to organize the 2009 conference "Network Ethics: The new Challenge in Business, ICT and Education." This is the second in a series of biennial conferences on ethical issues of technology in business, education, and society. More detailed information can be found at the conference's website: www.fcee.lisboa.ucp.pt/network

Symposium Recap

ICIE-Symposium

April 2008

The International Center for Information Ethics (ICIE) started a series of German symposiums on the topic of information ethics in 2001. After having organized and being involved in some bigger international events, there was a demand for a smaller local event to bring together scientists in different career stages as well as from different disciplines with an interest in information ethics. Therefore, a German symposium was held in Karlsruhe in April 2008, which was co organized by the Institute for Philosophy of the University of Karlsruhe. The title of the symposium may be translated as "The changing Internet - need for change in information ethics?" - The basic idea was that there might be reason to redefine the mission of the ICIE, because in the first years the centers was especially focusing on ethical issues of the Internet. We, therefore, addressed three major and quite obvious changes:

1. From Web 1.0 to Web 2.0
2. Form a medium of a Western Elite to global Networks
3. The Internet without Personal Computer

A total of 20 participants discussed different issues connected to these themes, which were introduced by short presentation of position paper selected by the organizers. It was interesting to see how the discussion moved towards the political and legal aspects since the first symposium took place (which is quite unusual in the German philosophy tradition, where the distinction between ethics and politics is quite strict).

While the symposium was closed to public to stimulate the discussion, the closing event was public. The event included talks by Rafael Capurro on the ICIE, Klaus Wiegerling on the ethical challenges of Ubiquitous Computing, and Mark Coeckelbergh (University of Tweente, NL) on Robotics. For those who read German: More information can be found at http://www.icie2008.de/

Call for Papers
SPT 2009: Converging Technologies, Changing Societies
16th International Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology
University of Twente
Enschede, The Netherlands
July 8-10

Deadline for abstracts: January 5, 2009 / Conference e-mail: spt2009@gw.utwente.nl
SPT 2009 welcomes high quality papers and panel proposals in all areas of philosophy of technology. Given the focus of this year's conference, papers dealing with converging technologies and their social and cultural impact are especially welcomed. SPT 2009 will include 14 tracks:

1. Converging technologies and human enhancement
2. Converging technologies and engineering sciences
3. Converging technologies and risks
4. Converging technologies: general issues
5. Ethics of emerging technologies
6. Philosophy and ethics of biomedical and nanotechnology
7. Philosophy and ethics of information technology
8. Environmental philosophy and sustainable technology
9. Philosophy of engineering and design
10. Robots, cyborgs and artificial life
11. Technology and moral responsibility
12. Technology, culture and globalisation
13. The good life and technology
14. Philosophy of technology: general and assorted issues

Papers will be accepted on the basis of a submitted abstract, which will be refereed. An abstract must be between 500 and 750 words in length (references excluded) and submitted via email as embedded plain text or an attachment in RTF or WORD (no docx) or PDF format. It should also contain the name and number of the track to which the abstract is submitted. Abstracts must be submitted no later than January 5, 2009. Authors will be informed of the decision of the referees by March 2, 2009.

Panel Proposals: We will also accept proposals for panel discussions, also to be submitted by January 5, 2009. Panel proposals must include a statement of the general topic and an overview of the specific questions or issues to be addressed. In addition, the proposal should include a list of the panelists involved, their expertise in this area, and whether they have indicated that they are willing to participate.

The SPT conference series is recognized as the premier international event in philosophy of technology, with delegates from all over the world. Conferences are held every 2 years, alternating between Europe and the United States. SPT 2009 is the 16th conference in the series.

Organizing Committee: Phillip Brey and Peter-Paul Verbeek, University of Twente, Directors
                                    Katinka Waelbers, University of Twente, Coordination

Please look out for our second call for papers, early September 2008. It will list keynote speakers, the programme committee, track chairs, and brief track descriptions. Or keep checking the conference website (currently in progress) at http://www.utwente.nl/ceptes/spt2009/

Call for Papers
CEPE 2009: International Computer Ethics Conference
Ionian University, Corfu, Greece
June 27-29, 2009

Deadline for abstracts: 10 November 2008

Papers: CEPE2009 welcomes high quality paper and panel proposals in all areas of computer/IT ethics. This includes, but is not limited to, ethical issues relating to:

- Online communities, the virtual and the "real"
- Privacy, data protection, RFID, surveillance, CCTV, spam, phishing, and spyware
- Global computing and intercultural information ethics
- Information access, search engines, and the digital divide
- Democracy and the internet; computing technology and natural disasters
- Virtuality, simulation and reproduction
- Computing, identity and difference: gender, ethnicity, race, religion
- Open source; virtual ownership; intellectual property & copyright
- Emerging technologies, such as nanotechnology, supercomputing, Internet2, robotics, biomedicine, bioinformatics and bioengineering
- New military, security and law enforcement applications of IT
- New developments in artificial intelligence, artificial agents, embedded systems and artificial life.

We particularly welcome papers from applied ethics fields other than computer ethics that focus on any of the above areas, as well as papers from computer science professionals who combine their state-of-the-art knowledge of IT with ethical analysis.

Papers will be accepted on the basis of a submitted abstract, which will be refereed.

An abstract must be between 1200 and 1400 words in length (references included) and submitted via email as embedded plain text or an attachment in RTF or WORD or PDF format.

Abstracts must be submitted no later than 10 November 2008. Authors will be informed of the decision of the referees by 30 January 2009. Full papers must be submitted by 29 April 2009.

Panel Proposals: We will also accept proposals for panel discussions, also to be submitted by 10 November 2008. Panel proposals must include a statement of the general topic and an overview of the specific questions or issues to be addressed. In addition, the proposal should include a list of the panelists involved, their expertise in this area, and whether they have indicated that they are willing to participate. Please use the Panel Proposal Form that will soon be available on the CEPE2009 website.

The CEPE conference series is recognized as one of the premier international events on computer and information ethics attended by delegates from all over the world. Conferences are held about every 24 months, alternating between Europe and the United States. CEPE 2009 is the eighth conference in the series.

Conference website: http://cepe2009.ionio.gr/

MEMBER NEWS

Professor Luciano Floridi (Research Chair in Philosophy of Information, University of Hertfordshire [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luciano_Floridi] has been elected Gauss Professor by the Göttingen Academy of Sciences [http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/sh/10150.html] for the academic year 2008-09. Every year, the Academy elects a Gauß-Professur der Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen [http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/51405.html] to honour the memory of the great scientist. The Professorship is usually awarded to "important scientists in one of Gauss' fields of interest", namely astronomy, mathematics or physics. Recipients have included Nobel laureates and famous mathematicians. Professor Floridi is the first philosopher ever to be elected. The Laudatio awards him the Gauss Professorship in recognition of his work on the philosophy of information [http://www.philosophyofinformation.net/].

INSEIT Co-Directors

Elizabeth Buchanan:
buchanan@sois.uwm.edu

Kat Henderson:
kat.henderson@thunderbird.edu

INSEIT Board

Herman Tavani, President:
htavani@rivier.edu

Kenneth Einer Himma:
himma@spu.edu

Luciano Floridi:
luciano.florida@philosophy.ox.ac.uk

Frances Grodzinzky:
grodzinskyf@sacredheart.edu

Philip Brey:
P.A.E.Brey@utwente.nl

Keith Miller:
kmill2@uis.edu

Inseit Email:
inseit@sois.uwm.edu

Membership:
On-Line Payment Now Available
The Philosophy Documentation Center (PDC) website now has the capability for online renewal.

Please check it out by going to http://www.pdcnet.org/member-inseit.html and click on "current members". This will take you to a screen where you would enter the renewal order number from the renewal notice sent out recently by PDC. New members can also join INSEIT by using this new and convenient system.

Note that you may also complete and send in the hardcopy document. Please print and complete the following information before sending it to the PDC:

Name:
Mailing Address:
E-Mail:
Membership Options (check one):
Regular Membership in INSEIT, $60 _____
Student membership, $25 _____
All payments must be in US funds
Payable by check**
Or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, and Discover)
Name on credit card:
Credit Card Number:
Expiration Date:

**Checks should be made payable to the Philosophy Documentation Center

Please return this form with your payment to:
Philosophy Documentation Center
15
P.O. Box 7147
Charlottsville, VA 22906-7147
USA
or Fax this form with credit card information to:
1-434-220-3301.