

Privacy - Power

Some Reflections on a Relationship

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A Multiple View of Individual Privacy in a Networked World

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Abstract

In terms of legislative distribution privacy, as a regulatory concept, has become a great success.

At the same time criticism of the way the privacy laws have been implemented and operated is increasing: It is said that privacy laws are e.g. unable to meet the challenges of networked information, of miniaturized information devices, of bureaucratic sclerosis.

And, indeed, if we look at the very early discussions on privacy in the 1960s and compare the results at least one essential aspect seems to have lost attention: privacy and its role in the structural control of informational power.

The presentation will introduce the concept of structural control and of informational power; it will analyze to what extent the main elements of privacy laws today are able to meet this challenge, and offer some suggestions into which direction further developments might go and into which direction they should go.