Do we need ethics?

What is Ethics?

How do we use ethics?

What about research ethics?

Questions?
Maja van der Velden

Digitalisation research section
Sustainability and Design research group
Sustainability & Design Lab

Teaching:
IN5010 | Design, Technology & Society

Interests:
Repair and recycling
Sustainable digitalisation
Ethics of technology design
Open source intelligence (OSINT)

sustainability@ifi.uio.no
Do we need ethics?

- Who decides what technology is made?
- Who is responsible for how technology is used?
- How to weigh certain values when designing a new technology?
- What is my ethical responsibility as a technology designer or developer?
iSynx is a personalized lens with strong artificial intelligence capabilities. We are now accepting applications for beta testing.

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Email Address *

I agree to the terms and conditions *

Sign me up

Read the terms and conditions here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRHh9mDgonI
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moral intuition
The ethical dilemma of self-driving cars - Patrick Lin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixIoDYZvKAo
What is Ethics?

- Ethics is following the law
- Ethics is based on an universal set of values
- Ethics is what is acceptable in my culture
- Ethics is following my religious beliefs

Which statement do you agree with?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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Ethical theories for ethical analysis and decision-making

- *utilitarianism* (focus on **consequences**)
- *deontology* (focus on **intention** - no matter the consequences)
- ethical relativism & ethical absolutism (meta-ethics)
- ethical pluralism
- ethics of care
Situation 1:

It is Wednesday evening and you’re packing up some books and notes to take over to a friend’s apartment. Tomorrow you will both have an exam that will count towards 50% of your final grade in the course. You have no problem with the course and you expect you will get a good grade on the exam. Your friend is struggling with the course material and you have promised to help her this evening. A good grade is important for her to keep her scholarship.

Just as you are walking out the door, your mobile rings. It is another good friend who asks you to join her and her friends for a pizza and beer. You really like to join them, also because you owe them a round of drinks from the last time you were together.
### Consequentialist analysis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs (negatives)</th>
<th>Fulfill promise – study with friend</th>
<th>Break promise – enjoy pizza and beer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will miss a nice evening with friends ...</td>
<td>Will disappoint a friend who’s counting on your help ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Benefits (positives)</th>
<th>Fulfill promise – study with friend</th>
<th>Break promise – enjoy pizza and beer</th>
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<td>Will be able to help a friend in an important way ...</td>
<td>Will enjoy a nice evening with friends ...</td>
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Situation 2:

Your company has won the tender to design and develop an emergency alert system for elderly citizens living alone at home in Oslo. The system should be based on sensors that measure bodily activities and sensors located in strategic places around the home. In order to design the system, you need to consider several important issues, such as personal privacy & surveillance; autonomous system versus human override; system effectiveness versus human integrity; etc.

Who or what should decide these issues? You/your company? The best technical solution? The project budget? The municipality? The care workers? The elderly? The family of the elderly?
Algorithmic bias

I've got a mask. Can you see my mask?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UG_X_7g63rY
Could we predict crimes the way we predict weather?

'PROACTIVE POLICING' COULD BE CREATING CRIMINALS

New research finds that minority youth who are confronted by officers are more likely to subsequently engage in delinquent behavior than those who don't face such encounters.

TOM JACOBS · APR 9, 2019
Krever at politiet begrenser såkalte tilfeldige kontroller

Flere organisasjoner samlet seg i dag foran Stortinget for å vise at de ikke godtar måten politiet i Oslo gjør tilfeldige kontroller på. De forteller at minoritetsungdom i hovedstaden opplever å bli behandlet som kriminelle av politiet, uten at det er noen grunn til det.

Edin Babic
Journalist

Mathias Ogre
Journalist

Publisert 10. feb. 2018 kl. 16:55
Oppdatert 11. feb. 2018 kl. 08:42

NOK ER NOK. Demonstrantene utenfor Stortinget mener politiets bruk av etnisk profilering svekker minoritetenes tilhørighet til fellesskapet.
FOTO: PEDER BERGHOLT / NRK

- Vi er her i dag for å vise politiet at vi ikke finner oss i at de bruker etnisk profilering til å stoppe og kontrollere ungdom på en ubehagelig måte, sier Sahar Hassani.
Are you, as a *designer* or *developer*, responsible for how a technology is used?
Limitations of utilitarianism:

• How do we decide what is more important – has more value?

• How far in the future must we consider?

• For whom are the consequences that we must consider?

Limitation of deontology:

• Absolute nature

• Role of culture in shaping ethics becomes invisible
(Sociotechnical) Computer Ethics

• based on particular understanding of the relationship between science, technology, and society

• technology is a sociotechnical system infused with values

• rich account of the situations in which ethical decisions are made
How do we use ethics @ Informatics

- Reflect on your design space
- Use IRR actively
- Ethics part of project planning
- Who and what will be indirectly affected by your design
- Keep a research diary during the implementation of your master project
- Include a short chapter or section with your ethical reflections in your master thesis
Planning | Implementation | Evaluation
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Hekta på mobilen

I en uke logget Johanne, Rikke og Hanna mobilbruken sin. Hver dag deler de livet sitt på sosiale medier med oss. Hvorfor klarer vi ikke å legge fra oss mobilen?
James Williams argues that digital technologies privilege our impulses over our intentions, and are gradually diminishing our ability to engage with the issues we most care about.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxyRf3hfRXg
What about research ethics?
UiO's 10 commandments for ethical practice in research

Adopted by the University Board on 21 June, 2007

1. You shall be guided by the rights and duties spelled out in the Law of Academic Freedom.
2. You shall know that honesty is an absolute requisite for scientific work.
3. You shall act in accordance with ethical guidelines for your area of research.
4. You shall give due recognition to colleagues and sources that have aided your own investigation.
5. You shall, if at all possible, participate in collegial analysis and communication of methods and results.
6. You shall be prepared to account for all means and resources that you have received.
7. You shall ensure that your scientific results are solid enough to justify your conclusions and that the raw data/materials on which your publications are based remain intact and available.
8. You shall adhere to the rules that govern publications in your field.
9. You shall strive to be level-headed when you report your results; consequential considerations should include both potential benefits and would-be ethical dilemmas.
10. You shall maintain your scientific competency and also seek to improve it.

Privacy Protection and Research Papers

When writing a research paper (e.g. bachelor’s thesis, master’s thesis, etc.) in which you wish to include sensitive information, medical information, or other personal information from individuals, there are a number of requirements you must satisfy in addition to formally securing permission before you can begin work.

Contents

- What types of research do these guidelines cover?
- What responsibility do student researchers have for research participants’ (respondents or informants) privacy protection?
- What responsibility do you as a research paper author have for the personal information you gather and use in your work?
  - 1. During the planning/start-up phase
  - 2. During project implementation
  - 3. At completion
- Data classification and data storage

https://www.uio.no/english/employees/support/research/ethics/10-commandements.html

https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/privacy-protection/
“If you, through interviews, questionnaires, observations or other means, are gathering, registering, processing or storing information about individuals (i.e. personal data), then your project is likely to be subject to notification.”

- URL NSD website nsd.no:
  - Notification test | Meldeplikttest
  - Informed consent | Informert samtykke
  - FAQ | Vanlige spørsmål

Norsk samfunnsvitenskapelige datatjeneste
Norwegian Social Science Data Services
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The Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees

Guidelines for Research Ethics in Science and Technology

Guidelines for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Theology

Guidelines for research ethics

Science and technology

Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Theology

Human remains

Internet research

https://www.etikkom.no/en/
Principles:

- **Respect.** People who participate in research, as informants or otherwise, shall be treated with respect.

- **Good consequences.** Researchers shall seek to ensure that their activities produce good consequences and that any adverse consequences are within the limits of acceptability.

- **Fairness.** All research projects shall be designed and implemented fairly.

- **Integrity.** Researchers shall comply with recognized norms and to behave responsibly, openly and honestly towards their colleagues and the public.
Success with your master studies!

Questions?
RESOURCES USED IN THE ETHICS@INFORMATICS LECTURE


• iSynx (2016). iSynx (video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyFo-ABGfS4


• Williams, James (2017). The Attention Economy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxyRf3hfRXg

• **UiO’s Ten Commandments for Research Ethics:**
  https://www.uio.no/english/for-employees/support/research/ethics/10-commandements.html

• **Privacy Protection and Research Papers:**
  https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/privacy-protection/

• **For your supervisor:**
  https://www.uio.no/english/for-employees/support/privacy-dataprotection/student-supervisor/
• **General research ethics guidelines:**
  https://www.etikkom.no/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/Generelle-forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/general-guidelines-for-research-ethics/


• **Guidelines for research ethics in science and technology:**

• **General Guidelines for Research Ethics:**
  https://www.etikkom.no/en/ethical-guidelines-for-research/general-guidelines-for-research-ethics/
• Website:  
https://nsd.no/personvernombud/

• English:  

• NSD test to check if you need to notify your project:  
https://nsd.no/personvernombud/en/notify/notification_test.html