

Urgent Issues, Extraordinary Politics
Fromm Institute, USF
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October 23, 2016

Digital Communications, Journalism and Surveillance in the Context of New Technologies

- I. Privacy and Security in a Wired World
 - A. A Little Historical Context: The WWW at 25+
 - B. Web 2.0: The Social Web and Its Economy of Information
 - C. Beyond Web 2.0: The Internet of Things (and the Mirai attack on Dyn)
 - D. Cyber-crime and the Hacking of DNC and Clinton Email
 - E. Changing Attitudes and Access: Is there still a Realm of Privacy?

- II. Government Surveillance in the Post 9-11 World
 - A. A Little Historical Background
 - B. FISA Courts and The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence: Are there Checks and Balances?
 - C. An Overview of the Nature and Extent of Current Surveillance Programs
 - D. Leakers who Changed the Conversation

- III. The Ethics and Law of Secrecy and Leaking
 - A. Can the Government Check Itself?
 - B. Expressing Fidelity to the Law by Breaking the Law
 - C. Standards for Judging when a Leak is Whistle Blowing?

- IV. Policy Reforms and Proposals: What Is Being and Can Be Done
 - A. Bush and the 'Unbound Executive'
 - B. Obama's First About Face: Did Obama Obey the Law?
 - C. The Change Climate After the Snowden Leaks
 - D. The Report of the Presidents Review Group
 - E. Obama's Second About Face?

- V. The Need for A Systematic National Conversation on the Relative Importance of the Values of Safety and Privacy

- VI. The Evolution of Communication Technologies
 - A. The Three Main Stages and their Effects
 1. Language: Humans Spread Across the Earth
 2. Writing: Empire, Agriculture, Civilization
 3. Printing Press: Humanism, Enlightenment, Reformation, Democracy

 - B. Transition to a Fourth Stage: Digital Communication
 - C. The Centrality of Technologies of Communication to the Structures of Public Spheres: A Very Brief Overview

- VII. Sherry Turkle on The Transformation of Technology, Communication, Self and Society
 - A. Critical Issues in Communication and the Development of Personality
 - B. Prerequisites for Development: Time and Space for Self-reflection and Self-Exploration—Moratorium and Privacy
 - C. Two Models of the Self: Bounded and Autonomous vs. Tethered and Collaborative
 - D. Self-Exploration and Presentation Anxiety
 - E. One Key Consequence: The Decline of Conversation
 - F. Are We Ready to Reclaim Conversation and, If So, How?

- VIII. Robert McChesney's Account of the Digital Revolution
 - A. The Political Economy of Communication (PEC)
 - B. The Commercialization of American Journalism
 - C. The Decline of Print Journalism in an Era of Digital Media
 - D. Journalism as a Public Good
 - E. Public Regulation at a Critical Juncture

- IX. An Overall Assessment: Can we Defend Viral Activism without Reclaiming Conversation?
 - A. Locating Viral Activism in the Overall Culture of Digital Media
 - B. Locating Viral Activism in the Late-Modern Public Sphere
 - C. Do we Need a New Ethics and/or Structural Reform?