



History Of The Emergence Of Information Ethics

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the history of the field of information ethics, which is of global importance today. It also contains methodological approaches, scientific and theoretical conclusions of experts conducting research in this field.

KEYWORDS

Infosphere, information ethics, Parrhesia, digital globalization, intellectual property, ethical challenges.

INTRODUCTION

Today, we operate in an information-driven infosphere that plays an important role in all areas of society and has a profound impact on human life. This new sphere is significant in that in today's fast-paced society, humanity is able to unite in one place, that is, in the information space, regardless of age, gender, nationality, social status. And, of course, the fact that this development is accompanied by specific achievements, as well as the emergence of certain problems, and especially in relation to these ethical issues, leads to the emergence of newer concepts in their field.

One of the most pressing issues in modern society today is information ethics, which has emerged in such an important process. Also, the ethical problems that have already arisen in the information society, which is based entirely on technology, and are currently developing complex and rapidly, show the relevance of the concept of information ethics in this direction. Today, the most important task in the formation of information ethics is to create, process, distribute, store, protect the emerging information as a new entity and to meet the ethical requirements and

principles in the infosphere that encompasses the entire human world, including information, knowledge and the digital world. is to promote. In this sense, information ethics focuses on the ethical changes that have emerged and are evolving in an informed society.

The Main Part

Based on the research, it can be said that although the term information ethics originated in the twentieth century with the advent of the computer and the internet, its roots go back a long way. In this regard, experts believe that information ethics has a long and recent history. Although its recent history is explained in connection with the emergence and development of modern information technologies, in particular the Internet, given that humanity has been a major subject of the information exchange process since its inception, the roots of this concept go back a long way.

In this sense, Western scholars have linked the emergence of information ethics to the activities of "freedom of speech" (Parrhesia) in ancient Greece. Emphasizing that this connection is also directly related to the philosophy of Socrates, they rely on the idea that any freedom of speech in the philosophy of Socrates in this matter should be based on the ethical principle of "speaking the truth." Athenian democracy was also based on the freedom of speech to act as a "truth-teller" to any "good" citizen.¹ Since "speaking the truth" is one of the preconditions of morality in any time and place, it can be said that Parrhesia is one of the historical roots of the field today known as information ethics.

¹ Rafael Capurro. Towards an ontological foundation of information ethics.2018y, P.-3

From the point of view of long history, the emergence of information ethics dates back to very ancient times in the East. This is because, according to sources, moral views have long been developed in the worldview of the peoples of the East. As an integral part of their way of life and culture, ethical principles were of very high value in their time. In particular, in the Avesto, the oldest source of Zoroastrianism, the oldest source of the peoples of Central Asia, we can find the perfect expressions of the categories of truth, justice, respect, and non-harm, which are the basis of the information ethics we are talking about.

We can also see an expression of an effective analysis of the principles of information ethics, even from the perspective of Islam, which is prevalent in Central Asia. Although information ethics is not explained in these sources in terms of its time in terms of technology, it is noteworthy that the ethical principles underlying it have been analyzed in a very important way for today.

The new history of information ethics began in the second half of the last century with the emergence of ethical problems as a result of the activities of information technology in specific societies in which the media plays an important role. This situation has been exacerbated by the advent of the internet, which is a convenient and global medium for selling, storing, distributing and sharing data. In the transition to a new stage of information ethics, this new network has led to the emergence of new, more complex ethical issues in the process of processing, transmission, use of information by the media, which can not be regulated by traditional norms already existing in societies.

If we look at the history of the emergence of information ethics, we must first acknowledge that its foundations depend on computer ethics. Because computer ethics is the historical root of the information ethics we think of today. In this regard, it is appropriate to cite the views of Rogerson S. and Bynum T.W, scholars who sought to generalize the development of information ethics from the mid-1970s to the 1990s. They believe that the emerging “two generations” of information ethics can be distinguished and suggest in their research that the first generation is related to Walter Maners’ development of the term “computer ethics” in the 1970s, while the second generation is conceptualized information ethics in the mid-1990s. due to the emergence of the first attempts to develop the basics.²

T. Bynum later linked the emergence of the basics of computer ethics with the works of Norbert Vener, an American scientist who lived and worked in the post-World War II era. Although Norbert Vener did not use the terms “computer ethics” or “information ethics,” his ideas have played an important role in the development of an area called information ethics in later times. In his works, Norbert Vener focuses on the impact of computer technology on central human values such as life, health, happiness, security, liberty, knowledge, opportunity and ability.

The main condition for becoming an active member of the information society, which began to emerge in the post-World War II period, was the development of information

technology, and all countries began to fulfill this task to the best of their ability. However, in the process of researching theories of informatization and the information society, experts began to think about the ethical issues that arose as a result of the development of information technology in all fields, which in turn paved the way for research on information ethics, a new modern field of applied philosophy.

Research in this area has also begun, first and foremost, with the study of computer ethics. In the 1970s, American professor W. Manner coined the term “computer ethics” and used it for the first time.³ In 1971, G.M. Weinberg expressed his views on this in *The Psychology of Computer Programming*. This book focuses primarily on the impact of information technology on social ethics.

J. Weizenbaum suggested that there should be strict restrictions on the computerization of human life. He believed that such restrictions were necessary to protect important social values from the negative effects of computers and information technology.⁴ By the mid-1980s, a number of results of research on information ethics had emerged, and some progress had been made in the study of the field.

Speaking of the emergence of the term information ethics, some ideas about this term were first developed in the 1980s by Barbara Kostrewski and Ch. Oppenheim in an article published in the journal *Information Science*. This is further detailed in R. Capurro's 1988

² Rogerson, S., Bynum, T.W. (1996). Information ethics: the second generation, *The future of information systems*, UK AIS C. URL: <http://www.ccsr.cse.dmu.ac.uk/staff/Srog/teaching/ukais.htm> Sottek

³ Maner, W, (1996) Unique ethical problems in information technology, *Science and Engineering Ethics*, Volume 2 No 2

⁴Weizenbaum, J, (1976) Computer power and human reason: from judgement to calculation, W H Freeman

article "Information Ethos and Information Ethics" in Germany and in 1992 in R. Hauptman's article "Ethical Changes in Libraries."⁵

One of the philosophers who has done significant research in this area is Luciana Floridi. His research provided the basis for new directions and approaches in this area. Luciano Floridi's information ethics manifests itself directly in relation to his information philosophy. In his research, Florida details the following three components of information ethics: information ethics in the use of information (including information as a source), information ethics in the production of information (including information as a product) and information ethics in the impact of the information environment (in this case, information as a goal).⁶

In the first component, information ethics implies adherence to ethical values in the use of information resources. Ethical values include the use of information resources, security, reliability and accuracy. In this case, it is important to maintain a fair attitude and an objective assessment. In the second stage, when information is a product, information ethics focuses on important issues such as responsibility in the process of creating information, adherence to ethical and legal rules, or combating plagiarism, false advertising and misinformation when it occurs. At the stage where information serves a purpose, information ethics discusses the

impact of information on the ethical environment: for example, unauthorized access to prohibited systems (hacking), regulating the dissemination of false information aimed at disrupting personal and professional activities, etc.

Later, in 1986, R.O, a computer science specialist with the U.S. Administration, conducted research in this area. Mason proposed four key ethical issues that arise in the information age: information confidentiality, accuracy of information, intellectual property rights, and the right to use information resources.⁷

In recent years, "Information Ethics" has been interpreted differently by different researchers, and as a result, different approaches to this concept have emerged. In their work, they studied information ethics directly related to areas such as computer ethics, business ethics, medical ethics, information philosophy, and library ethics.

The German philosopher Peter Sloterdijk distinguishes three great changes in the history of Western culture. The first is the globalization of Greek philosophy that followed the emergence of modern science. The second is the process of globalization of the whole world, which began in Europe in the 15th century and reached its peak in the 20th century. The third is the rapidly evolving digital globalization, the emergence of the infosphere. And it is precisely in this process that the question of how information and communication technologies affect human culture is a key ethical issue. In this sense, he believes, the use of modern information

⁵ Thomas Froehlich. A brief history of information ethics. Universitat de Barcelona. Facultat de Biblioteconomia i Documentació 2004

⁶Luciana Floridi. Foundations of Information Ethics. In book: The handbook of information and computer ethics. 2008 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.p 3-21

⁷ R. Mason. Four Ethical Issues of the Information Age. MIS Quarterly 10.1, pp. 5–12, 1986

technology is not only a technical but also a cultural move.

CONCLUSION

Now, the most pressing new ethical challenges we face and consider important to focus on are related to the use and development of new information technologies. New developments in the field of information technology have unimaginably affected people's lifestyles and worldviews a few decades ago, resulting in new ethical challenges for humanity. As a result, the pre-existing ethical rules have now begun to require a new approach in such a modern society.

Today, information ethics is not only a complex field, but also relevant in digital societies based on technology. From this point of view, the study and analysis of this category in the historical context, we think, serves to increase its practical effectiveness.

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