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INSEIT

international society for
ethics and information technology

NEWSLETTER

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Dec, 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues:

Greetings! I hope that you are all well and that you are enjoying the holiday season, which is now upon us. Of course, I also realize that many of you, like me, are still grading final exams and student papers for the fall 2011 term and, thus, might not yet be fully into the “holiday mind-frame.”

This will be my last message as INSEIT President, as my term of office expires at the end of December. Please know that I am deeply honored to have had the privilege to serve in this role; it has certainly been a rewarding experience for me, thanks, in large part, to the outstanding support that I received from so many of you. I would especially like to thank our society’s directors (Elizabeth and Kat), board members, and Newsletter editor (Tony Hoffman) for their steadfast support during the past four years. But, once again, the time has come to “pass on the baton” at INSEIT!

As you may already know, we recently elected a new INSEIT President and a new Board member, both of whom will assume their respective positions on January 1. Congratulations to President-elect Charles Ess and to our newest (but, then again, not-so-new) Board member, Fran Grodzinsky. (As many of you know, Fran previously served on the INSEIT Board between 2003 and 2009.) Fortunately, INSEIT’s leadership will be in very capable hands, as we greet the new year and anticipate some of the challenges that our society will likely face in the near future. Those of you who know Charles Ess are, no doubt, struck by his professionalism, scholarship and academic acumen, as well as his extraordinary interpersonal skills; fortunately, he will bring these valuable skills and other strengths to the INSEIT presidency. And, of course, Fran Grodzinsky, with her fine administrative skills and previous INSEIT (Board) experience, will further solidify a board that is already exemplary.

I would like to extend my warmest appreciation and special thanks to Karsten Weber and Michael Zimmer, both of whom served as candidates in the fall 2011 elections. I would also like to thank the fall 2011 INSEIT Election Committee – Maria Bottis, Elizabeth Buchanan, Kat Henderson, and Keith Miller – for the fine job that they did throughout the election process. And, finally, I would like to thank all of you who voted in the recent INSEIT elections.

Ken Himma will complete his term on the INSEIT Board at the end of December, and I would like to thank Ken for his many contributions during the past four years. In addition to working closely with Ken, I have had the pleasure to serve along side of many other board members during my tenure as president (and before that, during my time as INSEIT’s co-director, between 2001 and 2006). In fact, I believe that I have had the good fortune to serve, in some capacity or other, with every INSEIT Board member and co-director – present and past – since our society’s inception more than a decade ago. I now look forward to working (in an unofficial capacity) with the new INSEIT leadership in whatever ways they might deem appropriate. And I enthusiastically look forward to seeing all of you at future INSEIT-sponsored and INSEIT-affiliated conferences.

Plans are now well underway for both the CEPE 2013 and Ethicomp 2013 conferences. Also, the program for ICIL (International Conference on Information Law) 2012, which will take place in Corfu (Greece) in late June, has recently been updated. Please see the ICIL 2012 conference update from Maria Bottis that is included in this issue of the Newsletter. I hope to see many of you at that conference!

Herman

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THANK YOU, HERMAN!

On behalf of all INSEIT members, thank you for your direction, vision, and service to the society over the past four years!

-Anthony (INSEIT member and the guy who used to put these newsletters together)

Luciano Floridi

Updates:

Luciano Floridi was appointed Chairman of the expert group, organised by the DG INFSO of the European Commission, on the impact of information and communication technologies on the digital transformations occurring in the European society. The project is part of “Digital Futures”, a EU visioning initiative that seeks “to anticipate possible issues and generate inspiring ideas for the future of policy-making in the digital realm”. It will deliver its report by the end of 2012.

Luciano Floridi was elected member of the advisory board of the InfoMetrics Institute <http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/> The Institute – within the College of Arts and Sciences of American University – was launched in August, 2009. The Institute’s mission is to promote the interdisciplinary study of information, information processing and decision rules based on efficient use of information. That mission is achieved through collaborations among researchers across the scientific spectrum and dissemina-

tion of knowledge through conferences, workshops and seminars as well as through short-term, hands-on classes at the graduate and post-graduate level.

Luciano Floridi delivered the Prestige Lecture on Science of Information (Purdue University, 31 October, 2011). The lecture series is organised by the NSF-funded Center for Science of Information <http://soihub.org/>

Luciano Floridi was a keynote speaker at the Symposium on Digital Ethics (October 28) that will inaugurate the new Center for Digital Ethics and Policy (digitaletics.org) at Loyola University in Chicago. The Center for Digital Ethics and Policy, hosted by the School of Communication at Loyola University Chicago, seeks to foster more dialogue, research, and guidelines regarding ethical behavior in online and digital environments.

Luciano Floridi was awarded a grant by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, to work on information quality standards, in collaboration with Google UK.

Chuck Huff and Owen Gaasedelen have just published an annotated bibliography in Moral Psychology for Oxford Bibliographies Online. You can find it at: <http://www.oxfordbibliographiesonline.com/> or send email to Chuck at <huff@stolaf.edu> for a pdf version for personal use.

ELIZABETH BUCHANAN

Elizabeth Buchanan was awarded a University of Wisconsin Stout Research Award to study how community-based participatory research models can be used in online environments.

Elizabeth Buchanan was appointed to the editorial board of the journal Philosophy and Technology, whose Editor-in-Chief is Luciano Floridi. She was also appointed associate editor for the Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics.

INSEIT members Elizabeth Buchanan, Scott Dexter, and Keith Miller, along with Ken Fleischmann, University of Maryland, were recently awarded a \$400,000 collaborative National Science Foundation grant to evaluate ethics pedagogy in computer and information technology graduate coursework. Their project is a multi-institutional study of their four universities, and involves content analysis, survey data collection, and focus group work. They will then work with AMC and IEEE on alignment of university level coursework with the ethics and professionalism standards for those associations.

CfP: Equity, Integrity, and Beauty in Information Law & Ethics

5th International Conference on Information Law

Corfu, Greece
June 29-30, 2012

The ICIL conference is open to papers on any field of law and/or ethics related in any way to any aspect of information. Papers of philosophy, sociology, history and psychology of information also interest us. We are interested in papers on intellectual property, data protection, freedom of information, individual rights and information, privacy, cyberlaw and cyberethics, media law and ethics, digital divide and information technology, e-government, surveillance, intellectual freedom, open access, digital divide and other. We are also particularly interested in papers on the historical development of information laws and ethical theory and we would also consider papers dealing with the social, political or psychological aspects of information.

Special sessions of ICIL 2012—please submit abstracts mentioning the session you prefer. Proceedings of the special sessions will be published in special volumes.

Arts and Ethics
Women in Academia
Young Scholars' Forum
Libraries' Intellectual Capital

ICIL 2012 is co-organized by INSEIT and the Ionian University, Departments of Archive and Library Science and Audiovisual Arts. ICIL 2012 is morally supported by NEXA Center for Internet and Society (To-

rino, Italy), the International Center for Information Ethics (Germany) and the Institute for Legal Informatics (IRI, Germany). Last year, in ICIL 2011 which took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, ICIL hosted 140 speakers from all over the world. Proceedings of ICIL 2011 are under publication with Nomiki Vivliothiki and surpass 1.500 pages.

Keynote speakers of ICIL 2012: Professor Herman Tavani, Rivier College, US and Professor Luciano Floridi, University of Hertfordshire/Oxford University.

Maria Bottis, Assistant Professor at Ionian University, also adds:

“As a co-chair of ICIL 2012, Corfu Greece June 29-30, 2012, I invite everyone to participate in our conference. Corfu in June is a magnificent place as perhaps, people who were here in CEPE 2009 may remember. We will enjoy working in the Ionian Academy, our beautiful old building in front of the Ionian Sea and of course, we will dance Greek dances at the world famous Tripas Taverna. I would encourage people to take a look into our site, <http://conferences.ionio.gr/icil2012> and also,



the site of our last year's conference in Thessaloniki, <http://conferences.ionio.gr/icil2011>, where we hosted 140 speakers from all over the world (check our numerous photos!) in four parallel sessions and also, devoted a special session on museum ethics, first time in Europe and an extended two-days Young Scholars' Forum. We are waiting, soon, for the publication of the ICIL 2011 proceedings, which surpass 1500 pages. Our fees this year are only 50 euros; as you see we do our best to accommodate everyone, and especially young researchers. From the part of the Ionian University, I want to thank INSEIT for the co-organization of ICIL 2012, as with the previous ones and especially Professor Herman Tavani, who has been a constant inspiration and support. Come to Corfu this year and enjoy, with us, a wonderful sunny Mediterranean island and a great, as we hope, international multidisciplinary conference.” ■

CfP: Well-Being in Contemporary Society

International Conference on the Philosophy and Science of Well-being and their Practical Importance

University of Twente, Enschede, Netherlands

July 26-27, 2012

About the Conference

In recent years, well-being has enjoyed a renaissance in philosophical discussions, as well as in fields like psychology, economics, development studies and sociology. Although these approaches share a common goal – to better understand what well-being is and how it can be enhanced – these developments have led to a great diversity in philosophical and scientific approaches to the analysis of well-being. Despite the increasing amount of research, most of the work on well-being is also performed at a highly abstract level. This is especially true in philosophy, but relatively little work has been devoted to the application of theories of well-being also in other fields, in particular when it comes to an understanding of life in contemporary society. Developments such as globalization, consumerism, and the rapid innovation and use of new and emerging technologies, all exert significant impact on the well-being of people living today, and we need a better understanding of their consequences for well-being.

Contemporary society requires that well-being researchers examine these problems – and, if possible, propose solutions to address them. This international conference aims to bring together researchers from various disciplines, including, but not limited to, psychology, economics, sociology, philosophy and development studies, in order to examine the practical role of well-being in contemporary society.

Potential Topics

We are looking for contributions that examine the notion of well-being in the context of contemporary society. The conference particularly welcomes papers that employ a notion of well-being to address social, political and ethical issues in present-day society. Suggested topics for the workshop include, but are not limited to:

- Theoretical developments and approaches in the philosophy and science of well-being in relation to contemporary society, culture and life.
- Well-being in social and political philosophy and/or in policy studies
- Positive psychology (and related research fields) and its practical applicability
- New and emerging technologies and well-being
- Intercultural and interpersonal comparisons of well-being
- Reliability, validity and applicability of well-being measures
- Other specific practical issues pertaining to well-being in contemporary society

The workshop will include both invited papers and an open call for papers. For the open call, we invite extended abstracts (1500-2000 words). Please anonymise the abstract, and include title, name and address in the accompanying email. The abstract, and any questions you may have about the conference, should be sent to wics2012@utwente.nl. Your abstract should be submitted before February 15th 2012, and will be subject to blind peer review.

Publication

Following the conference we aim to publish the papers, subject to a blind review process, in either an edited volume or a special issue of a relevant journal. We did so successfully with our previous conference, *Good Life In a Technological Age*, from which select papers were published as book in the prestigious *Routledge Studies in Science, Technology and Society* series, which will be available in February 2012.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission	Deadline:	
February 15, 2012		
Notification of	Acceptance:	
March 1, 2012		
Conference Dates:		July
26-27, 2012		

Program Chair:

Philip Brey (University of Twente)

Organising committee:

Johnny Hartz Søraker (University of Twente)

Pak-Hang Wong (University of Twente)

Jan-Willem van der Rijt (University of Amsterdam)

Jelle de Boer (University of Amsterdam) ■

CfP: Ethics of Secrecy

International Review of Information Ethics (<http://www.i-r-i-e.net>)

Call for Papers for Vol. 17 (07/2012)

Ethics of Secrecy

Edited by Daniel Nagel, Matthias Rath, and Michael Zimmer

The concept of “secrecy” is bound up in a variety of aspects of information ethics, sometimes in conflicting ways: respecting personal privacy and opposing undue surveillance ensures a certain level of secrecy in one’s personal life and activities; to ensure security and public safety, government secrecy is often justifiable; open records laws and whistleblower protections are meant to limit government secrecy and promote transparency; corporate trade secrets remain secret to protect investments and economic growth; the secrecy of our personal lives is increasingly shattered – and commodified – through social media or, to paint a black picture: the personal freedom to conceal and reveal information and thus even the concept of personal identity might be at stake.

This special issue will explore the complex nature of “secrecy” in our contemporary information society. The ethical exploration of secrecy must be renewed in the face of the multiple and shifting social, political and cultural contexts in which information and people flow.

We welcome papers discussing the ethical complications of “secrecy”, including, but not limited to, these areas of inquiry:

- Privacy, reputation, and the secrecy of personal information
- Tensions between secrecy and transparency
- Corporate secrecy and the ethics of whistleblowing
- The value of secrecy in a social information ecosystem
- The ethics of secrecy across cultures and societies
- Secrecy, transparency, privacy: moral principles of democracy?
- Government secrecy and the ethics of WikiLeaks
- Privacy and secrecy in ethical and sociological discussion
- The “interplay” between secrecy and mass/social media
- Privacy and secrecy in the discussion of communication science

Submission guidelines:

Potential authors are requested to submit an extended abstract (for details see http://www.i-r-i-e.net/about_irie.htm) by December 31, 2011. Abstracts may be submitted in the native language of the author though an English translation of this abstract must be included if the chosen language is not English. IRIE will publish articles in English, French, German, Portuguese or Spanish. The author(s) of contributions in French, Portuguese, or Spanish must nominate at least two potential peer reviewers.

Abstracts will be evaluated by the guest editors.

Deadline for the final article (usually ca. 3,000 words or 20,000 characters including blanks) is May 1, 2012. All final articles must conform to the IRIE style sheet. All full submissions will be subject to peer review. Therefore the acceptance of an extended abstract does not imply the publication of the final text, unless the article has passed the peer review and revisions (if required) have been included in the text.

All submissions should be sent by email with “IRIE-Secrecy Submission” in the header to Michael Zimmer: zimmerm@uwm.edu

- Deadline for extended abstracts: January 15, 2012
- Notification of acceptance to authors: February 29, 2012
- Deadline for full articles: May 1, 2012
- Deadline for revised articles: June 15, 2012
- Publication: July 2012 ■

MEMBERSHIP & BOARD INFO

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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 _____

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