Abstracts

Security and Privacy

Iván Székely, Bernadette Somody and Máté Dániel Szabó: Security and Privacy: Questioning and Superseding the Trade-off Model. Part I. Theoretical and sociological approaches

This study analyses the complex relationship between security and privacy, in particular the validity of the supposed trade-off relationship, and the possibilities of superseding a virtual zero-sum game in this area. The study is divided into two major parts, which are made available in simultaneously published issues of two separate scholarly journals featuring harmonized thematic blocks of articles. The first part is available in the present issue of Replika, while the second part is available in the connecting issue of Információs Társadalom [Information Society] in both printed and electronic formats.

In Part I of the study the authors review the meanings and connotations of the two central notions, and present the characteristics and critical approaches of the trade-off model with regard to the security-privacy conflict. The possible approaches of studying this conflict are presented through the activities of a European research project, followed by the exposition of the concept and realization of a large-scale international empirical survey. From among the findings of the survey those relating to the validity of the trade-off model are discussed in detail.

Márta Szénay: SurPRISE – an irregular opinion research on surveillance, privacy and security

SurPRISE project funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme organised citizen summits in nine European countries in order to collect opinions on surveillance based security technologies such as smart CCTV, surveillance drones, smartphone location, biometric identification or internet surveillance using DPI (deep packet inspection). The research was irregular compared to traditional polls, because it not only asked questions, but also provided information to participants in advance to asking the questions, making possible for them to meet different opinions about the topics covered by the research. The citizen summit also provided possibility for participants to share their opinions
with fellow citizens, mature or change it in debates in case of disagreement, and then, at the end of the summit, they could elaborate knowledge based recommendations for the local and European decision makers. This study tries to summarise what “citizens” thought about surveillance, privacy and security, and describes their main dilemmas, claims and recommendations.

*Bence Ságvári: Discrimination, transparency and accountability. Introduction to the ethics of algorithms.*

For a long time the term „algorithm“ was used mostly by IT specialists among themselves. In recent years, however, this term made a spectacular career in professional circles of social sciences as well as in public discourses about the future of technology and society. This was not accidental, since more and more decisional procedures of our governmental and business environment rely, partly or entirely, on various methods of machine learning. We do not take much risk when stating that this is rather the beginning of the changes. This paper explores some characteristics of the „ecosystem“ built on algorithms. The „political economy of algorithms“ raises important questions regarding social inequalities, discrimination, new power and information asymmetries, transparency and accountability. These questions, in light of perceived or real promises of efficiency and security, are connected to the external control and influencing of privacy in many ways. This is why these will be inevitable political, economic and social questions of the coming era.

*Charles D. Raab: Privacy as a Security Value*

Privacy is valued for many reasons, but there remain unexplored dimensions in its study. The powerful impetus towards security that has been evident in many countries in recent years generates further thinking about privacy, because privacy is one of the rights that is most strongly affected by the attempt to make us, our communities, our countries and our world, secure and safe. Most of the policy discourse about privacy and (or, more typically, versus) security overlooks the underlying affinity between the two. This article aims to uncover that relationship. It examines the concept of individual privacy and its common juxtaposition with what are usually construed as nonindividual interests and values pertaining to society; security is one of these.

**Impoliteness and Gender Identity**

*Loretta Tóth: Impoliteness, Power and Gender Identity*

Although certain branches of feminism (i.e. transfeminism) have attempted to abolish the perceived binary dichotomy between man/woman which connote superior and subordinate roles, due to the stereotypes which are rooted in social norms and conventions, it is noticeable that such oppositions are still vigorously present in society (e.g. blonde woman jokes). Within sociopragmatics studies which often deal with interdependent relationships between
gender identity and language, as well as (im)politeness and power, it is increasingly assumed that a correlation can be found between offensive behavior and interactional power (see Bousfield–Locher 2008). The aim of this paper is to shed light on the main common points of gender studies and (im)politeness studies. The study also makes an attempt to show that possession of interactional power is typically correlates with masculine linguistic behavior, and the use of these linguistic tools may have a more offensive effect if the speaker is a woman.

Weber’s Geography

Zoltán Ginelli: The West and Only the West: The Geography of Weber’s Spirit of Capitalism

According to Max Weber’s famous hypothesis in The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, the „rational” economic behaviour inherent in ascetic protestantism has ultimately paved the way for the spirit of capitalism to develop exclusively „in the West, and only on Western soil.” This study argues that deeply integral to Weber’s scientific hypothesis were his understandings of Western modernity, his moral and political meta-narrative, and his geographical preconceptions. Especially the latter two have been largely overlooked by Hungarian sociologists. Following from these, the article presents a geographical perspective of Weber’s arguments on the „inner” spiritual differences between „East” and „West” with regard to religion, the state, the city and „outer” geographical conditions. However, in contrary to a „homogenous” capitalism, Weber extended this concept both historically and geographically, and made distinctions between „rational” and „irrational” capitalisms, and several „varieties” of capitalism, apart from the modern capitalist „spirit.” This led to confusion in his historical analysis, and supported his imperialist agenda by de-emphasizing colonial capitalism in Western development and disregarding non-Western forms of capitalism. The aim of this study is to provide some preliminary critical remarks on the contradictions and biases of Weber’s often praised world historical method, and to argue for more geographical sensitivity in understanding his arguments. This critique of Weber’s arguments presented here is continued in the next part of this study.

Knowledge of Practical Value and Cultural Anthropology

Carole E. Hill and Marietta L. Baba: Global Connections and Practicing Anthropology in the 21st Century

This chapter examines the major themes in the chapters that compromise this volume by discussing how the practice of anthropology across nations and regions of the world is changing as a result of globalization. Several themes are delineated that reflect a unity of purpose and concern about the development and structure of practicing and policy anthropology in the 21st Century. Divergent viewpoints among the chapters are also examined. Through comparing and contrasting the major points of the chapters, four major intercon-
nected themes are discussed. They are: 1) local/global transformations: challenge to the tradi-
tional, 2) the power of practicing anthropology in local/global contexts, 3) academic and
practicing transformations, and 4) the closing gap between colonized and colonizer nations.
These themes have important implications for the future of global practice and present chal-
lenges to the organization and uses of the products of anthropological inquiry.

Replies

Sziilvia Mehring-Töth: A Reply to „Big Data and Sociology“, or a Chance Meeting of a Meth-
odological Paradigm and a PhD Research

Our digital world produces such amounts of data that is beyond our imagination. A group
of sociologists and data researchers define this as the Big Data phenomenon and regard it as
a new possibility of knowledge. Others, though, emphasize the doubts and the limitations
of using “Big Data”. This interdisciplinary approach was summarized in a 2015 thematic is-

sue of Replika, the statements formulated there are confronted here in form of a case study.
A “metadata” generated in the national public administration containing the local repre-
sentatives and a PhD research concept form the basis of the discussion. The database used
is classified as a Bid Data phenomenon in the broad sense of the term, and the possibilities
and limitations of scholarly usage of generated data are evaluated by the research results.

István Harcsa: Sociology in Crisis or ‘Ideological Shuttle from One Trap to an Other’

This article is a reaction to Iván Szelenyi’s critical analysis concerning „The triple crisis of
sociology”. It seems that those who share Szelényi’s view on the actual symptoms of a sociol-
yogy in crisis are in minority within the discipline. However, the author of the present article,
while putting forth other emphases and analysing the problems in a broader context than
Szelenyi does, is one of them.

Dividedness in this question should not surprise anyone, as we believe that whether one
considers these problems as signs of a crisis or rather as the normal functioning of sociology
is a matter of one’s viewpoint. The author of this article argues that the problem solving and
reflexive capacities of sociology have been deteriorating.