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The Value of Privacy

PHIL 102

Ethics, Politics, & Law

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Values

- **Empirical theories**
- **Analytical theories**
- **Normative theories**
 - Norms
 - Morals/ethics
 - Objectivity?
 - Relativism?
 - Anything goes relativism
- **Good/bad**
- **Right/wrong**
- **Privacy as a value**



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The Case Against Privacy

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- **Classical conservatism**
 - Community
 - Restraining choice
 - Laws
 - Religion
 - Society
 - Morals
- **Danger in privacy**
 - Illegal activities
 - Abuse within the family
- **Socially constructed**
- **“I have nothing to hide”**

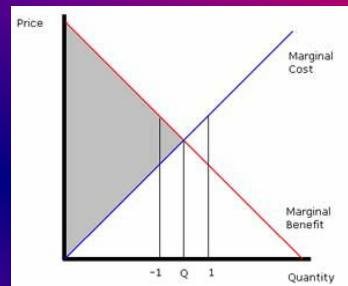


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Foreword Looking Values

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- **Consequentialism**
 - Means/ends
 - Means justify the ends?
 - Privacy as a means
- **Utilitarianism**
 - Intrinsic good
 - Cost/benefit analysis
- **Punishment and deterrence**
- **Benefits of privacy?**



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Privacy, Happiness, & Pain

- Classical utilitarianism
- Pain from privacy violations
 - Embarrassment
 - Victims of voyeurism
 - Costs to career
 - Cost of insurance
- My dinner out example
- Evolutionary psychology
 - Ancestor species
 - Gaze
 - Discomfort from focused attention

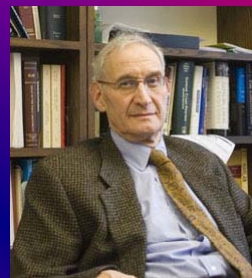


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Privacy and Relationships

- Charles Fried
- What defines a true relationship?
 - Love
 - Friendship
 - Colleague, teammate, etc.
- Social capital
- Privacy as social capital
- Love, friendship, etc. in a world of diminished privacy?

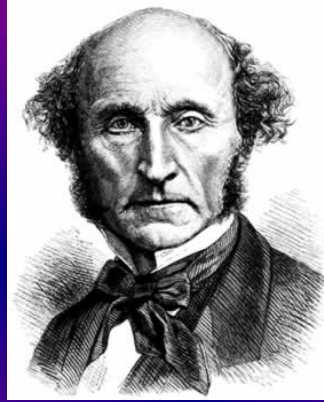


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Privacy and Freedom

- Liberty as a value
- Privacy as liberty?
- Privacy as a means to liberty
 - Flip side of conservative argument
 - *Griswold v. Connecticut*
- Free societies
 - Mill's *On Liberty*
 - Schoeman's argument
 - Getting away with something versus none of society's business

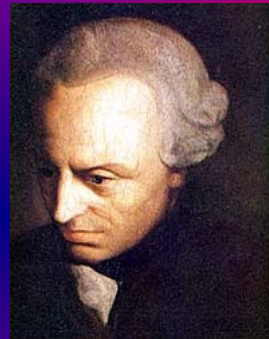


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Backward Looking Values

- Non-consequentialism
 - Promises
 - Punishment and retribution
 - Justice
- Kant's moral theory
 - Categorical imperative
 - Golden rule
 - Respect for persons
- Privacy and respect for persons



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Disrespect, Insult, & the Value of Privacy

- **Illegitimate focused attention**
- **Respect and dignity**
- **Disrespect**
- **Insult**
- **Puzzling aspects of privacy**
 - **Indifference to violations**
 - **Ignorance of violations**
 - **Outrage, but little harm in violations**



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