

27th Annual Association for Professional and Applied Ethics

une
University of
New England

Online Conference 2020

Hosted by the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, University of New England

Wednesday 2 – Thursday 3 December via Zoom

'Who's watching? Surveillance, big data and applied ethics in the digital age.'

Over the past 20 years large institutions—be they corporations or government agencies—have developed, via the collection and use of big data sets, a remarkable ability to track and predict individual and group behaviours. The techniques are impressive and, furthermore, give rise, especially in the health arena, to many potential benefits. At the same time, there is growing unease about both (i) the surveillance this seems to involve and (ii) the growing potential for extensive manipulation of the public at large.

In this conference we would like to explore, amongst other things, the ethical implications of Big Data for us as a society and for professionals working with such data sets.

- What, if anything, is wrong with Big Data? Are there genuine reasons for concern?
- Does Big Data represent an unacceptable form of surveillance that threatens our freedom in a significant way?
- What obligations might professionals working with Big Data have with respect to the obtaining of such information and the use to which this data is put?
- From an historical point of view what distinguishes this system of data collection from earlier systems of collection? Is there something morally significant about any such differences?
- What limits might there be to the collection of such data?

Call for Papers

Conference paper abstracts of up to 250 words to be submitted to Professor Adrian Walsh at: awalsh@une.edu.au no later than **1 November, 2020**.

Authors will be notified by **15 November, 2020** if their papers have been successful.

Registration for the conference should be sent to awalsh@une.edu.au by **28 November**. Authors of accepted papers will be automatically registered.

Registration is free of charge this year due to the online format.

Attendees are also encouraged to submit their papers to a Special Issue of the journal *Research in Ethical Issues in Organisations* which will feature a selection of papers from the conference. Submission deadline for the *Special Issue* is **1 February 2021**. For further information, contact Professor Adrian Walsh at: awalsh@une.edu.au.

Best PhD paper presented at the Conference: First prize will be an award for **A\$500** and second prize **A\$250**.

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For further information, please email info@aapae.org.au