

Call for Papers for IRIE Vol. 27 (08/2017)

Information Ethics from a Marxian Perspective

edited by Marco Schneider and Ricardo Pimenta

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With his concept of *Sittlichkeit*, Hegel posited that the manifestation of a truly ethical life must be grounded in the concrete foundation of ethical institutions. But for Hegel, the creation and support of such institutions was not the task of philosophy. While Marx didn't specifically mention Hegel's concept, he noted that bourgeois society would not have produced (or could ever produce) such institutions. He also disagreed with Hegel that philosophy should be separated from the creation and advocacy of ethical institutions. On the contrary, Marx proposed a paradigm change that instead gave primacy to praxis (the dialectical articulation of theory and practice) over pure theory. After all, what is the purpose of ethics if not to guide the process of human praxis? For Aristotle, the point of ethics as a philosophical discipline is not only to *know* good but to *do* it. The same could be said about Marxian ethics, implicit in the famous 11th thesis on Feuerbach, which states – "Philosophers have hitherto only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it." But in what sense should this change take place? Toward the goal of eliminating the alienation, exploitation, and reification of men and women as the only way to ensure, theoretically and practically, the emergence of a real, true *Sittlichkeit*

Bearing this in mind, it is here posited that the question of information ethics stands privileged as one of the most urgent theoretical and practical questions of our time. Because capitalism continues to be, more than ever, structured on foundations that enforce unequal access to information and to the literacy skills needed to engage information, no serious egalitarian knowledge of the world or critical worldview can yet be formed. Information is yet the core element of power maintenance in a bourgeois society, affecting scientific, industrial, financial, commercial, political, military, and cultural sorts of information. As such, widespread abuses are perpetuated through information control; lies, monopolies, biased corporate and state-influenced media, ubiquitous spying by governments on citizens and control of the means of production and circulation of information. Nevertheless, the proliferation of the Internet, with its tendency toward free information flows within both commercial and public medias, furnishes vast opportunities for information access through open search tools and unfettered communication channels, allowing new means of overcoming alienation and exploitation.

We invite submissions related (but not limited) to the following issues:

- Information ethics, imperialism and the digital divide.
- Information ethics, class struggle and critical information literacy.
- Information ethics and media corporations.
- Exploitation of informational labour.
- Knowledge organization, information and alienation.
- Assigning value to information during its disposal or preservation processes.
- Scientometrics, the promiscuity of scientific research within USA military-industrial complexes and the general political economy of scientific publishing.
- Perceived Information society utopias vs global-wide growing material misery
- The building of ethical regimes of information beyond capitalism.

Papers on these and related issues are welcome.

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Abstracts and Submissions

Potential authors are requested to provide an extended abstract (max. 1,500 words) to the guest editors. Abstracts may be submitted in the native language of the author though an English translation of the abstract must be included if the chosen language is not English. IRIE will publish articles in English, German, Spanish, Portuguese or French. Abstracts will be evaluated by the guest editors. The authors will be informed of acceptance or rejection.

All submitted articles 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.

For more information about the journal see: <http://www.i-r-i-e.net>