Introduction

Iordanis Kavathatzopoulos

The course

- Lecture, seminars, group project
- Literature: Good research practice, links, papers
- Examination: Participation, abstracts, group project, presentations, home exam
- Focus on practical methods applicable in professional issues

Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date, room</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Literature, etc.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 Aug, 2244 10.15-12.00</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Iordanis</td>
<td>Links, papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 Sep, 2244 09.15-12.00</td>
<td>Research issues</td>
<td>Groups</td>
<td>Good RP, Papers, Abstracts, Slides</td>
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<td>17 Sep, 1111 09.15-12.00</td>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>Groups</td>
<td>Slides</td>
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<td>17 Oct, deadline</td>
<td>Home exam</td>
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What is morality and ethics?

- **Content:** “Right actions are moral but wrong actions are immoral”
- **Choice:** “Morality and ethics are related to choice”

Technology, research and ethics

- Technology and science are necessary, modern society can not function without it
- Technology and science affects significant values for persons and organizations
- Technology and science can be tools for almost any purpose
- Technology and science have a big impact, both positive and negative, on all aspects of life, especially today
Ethical aspects

• Ethical aspects have an increasing impact on technology usability and on the application of research
• Good technology and research do not cause conflicts
• Good technology and research satisfy important values and interests
• People do not want to and cannot use research findings and technology that do not satisfy the above, independently of its other usability aspects

Do we need ethics?

• There are really no problems! Just follow the law, the rules, or your moral feeling!
• Education in ethics cannot make people better!
• It is impossible to use ethics education in real life!

Do we know what is right?

• World: changing, global, unpredictable, complex
• Scientific and technical development
• Problems vary, are personal, different
• People are complex, isolated, undefined
• No functioning authorities & guidelines
• Decentralization, delegation
• Intense public and media interest
Can it be serious?

- Low applicability and gains
- Bad service, no trust
- Higher stress, worse environment
- Confusion, fear, desperation ...

Sub optimality: Nothing spectacular but devastating in time

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Is it easy or difficult?

Generally we are constrained because of our nature but ethics are harder:

- Incompatible values decide right and wrong
- Contradictory cases, e.g. double standards
- Strong emotions
- Authority is very important
- Focus on content not on process

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Gaining Knowledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nature, technology</th>
<th>Society, morality</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fact</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Method</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process Skill</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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Ethical insecurity?
Handling of moral issues creates a big risk: *Important myths can be destroyed*
- *For persons:* Resolution of problems, personal development, but risk to lose enthusiasm, get disoriented, lost, cynical
- *For organizations, society:* Hero, e.g. whistle blowing (courageous, responsible), or offend persons and principles (show no respect, disloyalty, treason, hostility)

What do we need?
- *Ethical competence:* Know how to handle ethical issues, how to think
- *Ethical processes:* Roles, procedures, mechanisms in organizations
- *Ethical confidence:* Know that we can find good solutions and trust our ability (i.e. know that our skill and our way of handling moral issues is working)

Different approaches
\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Content} \\
\text{Values and norms} \downarrow \\
\text{Authority, tradition, ...} \downarrow \\
\text{Right solution} \\
\hline
\text{Choice} \\
\text{Problem owners} \downarrow \\
\text{Psychosocial processes} \downarrow \\
\text{Skills, methods} \\
\end{array}
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