

Technology, research and ethics

Introduction

Iordanis Kavathatzopoulos

The course

- Lectures, seminars, project
- *Literature*: Good research practice, links, papers
- *Examination*: Participation with abstracts, group project, home exam (not if you continue)
- Focus on practical methods applicable in professional issues

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Program

| Date, room | Subject | Presenter | Literature, etc. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 16 Oct, 1111 10.15-12.00 | Introduction | IK | Links, papers |
| 22 Oct, 1111 09.15-12.00 | Research issues | Groups | Good RP, Papers |
| 7 Nov, 1211 09.15-12.00 | Projects | Groups | Slides |

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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 and ethics

- Technology is necessary, modern society can not function without it
- Technology affects significant values for persons and organizations
- Technology is malleable, it can be a tool for almost any purpose
- Technology has a much bigger impact, both positive and negative, on all aspects of life, compared to any other human artifact

Ethical usability?

- 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

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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!

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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

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Can it be serious?

- Low usability and less profits
- 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

| | Nature, technology | Society, morality |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Content Answer Facit | No | Yes |
| Method Process Skill | Yes | No |

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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)

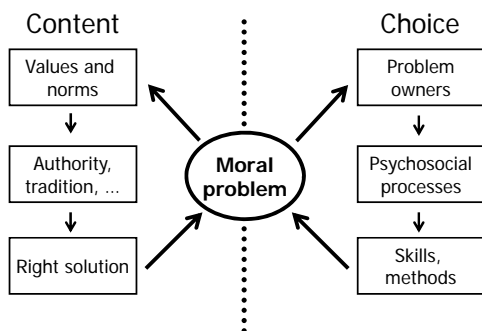
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What do we need?

- *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)

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Different approaches



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