Book Review

Friedewald, M. and R. J. Pohoryles, eds. 2014. *Privacy and Security in the Digital Age*. London: Routledge.

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Privacy and Security in the Digital Age offers an insightful overview of many of the current debates concerning the regulations, laws and best practice that govern the protection of digital data. For *Surveillance & Society* readers, I feel this book may appeal to those with specialist interests in data protection or law. Neither of which I claim to have expertise in, however, like many *Surveillance & Society* readers, I do have an interest in issues of privacy and security and as a result did enjoy reading the book.

The book covers a lot of ground and is an interesting and informative read. It gives a good account, for instance, of the varying national approaches to privacy and surveillance; some of these national approaches have been well covered elsewhere, others have not—for example, Croatia and to a lesser degree Spain—all of which I welcome. The book does however present a number of oddities, none more so than the opening pages *vii* and *viii* that instruct the reader to cite each chapter as a journal article. I felt puzzled and a little disappointed, because my role as a reviewer had been negated—each of these chapters has been previously reviewed, I presume by 2 or 3 colleagues, for the journal. Moreover, the chapters are exact replicas of the journal articles and so any potential for added extras or ‘un-cut’ versions dissipate along with my sense of reading something new. In fact the introductory section or Chapter 1 still refers to ‘this thematic issue’ and ‘this part of the journal’ (p. 4). Some copy-editing is clearly needed in the book.

Yet this was not my biggest disappointment, as I felt the structure of the book was poor and at times struggled with where I was in terms of the grander story it was telling and also in the direction the book was headed. The introductory chapter, with its iterations from the journal, does present a 3 structure approach to ‘Technology and Privacy’—not, it must be noted, to ‘Privacy and Security in the Digital Age’ (more later). The 3 sections to my mind are valid: the first part of the book covers aspects of privacy confronted by new technologies; the second, citizens’ perceptions of privacy; and the third, legal positionings of privacy and data protection. Yet the book makes no real reference to these sections. The table of content for instance does not suggest any break or difference in the focus of the chapters. Where these sections start and end in the book is unclear, unless, that is, you keep referring back to the introduction. I appreciate the introduction does give some indication about which of the following ‘articles’ apply to which section, but I would have preferred a clear overview of why each chapter was included in each of the sections and possibly a short introduction to each of the sections to re-familiarize myself with the section’s focus. What also could have been added was more detail; after all, in a book, when you have time and space and less pressure on word count, surely some attention should be paid to the core sections of the book and their contribution.

Smaller disappointments were the absence of a conclusion and the wording of the title. I have a tendency, which I am sure others share, to once I have read the table of content and introduction to then gravitate toward the conclusion. Often I just glance to gain a sense of the book's main contributions—that prospect is denied here. I see the absence of a conclusion as a missed opportunity to once again validate the contribution of the book or at the very least flag-up the benefits of the book. In addition, the title of the book is a little misleading, as there is often little mention of security—in fact, only one chapter title has the word security in it and if you use the index as a guideline, entries such as cloud computing, Croatia, and privacy impact assessment all have a greater number of citations than Security. To me it seems the book pays more attention to the protection of data and privacy than security; this is a small point but some clarity would certainly have helped.

It seems strange to spend more than half of a book review on referring to journal publications, but in this case that is what the book is—a special issue journal between two hardcovers. There is no doubt however that the content of the chapters are strong and each one is well constructed and makes a contribution to the data protection and privacy literatures. Important themes include European Data protection Framework, threats to privacy and negotiations of privacy. Moreover, highlights for me were Chapter 4's interesting analysis of media discourse on smart CCTV and why privacy concerns or critical comment had limited influence on the introduction and development of German smart CCTV. Chapter 7 explores attitudes and opinions toward surveillance by those from 'post-socialist societies' and New EU Member States—something that has legitimate and growing traction in surveillance work. Indeed, I read with great interest how Croatia's private sector organisations are considered to be better at protecting information than their public sector counterparts. With a more of legislative lens Chapter 9 gives a good overview of the re-drafting of data protection rights with the exponential growth and importance of internet use. Chapter 10 continues the legal angle with some significant insights into hidden cameras in the Spanish workplace.

In conclusion, the chapters of *Privacy and Security in the Digital Age* make a real contribution, but at times I failed to see the contribution of the book. I think the editors missed a trick here in not developing the special edition and pushing it in some new and interesting directions; for example workplace covert surveillance (Chapter 10), biocybernetic privacy (Chapter 5) or new models of assessment (Chapter 11) all to my mind have exciting potentials. Another reservation that remains for me as a reader is the editor's treatment of privacy. There is a reliance when defining privacy on Westin (1967), Solove (2008) and Bennett (2011), which I do not have a problem with, but when you have already read this in previous chapters it can be disconcerting. The reader also gets 'four main ideas' (p. 2) as to what privacy is, yet absent are, for example, historical perspectives as Möllers and Hälterlein hint at in Chapter 4 or even post-socialist version of privacy, as mentioned in Chapter 7. I do appreciate privacy is a tricky concept to explain and chapter authors are skilful in their explanations, but the editing again could be improved and a conclusion would have provided an opportunity to draw out what the book offers to concepts of privacy. I do warmly endorse the quality of the chapters in this book to *Surveillance & Society* readers, especially to data protection specialist and lawyers. Whether you or your library buys the book at £100 or subscribe(s) to the journal at £824 per year may be the question. Both publications are the same. The choice is yours.

References

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