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From computer ethics to responsible research and innovation in ICT: The transition of reference discourses informing ethics-related research in information systems

Bernd Carsten Stahl ^a ... Mark Coeckelbergh ^a

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Abstract

The discourse concerning computer ethics qualifies as a reference discourse for ethics-related IS research. Theories, topics and approaches of computer ethics are reflected in IS. The paper argues that there is currently a broader development in the area of research governance, which is referred to as *responsible research and innovation*™ (RRI). RRI applied to information and communication technology (ICT) addresses some of the limitations of computer ethics and points toward a broader approach to the

governance of science, technology and innovation. Taking this development into account will help IS increase its relevance and make optimal use of its established strengths.



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Keywords

Ethics; Morality; Norms; Responsible research and innovation; Information systems

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Bernd Carsten Stahl is Professor of Critical Research in Technology and Director the Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK. His interests cover philosophical issues arising from the intersections of business, technology, and information. This includes ethical questions of current and emerging of ICTs, critical approaches to information systems and issues related to responsible research and innovation.

Dr Grace Eden Grace Eden is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Oxford Computer Science Department. She engages in interdisciplinary research with a focus on understanding the ways in which technology effects communication, collaboration and knowledge exchange within scientific, work and home settings. Her research extends across three areas of social science research; the sociology of scientific knowledge (SSK), with its focus on how scientific knowledge is produced, shared and modified; computer supported cooperative work (CSCW), with its focus on understanding the details of day-to-day practices and collaboration; and the broader impacts of science and innovation upon wider society.

Marina Jirotko is Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Associate Director of the Oxford e-Research Centre at the University of Oxford. Her research interests lie at the interface between the Computer and Social Sciences and are concerned with bringing a richer comprehension of socially organised work practice into the process of engineering technological systems. She leads the Human Centred Computing group which researches into: Workplace studies and Design of ICT

Computing group which researches into: Workplace studies and Design of ICT, Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT, and Social Collective Intelligence. Marina is a BCS Chartered IT Professional and sits on their ICT Ethics Specialist Group committee. She has published widely in international journals and conferences in e-Science, Human Computer Interaction, Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Requirements Engineering.

Mark Coeckelbergh is Professor of Technology and Social Responsibility at the Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility, De Montfort University, UK and teaches at the Department of Philosophy, University of Twente, The Netherlands. He is also co-Chair of the IEEE Robotics & Automation Society Technical Committee on Robot Ethics and is involved in European research projects in the areas of robotics and responsible innovation. Previously he was Managing Director of the 3TU Centre for Ethics and Technology. His publications include *Growing Moral Relations* (Palgrave Macmillan 2012), *Human Being @ Risk* (Springer 2013), and numerous articles on ethics and technology, in particular robotics and ICT. He also has research interests in environmental philosophy and financial ethics.

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