



Bioethics Seminar

Who Owns Data?

A Critical Analysis of Data Ownership and Data Rights

The impetus to get “bang for your buck” both for research, and public dollars spent has brought “big data” into focus as a way of maximising returns on time and money, while also providing targeted and effective outcomes. In many fields of research increasing technological sophistication is making it easier to mine and synthesise meaningful information from large datasets. Alongside this there is an appreciation that personal information has value to individuals and that individuals may view their personal data with a sense of propriety. Often when considering personal data, particularly in the context of research we fall into the idea of data ownership, that someone owns the information. But is ownership the right concept for data? Is considering data as a commodity that can be owned the ethical way to approach personal data use in research? Are there alternative models to ownership that balance the rights of the individual and the responsibility to public good? In this seminar I will be discussing the pitfalls of treating personal data as a commodity and proposing that individuals, researchers and the public benefit more when we consider use of personal data through a rights or interests-based lens. In particular, that by acknowledging the different parties that may have interests in both the data and in the outcomes of the research, we can achieve ethical “big data” research.

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Monday, 17 May 2021

1:00-1:50 pm

Room 119, Bioethics Seminar Room
71 Frederick Street, Dunedin

Video linked:

To secure the booking for this seminar video link in Christchurch and Wellington, please register your name, subject and date of seminar for attendance:

Wellington School of Medicine Room C31 Contact: Videoconferencing University of Otago
Wellington avvcsupport.uow@otago.ac.nz or University of Otago Christchurch Room 7.11
Contact: av.uoc@otago.ac.nz

Please note: if there is no registration (for northern campuses) by the Thursday prior to the advertised seminar, the booking for that campus venue will be terminated.

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