**Public Philosopher's thoughts on very Private Data gone Public! (9 votes)**

[BenChida](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1330541) a day ago

Posted by: AStolberg

Dear Professor Sandel,

Without being too specific but with Snowden in mind, I do wonder about your thoughts on the morality of his actions. And I know that is hard to determine - after all one doesn't necessarily know whether he was morally motivated or being mischievous for reasons unknown, whether his actions followed from moral despair (as he has claimed) or as the outcome of planned opportunism (as others have claimed). Presumably from a communitarian perspective that recognizes the virtue of patriotism, his actions must be difficult to justify? And when can one say, faced with a similar dilemma does the "greater good" trump one's loyalty to one's nation (represented in this instance by it's government)? And taking one step back to the substance of the issue, how does one tackle the new (moral) dilemmas that the digital world has created for us and that I see mostly as not being answered? And these are no longer "nation" problems. President Obama gives assurances that US citizen's data have not been appropriated - but what about the rest of the world? And can that be morally justified - one set of standards for Americans, another for the rest? Global digitization calls for global norms of justice, and that requires a moral basis that is fair and honors freedom and privacy. Do you agree or not?!! Do a book! All the best, Prof. Sandel, thanks for your course and your time!

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1. [0](javascript:void(0)) [AussieSteve](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1807379)

a day ago

Any comments on the morality of WikiLeaks would also be of much interest.