The case that I decided to explore the ethical quandaries of is Cambridge Analytica’s use of fake social media accounts to influence the 2016 presidential vote in the United States of America. I came up with six issues that revolve mainly around data and privacy, since the main points of debate for violation involve data/privacy abuse. For data, I indicated that malicious data use and profiting off individual social media data affects the systems of security and individual privacy. These systems that are in place to protect basic rights are antagonized by a company that wants to disrupt the systemic cycles of safeguarding confidential and personal information.

I also included ethical issues that surround media and political manipulation. Aside from the technical systems of data and cybersecurity protection, bigger socioeconomic systems such as the legal systems and elections are put under pressure due to the scandal. Utilizing data without consent to influence a presidential vote puts the election system at risk of tampering and disrupts the natural flow of democracy. This also comes as a form of media manipulation where the information systems of how people receive their information is affected. Overall, the legal system has to take into account these gray areas of criminal activity, raising the question if these abuses of data, privacy, and politics constitute as punishable offenses.