

Reading Response 2/25

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Online data / Big Data is used by law enforcement agencies, researchers and almost everyone in academia. Even we as users are not only the participants but also the targets when it comes to online data research. While the law enforcement agencies say that they are utilizing online data to counter terrorism or may be to maintain biosafety, but these pervasive technologies are infiltrating every sphere of the social media landscape and I feel it can be used for other purposes as well if need be. This reminds me of how fragile our privacy ecosystem is. Our secrets are known to someone without our consent and we do not even know for how long, how the encryption is or for what else other than privacy the data is being used. Not just law enforcement but also there is also research community that every now and then uses our data and not everything is golden and ethical when we talk about them. They are pervasive too and are more biased towards their own research techniques and data collection methods. As some of the researchers insinuate that its ok to share data with other researchers once they can verify that they indeed are researchers. Responses like these suggest clearly that while there are discussions in the research community on principle sets such as **Belmont report**, researchers trust each other while sharing the data and consider each other more responsible. I feel this is disconcerting as the intentions and use of data and even ethics are not all the same from researcher to researcher. Some researchers in one of the papers also said that they account for at least Belmont report principles while doing such research but these principles while being simple to understand are no silver bullet. As on critically analyzing we can clearly say that it fails to appropriately account for the factors such as gender, culture, ethnic and geographical conditions and to top that no priority is given to these principles. So, the perception and the rules can vary from researchers to the researchers.