

UCI Seminar Sept. 7, 2023

1. New Outline

1.1. On your comments

- Primacy and recency!
- The correlation between when you submitted and how much you enjoyed it.

1.2. On coauthorship

- He's much more theoretical.
- He loves jargon.
- Most important divide:
 - I want to enact a law tomorrow to force companies to do this.
 - He wants to launch 1000 Phd dissertations to study this rigorously and make this a field.
- It's a pretty interesting collaboration.

1.3. On friction

- The iPhone lockout table
- IEX's 35 miles of fiber optic cable
- My end goal of adding a semester to the CS track.
- This is the broader research agenda. Seams have been (so far) an interesting sideline
 - Frictionlessness -> Friction
 - Seamlessness -> Seams

1.4. On human values

- Bring in pointers to race and implicit bias.

1.5. What form of regulatory intervention?

- Lots of you mentioned "last week's reading" about law catching up with technology or the other way around: how can we ever get companies to implement these seams?
- I'm on the very aggressive end of the prescriptive spectrum.
 - I'm not about tiptoeing around with incentives.
 - I'm in favor of very specific prescriptive regulation.

1.5.1. So maybe it's just new governance style, regulatory incentive tweaking

- Several of you asked: "How would you possibly incentivize this?"
 - Me: command-and-control, not incentives.
- A few of you asked: how would you enforce this?

1.5.2. I mean for some of this to be aggressively centralized command-and-control obligations, backed

by real enforcement

- COPPA and KOSA

1.5.3. The more pragmatic side of this

- May be a gentler form (and more likely to survive litigation) of regulation.
 - E.g. Time Place Manner restriction on speech.

1.6. The big goal: changing the ground rules for who gets to design**1.6.1. And to those who love frictionlessness and seamlessness!**

- I do too!
- We need some sort of process to sort out the friction we erode and the friction we keep
- Too often, we're told to love it, even when it's not really that lovable.
 - That's the problem with innovation. We always assume things are better just because they are newer and we've become used to it.
 - Rather than "if efficient than good," I want to introduce new ways to decide upon the human values to lift up.

2. Notes from Students

- I don't want to preempt all of these! They might ask some.

2.1. Good questions

- Recurring theme: Who decides?
 - Asked phenomenally well by Jessa: Given imbalance of power, how can we assert our values?
 - And good follow up question about law being on the back foot to corporations.
 - Haley: Developers, government, or consumer demand?
 - Kiran: same
 - Grace too. Adding: is there the political will?
- Recurring theme: we love seamlessness
 - Haley: we've already adopted smart home devices. Are you infringing on our authority?
 - Donald: "free enjoyment of technology"
 - Me: ooh. What a loaded term. Let's talk about that.
 - His whole statement was then about how only tech aficionados really go all-in with smart home tech, contrasting his parent's use of Alexa and Marquez Brownlee.
 - Me #1: Every try to buy a TV?
 - Me #2: I mean Alexa. Alexa is a problem.
- Recurring theme: Companies **really** love seamlessness!
 - Megan: Why would any one opt-in to data exfiltration, and if they won't, how will companies pay for this stuff?
 - Allysa too: How could we possibly incentivize this?
 - Johanna: What incentives do companies have to implement these?
- On race and bias
 - Clara: Implicit bias in the setting of seams around anonymous grading

- On how this actually gets implemented
 - Jessa's comment: the privacy cover on her webcam
- Benjamin: Example of a governance seam removed for efficiency?
 - Me: infinite scroll! Netflix autoplay. Facebook news feed.
- Jean: Smart home devices with a "mute" button but that don't really mute. False sense of privacy
 - Me: Hate em. Need Legacy Switches!
- Angi: Two really deep questions about what we mean by "human flourishing" anyway.
 - And her second: why are seam protected homes always part of human flourishing? Might that some day change?
 - And Angi wrote a homerun comment about desire paths. Love it.
- Allysa: when friction falls over into red tape.
 - Me: The trap of confusing nostalgia for value
- Grace: Thoughtful question about seams being different needed for those who work from home. Digital 'third spaces'.
 - Then super long three paragraph essay
 - A little ramblly
 - But makes a very smart point about "governance" being a little too narrowly defined in FN 3.

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