

Week 14: Methodological and Ethical Challenges for studying computing and online relationships

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In recent years, the increasing use of online data research has raised new ethical challenges and concerns. As researchers collect and analyze data from online sources such as social media, chatrooms, and online communities, various challenges arise regarding research participants' privacy, autonomy, and well-being. "Beyond the Belmont Principles: Ethical Challenges, Practices, and Beliefs in the Online Data Research Community" explores the ethical challenges and beliefs researchers face when conducting online data research [1]. "Go Away": Participant Objections to Being Studied and the Ethics of Chatroom Research" examines the ethical concerns that arise when studying chatroom participants who object to being reviewed [2]. Finally, "My Profile: The Ethics of Virtual Ethnography" offers a brief but insightful exploration of the ethical considerations that arise when conducting virtual ethnography [3].

The first paper, "Beyond the Belmont Principles: Ethical Challenges, Practices, and Beliefs in the Online Data Research Community," provides the relationship between emotion and spatial spaces. I agree with the information provided in this paper that ethical challenges are inherent in online data research. As the article points out, researchers face informed consent, privacy, and anonymity issues. Furthermore, I agree with the authors that researchers should adopt ethical practices and beliefs that consider the unique nature of online data research. I agree with the points raised in "Go Away": Participant Objections to Being Studied and the Ethics of Chatroom Research. After reading this paper, I will be wary of participating in chat room research because now I feel it can invade my privacy. I agree with the authors that researchers should always respect the participants' wants and ensure ethical considerations during the study. The paper also emphasizes that researchers in online data have diverse beliefs and practices that are not necessarily linked to their disciplinary, methodological, or workplace affiliations. I agree with Discroll and Gregg that transparency is another crucial challenge researchers face in human-centered computing research. The authors provide valuable recommendations, such as using pseudonyms and protecting participants' personal information, to meet ethical considerations [3].

I want to research ethical considerations and challenges in conducting virtual ethnography within online dating communities. This study could give insights into beliefs within online communities. The study will also examine the ethical practices researchers can adopt while researching online dating sites and communities.

References

[1] Vitak, Jessica, Katie Shilton, and Zahra Ashktorab. "Beyond the Belmont principles: Ethical challenges, practices, and beliefs in the online data research community." *Proceedings of the 19th ACM conference on computer-supported cooperative work & social computing*. 2016.

[2] Hudson, James M., and Amy Bruckman. "'Go away': participant objections to being studied and the ethics of chatroom research." *The information society* 20.2 (2004): 127-139.

[3] Driscoll, Catherine, and Melissa Gregg. "My profile: The ethics of virtual ethnography." *Emotion, Space and Society* 3.1 (2010): 15-20.