

## Stroud SPICE 2021 Sessions

### Session 1: The Basics of Media Ethics: Virtue, Consequences, and Duties

This day's topic will cover the status and meaning of "ethics," especially in regard to media and communication practices. We will review three major traditions in ethical theory: virtue theory, utilitarianism, and Kantian ethics. These will be explained with reference to current issues in media and communication ethics.

#### Readings:

Rita C. Manning & Scott R. Stroud, A Practical Guide to Ethics: Living and Leading with Integrity, Westview Press, 2007, selections.

Ess, Charles. "Central Issues in the Ethics of Digital Media," from *Digital Media Ethics*, Polity, 2014.

Peck, Lee Anne. "Aristotle: Self-Development," from *Ethical Communication*, University of Missouri Press, 2009.

Stroud, Scott R. "Immanuel Kant: Morality as Universal Law," from *An Encyclopedia of Communication Ethics*, Ronald C. Arnett, Annette M. Holba, & Susan Mancino (eds.), Peter Lang Publishing.

#### Cases:

1. Finsta Fad: The Real Ethics of Fake Social Media Profiles
2. Digital Immortality on an App: The Ethics of Legacy Chatbots
3. To Catfish or Not to Catfish? The Ethics of Online Deception
4. The Different Species of the Online Catfish: *The Circle* and the Ethics of Online Identity

### Session 2: Speech, Democracy, and Ethics

This session will focus on the power of mediated speech and its connection to the ethical demands of citizens in a democracy. Using a case-study approach, we will explore the value conflicts inherent in free speech as an ethical and legal value, the challenges of doxing and journalism in a democracy, and the worries about censoring misinformation about political matters or public health.

#### Readings:

John Stuart Mill, "On the Liberty of Thought and Discussion," from *On Liberty* (1859).

Stroud, Scott R. "What Ethical Challenges Await Us in the Fight against Fake News?" *Journal of Media Ethics*, 34 (4), 2019: 178-192.

Jenkins, Henry, Ito, Mizuko, & boyd, danah. "Democracy, Civic Engagement, and Activism," from *Participatory Culture in a Networked Era*, Polity, 2016

Cases:

1. Doxing and Digital Journalism: The *HuffPost* Story on Amy Mekelburg
2. Beer Cans and Cancel Culture: The Ethics of the Carson King Case
3. Doxing in the Name of Public Health: The Ethics of Shaming Risky Behaviors in the Time of COVID-19
4. Anti-Vax Censorship on Social Media: Limiting or Lifesaving?
5. Stopping The Spread Of Anti-Vax Memes: Social Media And Misinformation In The Covid-19 Pandemic
6. Fighting the Amazon Fires with Misinformation: The Ethics of Celebrity Activists and Environmental Change