Privacy’s Algorithmic Turn: An Intellectual History

Research questions

(1) How has the American law scholars’ conception of the right to privacy changed in the last thirty years (1990-2020)?

(2) What can the American law scholars’ techno-legal imaginary further tell us about this change?

Objects of study

(1) Pool of papers presented at the Privacy Law Scholars Conferences (PLSC) (2008-2020)

(2) Law review articles there referenced (1990-2007)

(3) Privacy Law Scholars invited to the PLSC from 2008 to 2020.

Research methods

(1) Archival investigation of all the papers of the PLSC and of referenced law review articles.

(2) Semi-structured interviews of a purposely drawn representative sample of Privacy Law Scholars whose works I have previously reviewed.

Methodological & theoretical framework

(1) The “discursive contextual approach” proposed by David A. Hollinger (1985) → To trace the intellectual history of a post-algorithmic right to privacy.