

# **EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND THE DISTRIBUTED SELF**

**(NEW) CHALLENGES TO  
HUMAN DIGNITY**

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**DEUTSCHER ETHIKRAT, “HUMAN DIGNITY IN OUR HANDS”**

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# A DECADE OF ACHIEVEMENT



JAHRESTAGUNG AM 27.-28. JUNI 2018

## DES MENSCHEN WÜRDE IN UNSERER HAND

Herausforderungen durch neue Technologien

[WEITERE INFORMATIONEN & LIVESTREAM](#)



# LOOKING BACK AND AHEAD

## 2001-2002: Stem Cell Debates

- Road not taken: Nationaler Ethikrat

## 2007 (July): Ethikratgesetz

- §1: *Es wird ein unabhängiger Sachverständigenrat gebildet, der die Bezeichnung "Deutscher Ethikrat" trägt.*

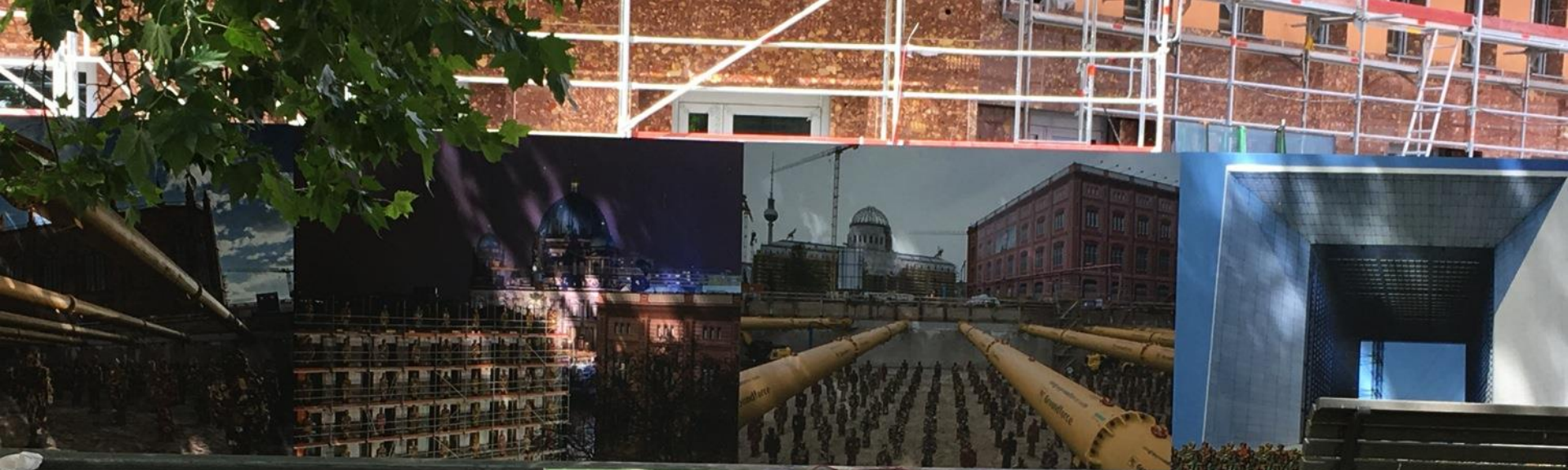
## 2018: Points to note

- Gesetz
- Deutsch(er)

## Contrast: US presidential commissions and councils

- Not by law
- Not for USA

**What is new  
in the discourse on  
human dignity?**



DIE WÜRDE DES MENSCHEN  
IST UNANTASTBAR **THEORETISCH?**  
ICH APPELLIERE AN DAS  
**AUSWÄRTIGES AMT**, DIE IN  
DER DEUTSCHEN BOT-  
SCHAFT GEGEBENEN  
**ZUSAGEN EINZUHALTEN.**  
**BITTE** VERWEIGERN SIE  
NICHT MEINE ANGELEGEN-  
HEIT WEGEN MEINER **NATIO-**  
**NALITÄT. ACHTEN SIE BITTE**  
**AUF DAS GLEICHSTELLUNGS-**  
**GESETZ...**



# Indignities and Enlightenment

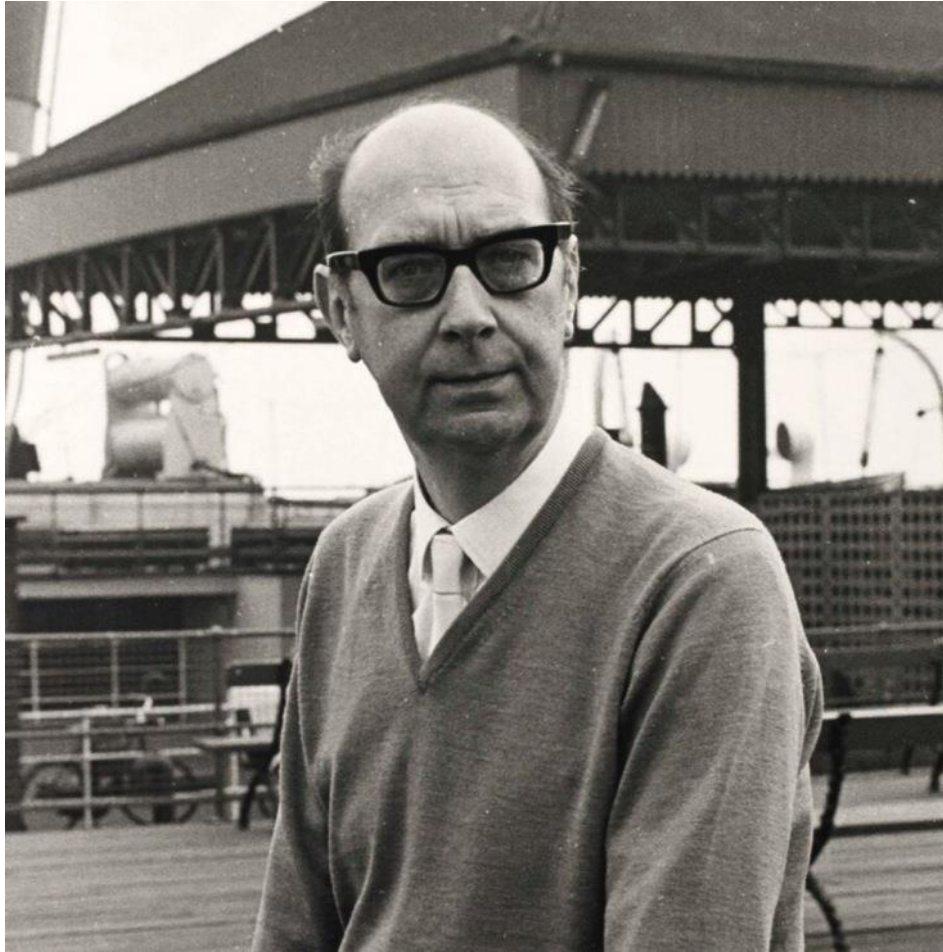
# BODILY FINALITY



GOOD FREND FOR IESVS SAKE FORBEARE,  
TO DIGG THE DVST ENCLOSED HEARE.  
BLESE BE <sup>E</sup>Y MAN <sup>T</sup>Y SPARES THES STONES,  
AND CVRST BE HE <sup>T</sup>Y MOVES MY BONES.



# EXTINCTION AND DEATH



## Aubade

The mind blanks at the glare. Not in  
remorse

—The good not done, the love not  
given, time

Torn off unused—nor wretchedly  
because

An only life can take so long to  
climb

Clear of its wrong beginnings, and  
may never;

But at the total emptiness for ever,  
The sure extinction that we travel to  
And shall be lost in always.

# ENTER TECHNOLOGY

**“[T]he convergence of nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology, and cognitive science can greatly improve human performance over the next ten to twenty years.**

**The chief areas of application include: expanding human cognition and communication, improving human health and physical capabilities, enhancing group and societal outcomes, strengthening national security, and unifying science and education...”**

- W. S. Bainbridge, US National Science Foundation, 2003

**F.D.A. Restricts Sales of Bayer's  
Essure Contraceptive Implant**

**Researchers to Boycott South Korean  
University Over AI Weapons Work**

**Cambridge Analytica Had a Role in  
Kenya Election, Too**

**A Brain Implant Improved Memory,  
Scientists Report**

**How a Self-Driving Uber Killed a  
Pedestrian in Arizona**

**'The Business of War': Google  
Employees Protest Work for the  
Pentagon**

**'Gene Drives' Are Too Risky for  
Field Trials, Scientists Say**

**Data Subjects of the World, Unite!**

**Google Tries to Ease Tensions on Eve of  
New EU Privacy Law**

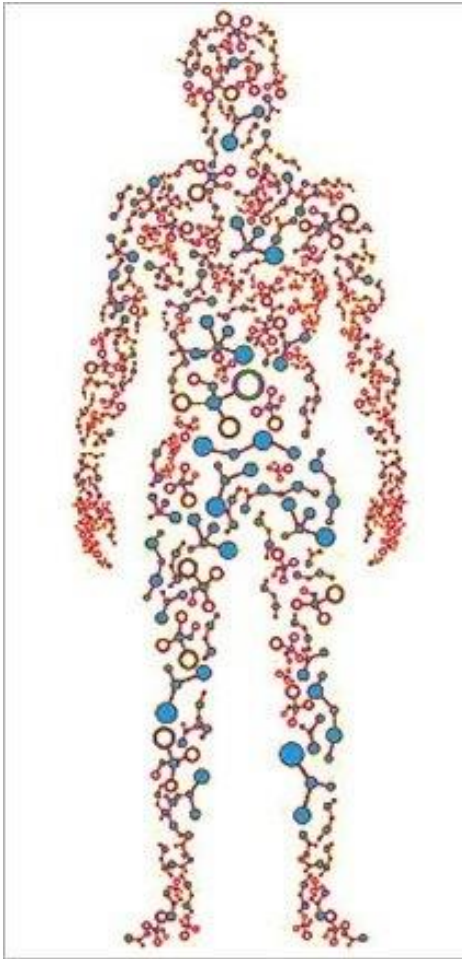
**Tesla Says Crashed Vehicle Had Been  
on Autopilot Before Fatal Accident**

**Zuckerberg Was Called Out Over Myanmar Violence. Here's His Apology.**

**Human Gene Editing Receives  
Science Panel's Support**

**What is the human  
in an age of  
enhancement?  
Are there limits to  
manipulation?  
How can we know?  
Who decides?**

# OVERLAPPING HUMAN SUBJECTS



# THE DISTRIBUTED BODY

## *Physical*

- HeLa cell line
- Catalonia tissue collection
- BRCA genes

## *Spatial*

- Biobanks
- “Disease in a dish”

## *Temporal*

- DNA fingerprints
  - Cell lines
- Digital records

# “CONSTITUTIONAL” ISSUES

## Definitions and boundaries of the “human”

- Beginnings and ends (life/nonlife)
- Human/nonhuman boundary

## Ontological surgery

- Classification in law or policy (e.g., what is an IVF embryo?)

## Implications for Entitlements

- Rights
- Dignity
- Property

# **EXTENSIONS OF LIFE: WITH AND WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY**

## **Trusts**

- Property held by one party (trustee) for benefit of others (beneficiaries)

## **Databases**

- Organized collections of data, often designed to model some aspect of reality, such as a disease

## **Biobanks**

- Collection of biological materials usually intended for research

## **Transhumanism**

- Ideas and practices designed to enable life to transcend constraints of human body/bodies



# INTIMATIONS OF IMMORTALITY: HENRIETTA LACKS AND REBECCA SKLOOT



# OUR INTELLIGENT MACHINES



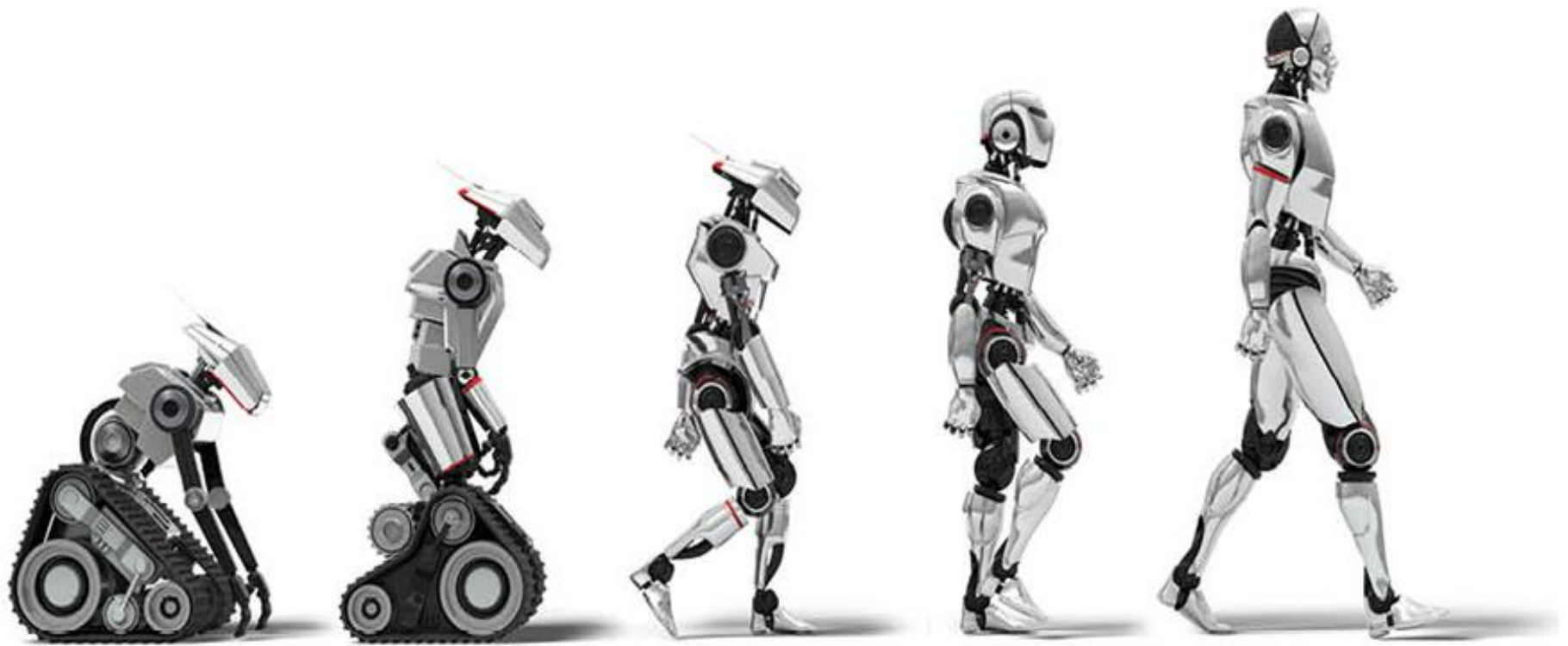


Image: Ryan Etter

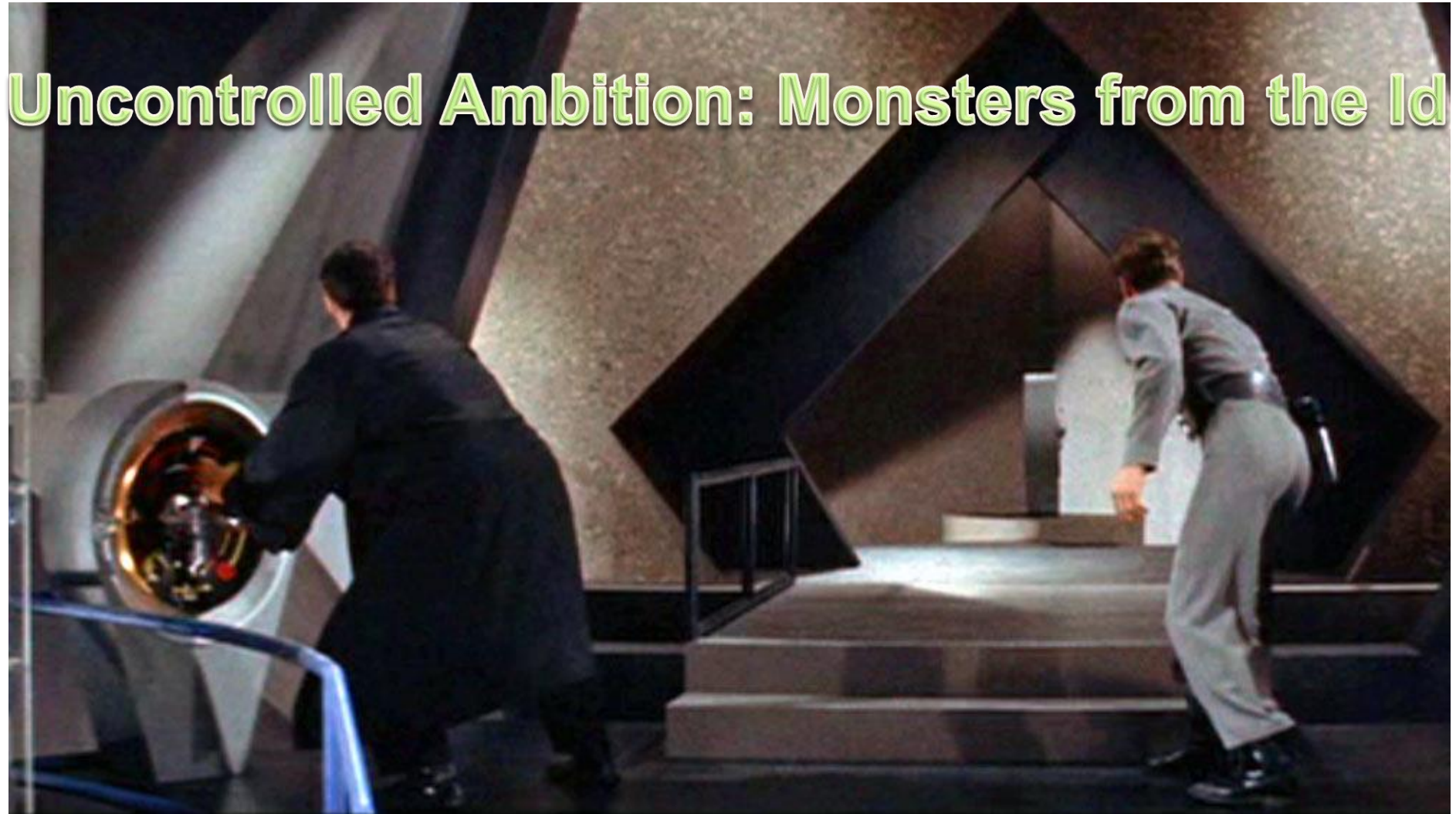
*In a pervasively  
digitized and  
mechanized  
world, how can we  
reasonably protect  
human values?*

# Telling Fictions

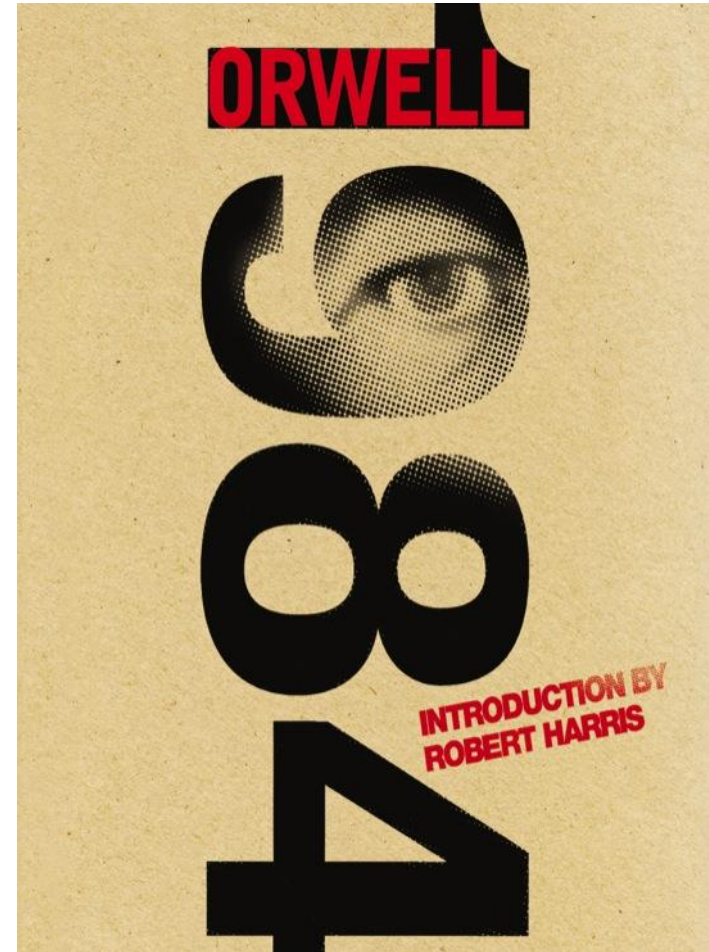


STARRING WALTER PIDGEON · ANNE FRANCIS · LESLIE NIELSEN  
WITH WARREN STEVENS AND INTRODUCING ROBBY, THE ROBOT  
DIRECTED BY FRED McLEOD WILCOX · PRODUCED BY NICHOLAS NAYFACK  
SCREEN PLAY BY CYRIL HUME  
BASED ON A STORY BY IRVING BLOCK AND ALLEN ADLER  
PHOTOGRAPHED IN EASTMAN COLOR  
IN CINEMASCOPE AND COLOR  
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE


# Uncontrolled Ambition: Monsters from the Id



# SURVEILLANCE: THE 1984 WORLD




# Outsmarted



Mr. Clarke, who makes his home in Sri Lanka, said last week that nothing has happened since the making of "2001" to persuade him that his vision was fundamentally wrong. In a telephone interview he said that every capability attributed to HAL -- a system that can speak, listen, reason, criticize human art and at one point even read lips -- has been shown to be at least theoretically possible.

"A lot of people are still arguing about this," he said. "But I have no reason to doubt it."





# THE “DATA SUBJECT”

## 1995 EU Data Protection Directive

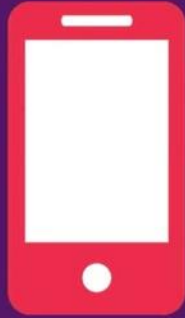
'personal data' shall mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable **natural person ('data subject')**; an identifiable person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identification number or to one or more factors specific to his physical, physiological, mental, economic, cultural or social identity;

**2018 GDPR (*General Data Protection Regulation*)**  
on collection and processing of data on individuals



Paul J. Richard | AFP | Getty Images

**ACLU**



**WANT OUR DIGITAL DATA?  
GET A WARRANT.**

# GOOGLE SPAIN



**Marion Costeja  
González**

**16-year-old story of  
personal debt**

**Newspaper report came  
up on name search,  
affecting reputation**

**Internet search engine  
operator responsible for  
right of erasure**

# DIFFERENCES

## **Viktor Mayer Schoenberger, Oxford (NYT 5-13-2014)**

- “More and more Internet users want a little of the ephemerality and the forgetfulness of predigital days.”
- “If you’re always tied to the past, it’s difficult to grow, to change... Do we want to go into a world where we largely undo forgetting?”

## **Jonathan Zittrain, HLS (NYT, 5-14- 2014)**

- “How an individual’s reputation is protected online is too important and subtle a policy matter to be legislated by a high court, which is institutionally mismatched to the evolving intricacies of the online world.”

# Behavioral Changes



# Thanks to Venmo, We Now All Know How Cheap Our Friends Are

By rendering payments between friends nearly invisible — no cash changes hands, no checks are written — Venmo theoretically should make these relationships *less obviously transactional*. Yet not only does it encourage pettiness, distilling the messiness of human experience down to a digitally precise data point, but by making it so easy to pay someone back for purchases as trifling as a coffee, *the app arguably promotes the libertarian, every-user-for-himself ethos of Silicon Valley.*





“The priest says ‘lift up your hearts.’ He does not say, ‘lift up your cell phones to take pictures,’” Pope Francis said. “It’s a bad thing! And I tell you that it gives me so much sadness when I celebrate here in the Piazza or Basilica and I see so many raised cellphones, not just of the faithful, even of some priests and even bishops.”

Many pilgrims try to get pictures of the Pope at his audiences

# A Place to Deliberate







# A global observatory for gene editing

**Sheila Jasanoff** and **J. Benjamin Hurlbut** call for an international network of scholars and organizations to support a new kind of conversation.

# WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

## Against urgency

- “Deliberate speed” (*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*)

## “Slow science”

- Not a race to a single finish line

## Inclusive deliberation

- Voices from the margins
- Disciplines, regions, social groups

## Objectives

- Asking the right questions (or asking if the questions are right)
- Radical hospitality
- Cosmopolitan ethics: *more than one valid way to analyze what is at stake in the application of such technologies*

Thank you!