

The other chapters in the collection continue this general perspective, including reflections on international law (Mika Hayashi), the structure of the domain name system (Dirk Lehmkuhl) and issues of the balance between privatization tendencies and data protection in an internationalizing context (Ralf Bendrath).

While the book is generally well argued and its central case for the continuing significance of the state is a strong one, there is a danger of an overly pragmatic, somewhat technical and even politically circumspect, analysis that will limit the book's appeal, though of course this can as easily be read as a selling point as much as a limitation.

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Rikke Frank Jørgensen (ed.), *Human Rights in the Global Information Society* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006) 336 pp., ISBN-10: 0-262-10115-7 (hbk), £40.95; ISBN-10: 0-262-60067-6 (pbk), £19.95.

This collection, a project of the Human Rights Caucus of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), uses human rights as a baseline to evaluate the 'global information society'. This approach effectively functions as a high-level critique of the neoliberal positioning of information and communication technology (ICT) as inherently good, even democratizing. In contrast, the book provides the intended audience, the policymakers, with an overview of the challenges the new media environment poses to human rights, in the process redefining privacy, the participation of women in technology, and intellectual property as global rights-based issues rather than internet-specific concerns. This reframing has the potential to convince a larger audience of the importance of critical information issues, but for a technology-savvy audience already familiar with the open access movement or the post-9/11 increase in surveillance, the treatment of ICTs may seem superficial.

The global emphasis on technology use foregrounds USA, UN and EU law while providing international examples. For instance, Kay Raseroka's advocacy of libraries as centres for information and communication uses a case study from

Botswana, while Charley Lewis's discussion of the use of the internet for international activism and advocacy – one of the few chapters which focuses on the positive impact of ICTs – discusses Zimbabwe and trade unions. The extension of multinational media companies into the global South brings with it a vast array of problematic impacts, such as the exportation of the maximalist US copyright agenda mentioned by Robin Gross. Acknowledging the unequal distribution and impact of ICTs at a localized level is important and necessary.

The first section of the book contains the issues presumably most familiar to communication scholars. Each chapter in 'Freedom of Expression, Access to Information, and Privacy Protection', identifies a right, traces its history and recognition, and briefly discusses the impact of public technology policy. Extensive legal scholarship in these areas by popular authors like Yochai Benkler and Lawrence Lessig makes the broad overviews of privacy (Gus Hosein) and intellectual property (Gross) best-suited for those new to the subject, but for those without a legal background, the combination of human rights advocacy and technology is useful and informative.

Human Rights in the Global Information Society demonstrates the rippling impacts of information technology and lays out a preliminary global agenda for equitable technology distribution and development, but its recommendations and prescriptions fall short. First, the authors admit that implementing a global information policy after the WSIS was a failure. This is because global information regulation is very difficult, as outlined in Tim Wu and Jack Goldsmith's *Who Controls the Internet*. The contradictions inherent in, for instance, differing international views of hate speech versus freedom of speech (notable in Mandana Zarrehparvar's chapter on nondiscrimination) make resolution and consensus tricky. Second, while the book focuses on public policy, it is necessary to involve technology practitioners in the debate over reform. This is emphasized by the complicity of private technology companies in facilitating internet censorship in China, Syria, and Iran. Still, the extensive introduction would be useful for communication scholars unfamiliar with global variance in human rights law; the book would be appropriate for classes on technology policy, but should be augmented with more specific literature if delving into any one issue.

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