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SOCIAL COMPUTING AND THE LAW

This innovative book sets itself at the crossroads of several rapidly developing areas of research in legal and global studies related to social computing, specifically in the context of how public emergency responders appropriate content on social media platforms for emergency and disaster management. The book – a collaboration among computer scientists, ethicists, legal scholars and practitioners – should be read by anyone concerned with the ongoing debate over the corporatization and commodification of user-generated content on social media and the extent to which this content can be legally and ethically harnessed for public safety in emergency and disaster management.

Khurshid Ahmad is Professor of Computer Science at Trinity College, Dublin. He specializes in artificial intelligence with research interests in information extraction from images and texts, fuzzy logic, sentiment analysis, neural networks and terminology and ontology. Ahmad holds a PhD in Theoretical Nuclear Physics from the University of Surrey. He is an elected Fellow of the British Computer Society and of Trinity College, as well as a Chartered Engineer. He has taught at the Universities of Karachi and Surrey and has been a Visiting Professor at Copenhagen Business School. Ahmad has published more than 250 research papers. His books include *Computers, Language Learning, and Language Teaching* (Cambridge, 1985), *Translator's Workbench: Tools and Terminology for Translation and Text Processing* (1995) and *Affective Computing and Sentiment Analysis: Emotion, Metaphor, and Terminology* (2011).

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USES AND ABUSES IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Edited by

KHURSHID AHMAD

Trinity College, Dublin

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Foreword

In 2012, as the Officer in Charge of Planning Policy and Enterprise in the Irish Naval Service, I became involved with a research project entitled Slándáil. This multinational project was supported by the European Union's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. From the outset it was obvious that there was a correlation between the 'human factor' and capability development that security services were advancing. I undertook the role of Chair of the Strategic Advisory Board for the project, and in this role represented emergency responders, monitoring the research and development of the team. Project Slándáil researched natural crises and analysed how social media can be better used to spread messages about the worst affected areas during these crises. The results of technological advances, end user responses and legal and ethical research from this project provided the motivation for this book.

As an end user of data such as social media, it was essential to understand how the project provided a better understanding of how an unwieldy, disruptive technology can be better harnessed to inform emergency responses to natural disasters. Towards the end of the project, I was appointed to command the flagship of the Irish Naval Service L.É. EITHNE to undertake a humanitarian mission to the central Mediterranean in response to the migrant crisis there. During this deployment, I witnessed first-hand the central role that modern communications systems play in life and death decisions on a grand scale, coordinating the rescue of several thousand migrants via an eclectic mix of international state and nongovernmental organisation assets. Central to the success of such a mission was the reliance on the communications modalities at my disposal. The gathering, analysis and dissemination of intelligence information were key to the humanitarian operations that ensued. In undertaking such analysis, data provenance, ethical issues and the use of language proved central to command decisions, and the experience from Project Slándáil proved invaluable.

Project Slándáil was amongst the first projects to see the dichotomy between the utility of social computing, especially in a disaster scenario and its potential abuse. This book discusses three key aspects of the law surrounding this area – internet law, copyright and data protection law, and human rights law. In doing so, it seeks to positively contribute to two divergent issues – the promotion of the use of social computing and the prevention of its abuse. The book also suggests a way forward

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through a legally based 'User Licence' which provides comfort to the entire spectrum of human beings involved – the citizens, the disaster prevention teams, the protection agencies and those who are interested in a balance between rights and duties.

In essence, this book represents a codification of ethics and law in social media for emergencies and outlines a system that is relevant to the needs of end users and society as a whole. Readers can look forward to charting a route through the rocky shoals of evolving human activity in emergency situations and the use of social media in a globalised world. Its content is invaluable.

If, as Napoleon Bonaparte reputedly once said, the secret of war lies in communications, then certainly the secret of peace, security and humanity does also.

Captain Brian FitzGerald
Irish Naval Service

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Abbreviations

BGH	Bundesgerichtshof (Federal High Court of Justice)
DMCR	Digital Millennium Copyright Act
ECJ	European Court of Justice
GCA	German Copyright Act
GCC	German Civil Code
GRUR	*Gewerblicher Rechtsschutz und Urheberrecht (Industrial Property and Copyright Law* [Journal]*)*
MMR	*Multi Media Recht (Multi Media Law* [Journal]*)*
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, 2007
UrhG	Urheberrechtsgesetz (GCA)
ZUM	*Zeitschrift für Urheber- und Medienrecht (Journal for Copyright and Media Law)*

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