

ENHANCING LIFE SPECIAL “TOP FIVE” BIBLIOGRAPHY COULDRY

Cohen, J. (2012) *Configuring the Networked Self*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

More than any other work of legal theory focussing on media, communications and information, this book foregrounds the *cultural* consequences of how we live with information systems. The book raises profound questions about the authoritarian nature of information systems, and the threats that flow from them for individuals' autonomy as subjects

Mansell, R. (2012). *Imagining the Internet*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

This book offers the best synoptic view of the normative questions raised by information systems, encompassing both the dynamics and values that shape how they are designed as well as the broader human values at stake in how those systems are implemented in daily life (cf Cohen). Argues that design values need to be made more responsive to underlying human values such as freedom and the enhancement of human knowledge.

Turkle, S. (2011) *Alone Together*. New York: Basic Books.

This book was one of the first fieldwork-based studies to raise ethical questions about the quality of how we live together through computer-based communication systems. Based on rich fieldwork by a leading social psychologist, the book asks whether the social lives we (particularly young people) are now leading are actually the lives we want to lead (the Socratic first question of ethics).

Turow, J. (2011). *The Daily You*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

This book is the best field investigation of the deep transformations of the advertising industries (in USA and elsewhere) which are driving all business' models' increasing reliance on continuous automated surveillance. Raises major questions about the quality of public life that will result from the normalization of that situation, but also provides clear evidence against interpreting the growth of surveillance as a 'corporate conspiracy' rather than a direction driven by deep problems within how capitalist markets now function.

Van Dijck, J. (2013). *The Culture of Connectivity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

This is the best book on the evolution of social media platforms, and their basis in business models that rely on the collection of data about users through continuous surveillance. Also avoids a conspiracy theory, relying instead on excellent analysis of the structure of websites themselves, while raising sharp questions about the appropriation of social life that is resulting from this.

THE ABOVE ARE MY TOP FIVE. NB, BECAUSE THE AUTHOR IS MY COLLABORATOR ON THE BOOK DRAWING FROM MY PROJECT, I DO NOT MENTION ANOTHER EXCELLENT BOOK:

Ulises Mejias (2013) *Off the Network* (Minnesota U. Press), which complements Mansell and Van Dijck.