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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Maria Bottis is an Attorney-at-Law and an Associate Professor in School of Information Science and Informatics, DALMS, Ionian University. She is an Honours graduate of Athens Law School (graduated first of class). She is a holder of a LLM degree from Cambridge Law School, UK and LLM degree from Yale Law School and a PhD on Medical Information Law and Ethics from the University of Athens. She was accepted by Harvard Law School for LLM studies in 1993. She was appointed as Faculty Fellow at Harvard University, Center for Ethics and the Professions (2000–2001).

Nikos Koutras is an Honours graduate of Political Science School, University of Crete. He is a holder of a PhD on Political Science from Ionian University. He currently works on a second PhD research fellowship on Copyright Law at Macquarie University. He has been awarded full scholarship from Macquarie University, Erasmus International Mobility program scholarship for research in Italy (University of Trento), Macquarie Postgraduate Research Grant for offsite research and postgraduate honours scholarship (Dunmore Lang College). He is currently developing his research at the interface between copyright governance and open access, which is a very original approach to open access. He was appointed as Tutor in IP Law at Macquarie Law School (2014–2017) and Research Assistant at Monash University, Department of Business Law & Taxation (2015).

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As the creation, dissemination and storage of information becomes increasingly critical to the effective operation of society, the ethical framework governing such transactions is becoming increasingly critical. Where such exchange and use of information is governed by technological systems and processes, there is a further need to devise technology-neutral ethical principles that ensure the integrity and privacy of information and remain relevant in an evolving technological landscape. The volume and velocity of exchange of digital data further present challenges to law and policy makers to maintain the application of such principles and enforce infringement. In such a context, the present special issue of the *International Journal of Technology Policy and Law* examines the relationship between ethics and information from a variety of different perspectives that

pertain to data protection, freedom of information, privacy, and cyberethics, media law and ethics.

The articles selected for inclusion in this issue cover a wide variety of topics and draw from knowledge in the law, sociology and business, as well as interdisciplinary analysis that integrate insights across different disciplines. Christoph Bezemek's fascinating article entitled 'Behind a veil of obscurity – anonymity, encryption, free speech and privacy' addresses the problems posed by modes of communication in the digital age and adopts a fundamental rights perspective to examine the complex issue of anonymity and encryption. The article addresses the issue of whether free speech and privacy entail a right to anonymous and encrypted communication. Extending Bezemek's consideration of accountability in a digital environment, Abraham Gert van der Vyver's article 'The State vs. Oscar Pistorius: a critical analysis of media coverage and the court of public opinion' analyse the renowned case of *The State vs. Oscar Pistorius*. In a context where a large part of the trial was televised as reality television, van der Vyver examines how cyberspace can be turned into a court of public opinion with Facebook and Twitter carrying millions of comments, and considers its ethical and legal implications. Also in the field of digital data, Sanjeev P. Sahni, Garima Jain and Indranath Gupta's article 'Understanding digital piracy through the lens of psychosocial, criminological and cultural factors', discusses the findings of 68 research studies to argue that predisposition towards digital piracy is influenced by personality factors (self-control), personal or psychological factors (neutralisation techniques, attitude and beliefs), social and cultural factors (social learning, collectivistic/individualistic factors). In the related field of cyberethics, Airen Adetimirin recommends strategies, in her article in 'Awareness and knowledge of cyber ethics by library and information science doctoral students in two Nigerian universities' to promote compliance with cyberethics among doctoral students.

The nexus between technology and ethics is also examined in the issue. In this regard, Poli's article 'Artificial reproductive technologies and the right to the truth about genetic and biographic origins' considers the right of people conceived through artificial reproductive technologies (ART), involving a third party's contribution, to know their origins. Poli argues that the *conditio sine qua non* for a full exercise of the right to know personal origins with only a residual role for the state.

Finally, the importance of non-copyright compensation schemes in ensuring that authors are financially compensated for their useful work, is considered by Julian Hauser in his article 'Sharing is caring vs. stealing is wrong: a moral argument for limiting copyright protection'. After considering the scholarly discourse to date, Hauser concludes that contribution to another person's authorial work gives rise to moral interests.

We trust that you will find the present issue of the *IJTPL* both interesting and informative, and that its insights will inform your future research. The articles in the issue have been selected from papers presented at the 2016 International Conference on Information Law and Ethics (ICIL). Established in 2008, the ICIL has become an international leader in presenting legal and ethical perspectives on information. It is co-organised by the Ionian University, School of Information Science and the International Society for Ethics and Information Technology (INSEIT), and supported by the International Center for Information Ethics and the NEXA Center for Internet and Society and the Institute for Legal Informatics.