

# Systematic Approach to Transcultural Information Ethics

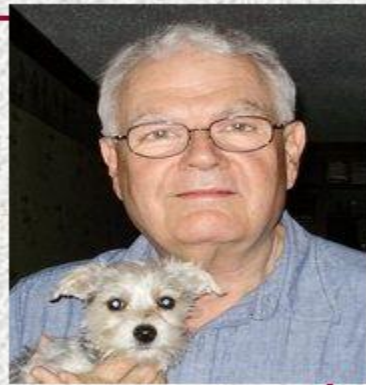
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13. 11. 2017



# Walter Maner



- Computer Ethics studies “ethical problems aggravated, transformed or created by computer technology.”
- Traditional ethical theories should be applied to these new problems.



Terrell Ward Bynum



Simon Rogerson



From Information Ethics 1.0 (Computer Ethics) to Information Ethics 2.0 (**Global** Information Ethics)

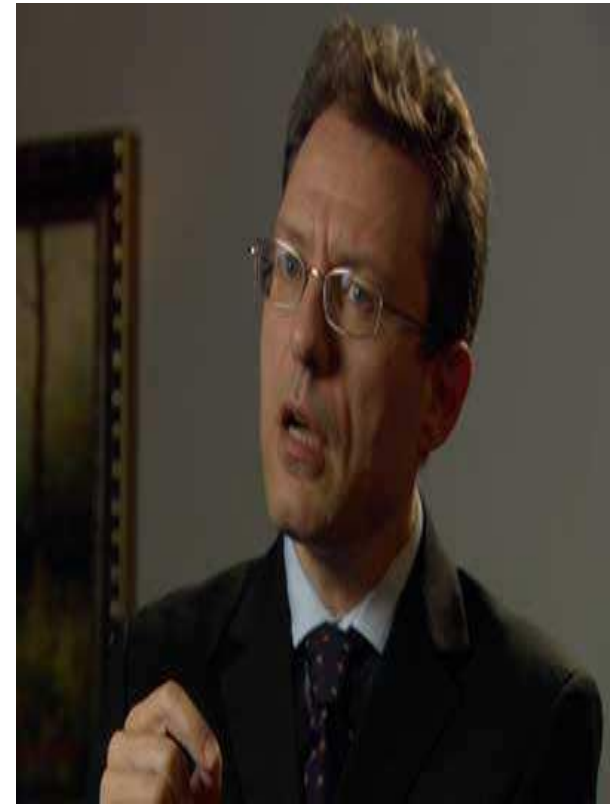


# Global and Cultural Diversity



## Floridi's Theory of Global Information Ethics:

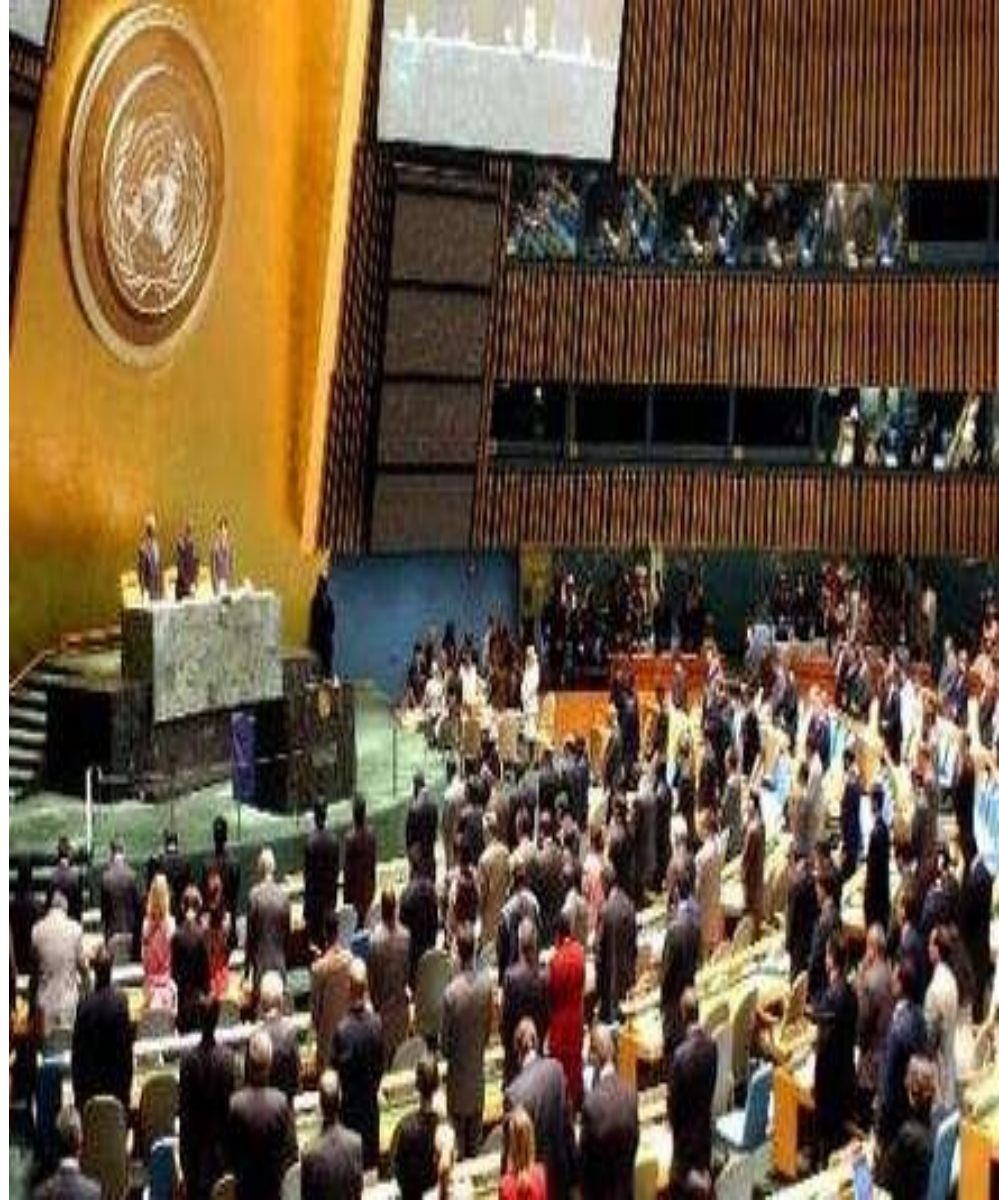
- He overlooked the specific causes and processes of globalisation and listed six key shifts in globalisation.
- He believed that information ethics can meet the challenges posed by six key shifts .
- So, Floridi presented the Meta-Information Ethics Program and regarded information ethics as "global ethics" and considers it to be a meta-ethic, which is the common ontology.



Luciano Floridi

## Criticism:

- Information ethics and globalization are closely related and cannot be taken apart.
  - Global information ethics cannot be synonymous with the ethics of globalization. There are many reasons for globalization. ([example](#))
- This theory is unrealistic and reductionism.





## **Capurro's contribution:**

action to promote the research of information ethics in different regions. (Africa & East Asia; Conferences; The International Center for Information Ethics)

## **Criticism:**

Without further comparison, just describe the information ethic in different regions. Although he has some views on intercultural information ethics, he has not formed his own theory.

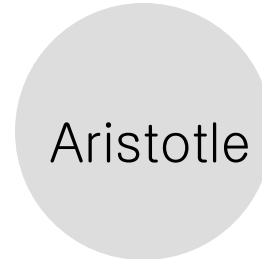
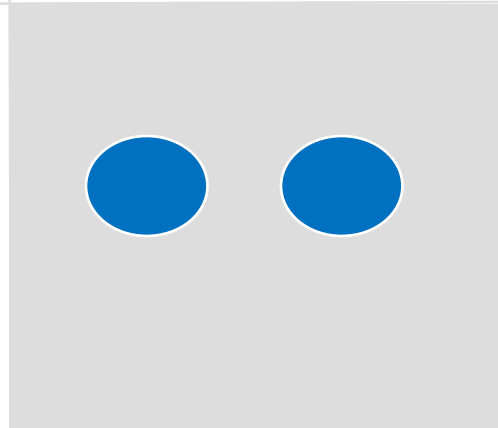
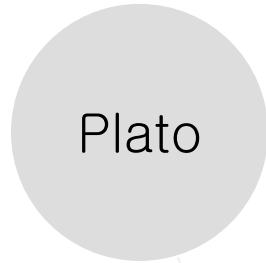


Rafael Capurro

# Ethical pluralism

Compatibility  
framework for  
different cultures

Irreducible  
differences



Charles Ess

## Criticism:

- he has ignored other factors (politics, economy, etc) how to influence on information ethics.
- he has not taken a closer look at the formation process of information ethics.

➤ Lack of the **dynamics** of information ethics

# Culture System Theory

## Method: General System Theory

“A system can be defined as a complex of interacting elements.”  
–Bertalanffy, L. von. "General system theory: foundations, development, applications." (1968).

➤ Various cultures form a culture system

➤ System elements: Western culture (rational), Confucian culture (relationship), Buddhist culture (intuition or enlightenment) , etc.

➤ The form of interaction: communication, film, text, etc.

➤ Other effecting factors: external environment (politics, economy, technology, etc) .

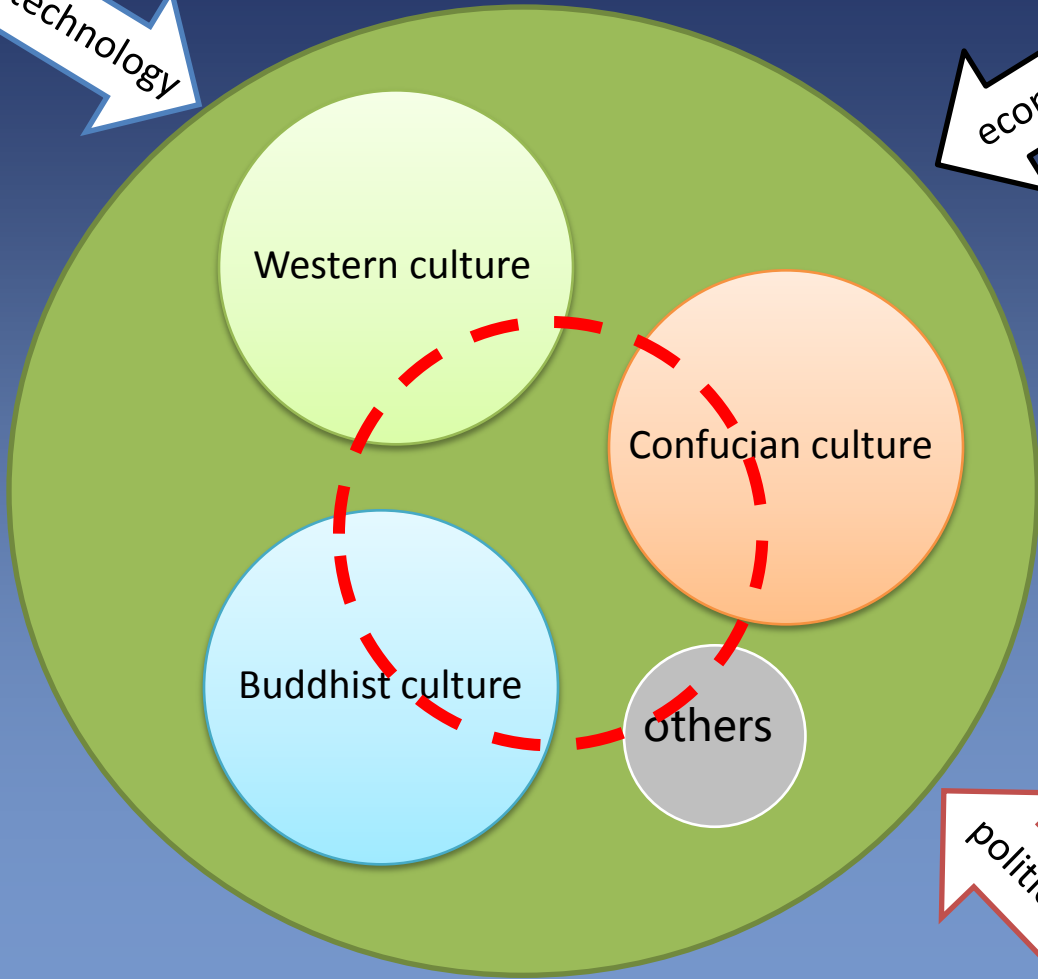
➤ Possible trend of the system: fusion, conflict or stagnation



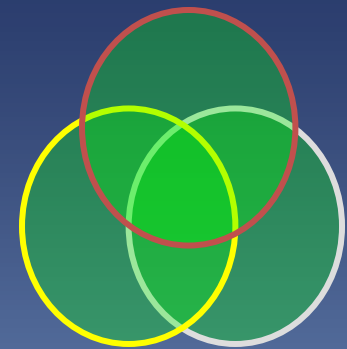
# culture system theory

technology

economy



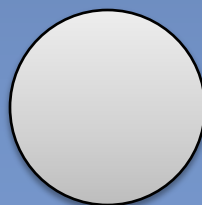
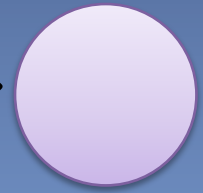
politics



fusion



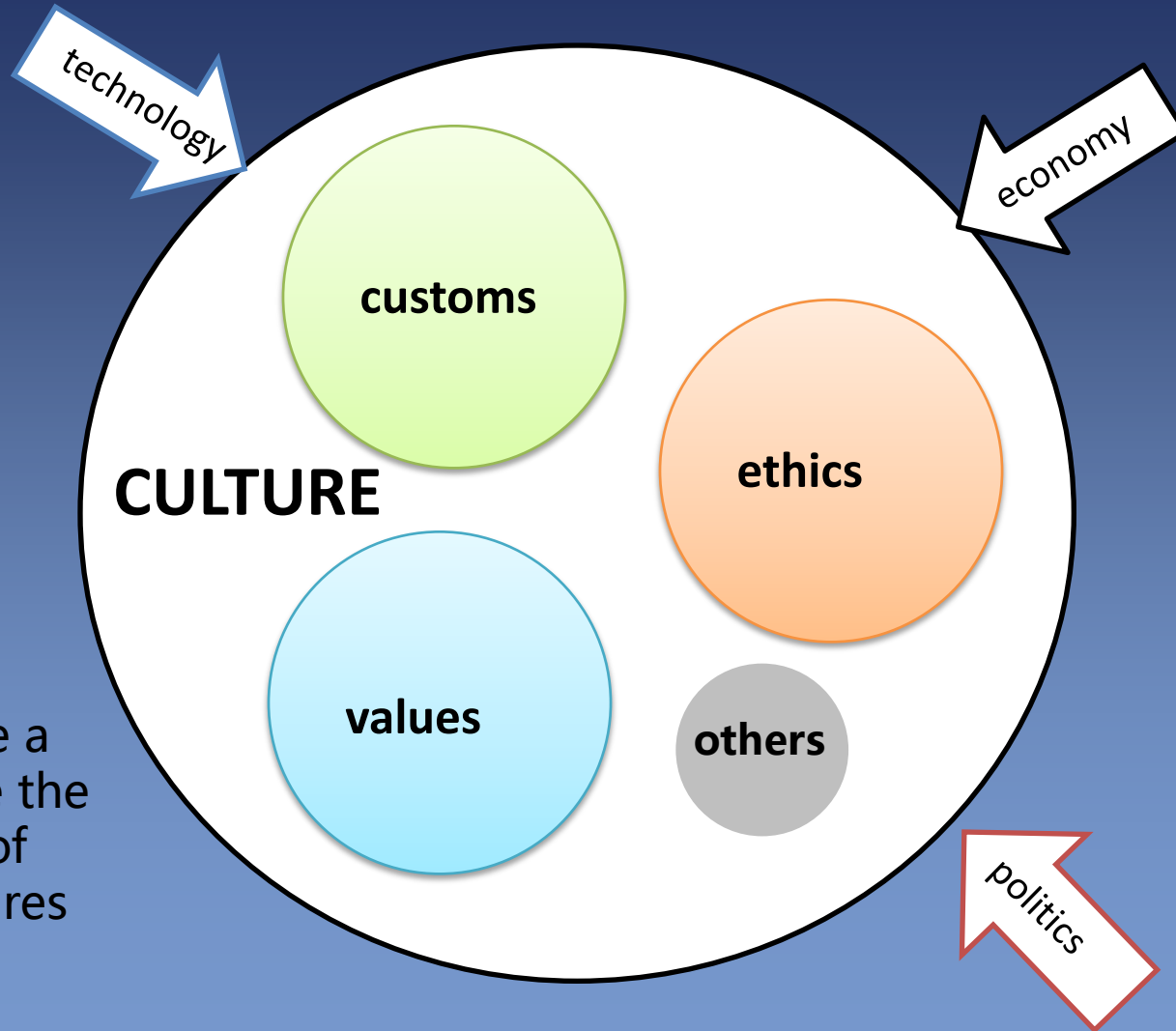
conflict



stagnation

[back](#)

**culture system in detail**



Only examine a culture : ignore the interaction of different cultures

## the different of data privacy protection in laws

utilitarian (US) approaches

deontological (EU) approaches

“In ethical terms, it is the contrast between more **utilitarian (US)** approaches (e.g., as these are more likely to allow **cost-benefit** analyses to override concerns regarding primary rights and responsibilities) and more **deontological (EU)** approaches (as these lay greater stress on **protecting individual rights** - first of all, the right to privacy - even at the cost of thereby losing what might be research that promises to benefit the larger whole).”

“In this light, it is clear that E.U. citizens enjoy a priority on individual privacy vis-a-vis business interests

- i.e., **a deontological emphasis on respect for persons in the form of privacy protections vs. U.S. favoring business interests over individual privacy.**”

References: Ess, Charles. "Ethical decision-making and Internet research: Recommendations from the aoir ethics working committee." *Readings in virtual research ethics: Issues and controversies* (2002): 27-44.

**Information Privacy  
Ethics = IPE**

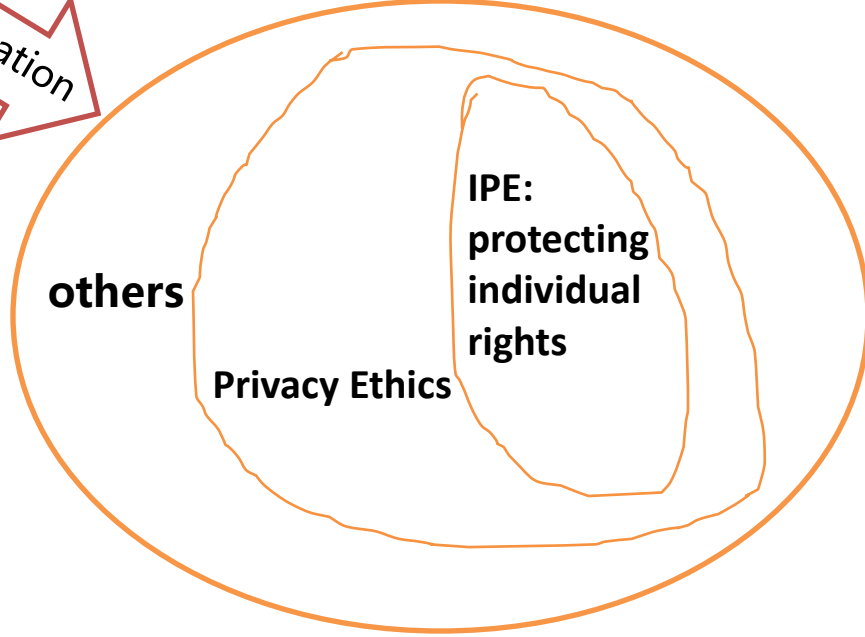
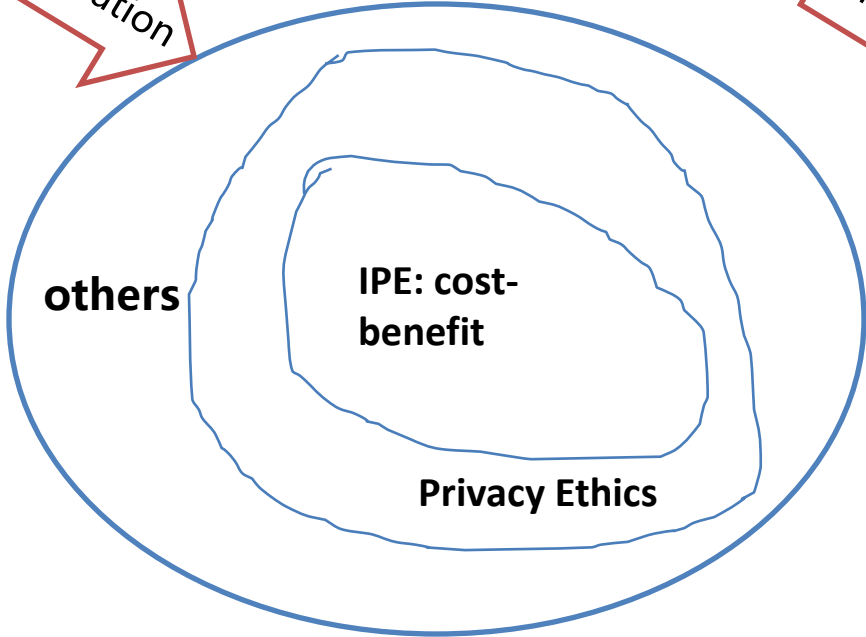
# the impact of information technology on traditional ethics **(between western cultures)**

utilitarian (US) approaches

deontological (EU) approaches

information

information





**Information Privacy  
Ethics = IPE**

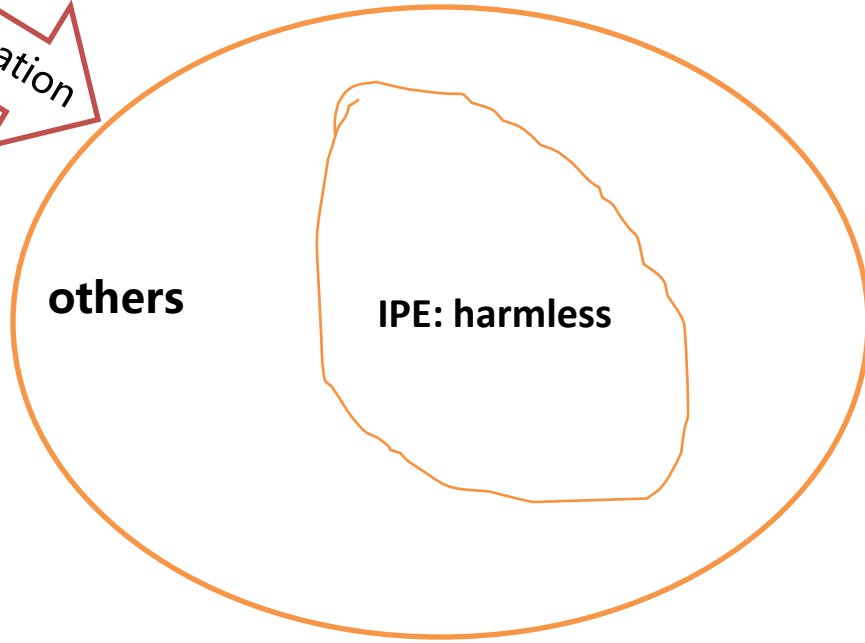
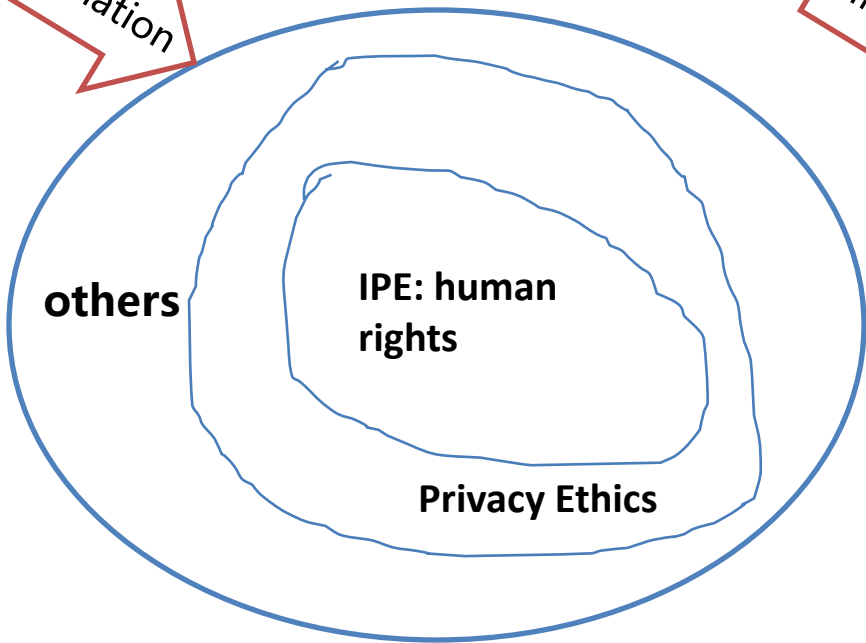
# the impact of information technology on traditional ethics (between west and east)

**West: Pay attention to privacy**

**East: Ignore privacy**

information

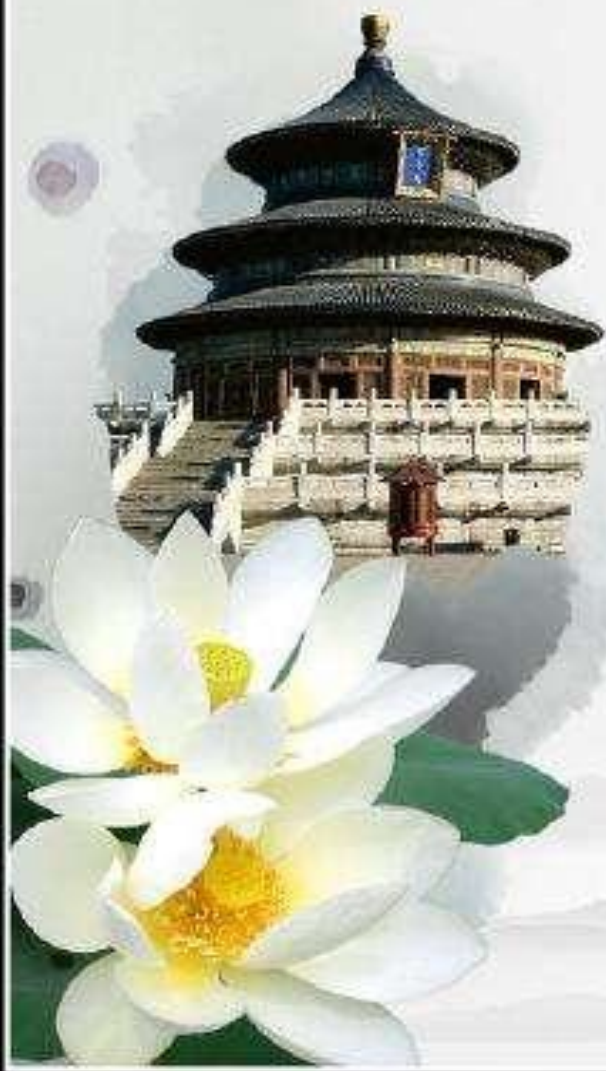
information



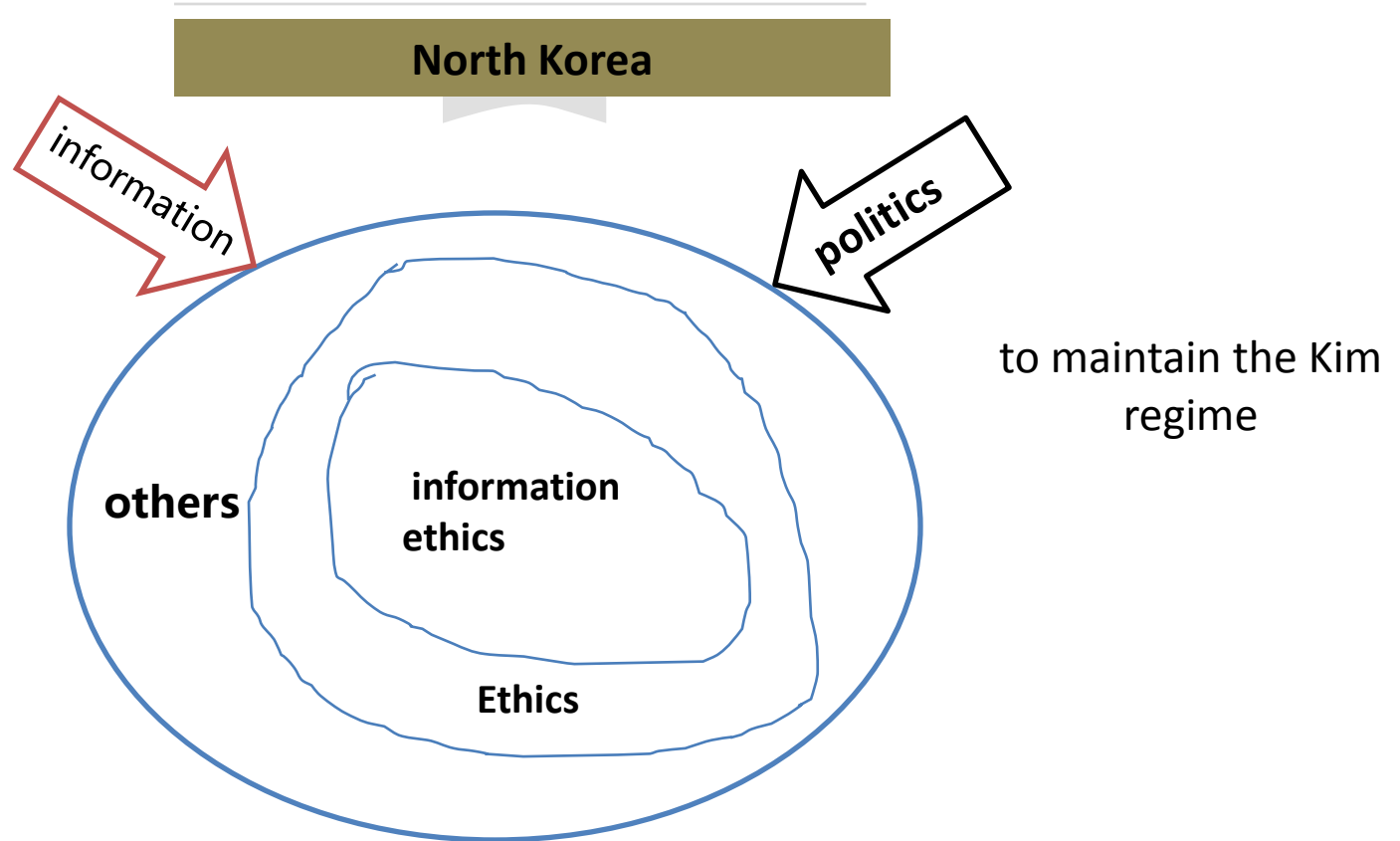
# Confucianism: tradition of maintaining social stability



中西文化

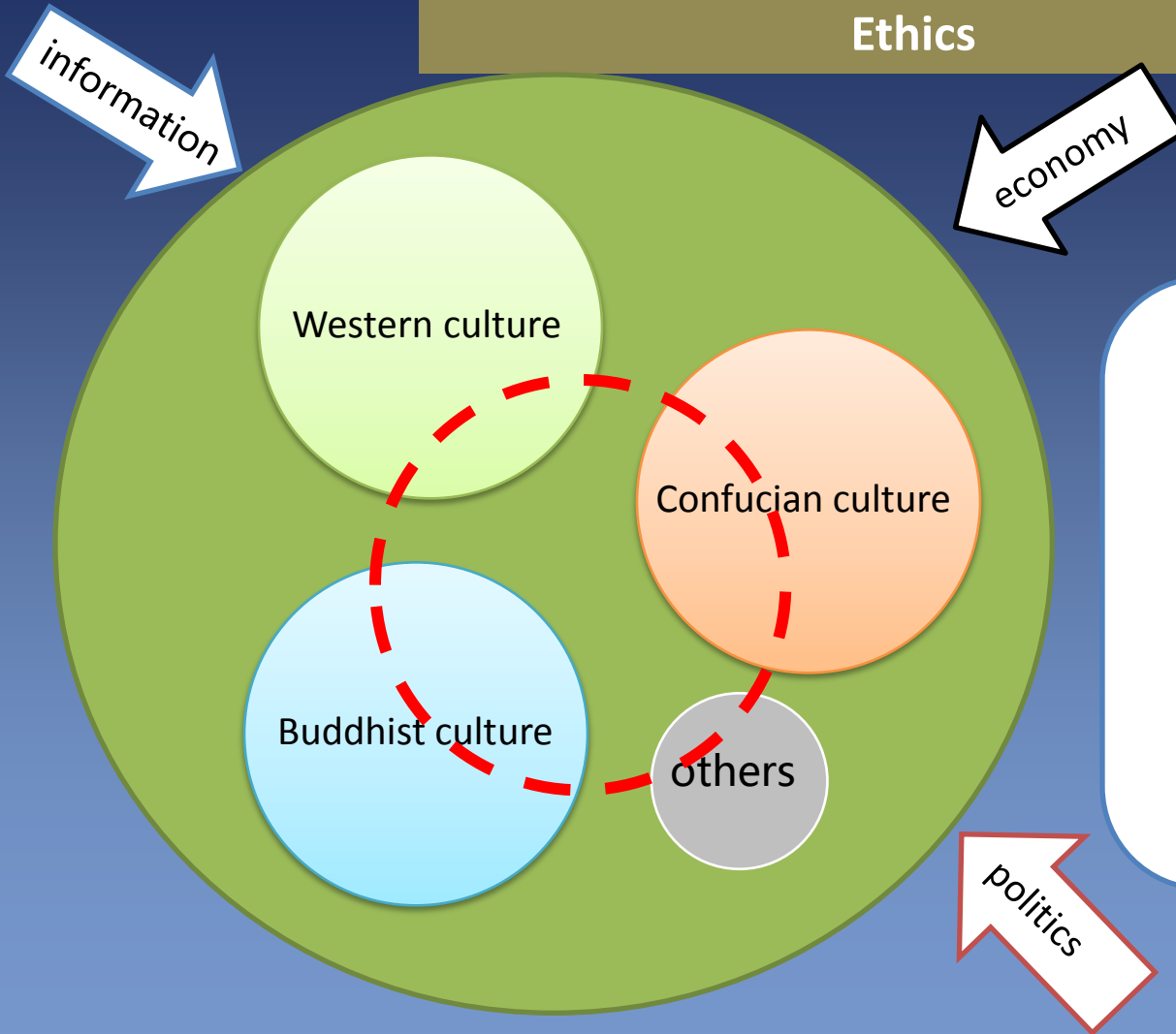


# the impact of other external factors on traditional ethics





# The Complexity of Transcultural Information Ethics



## Mason : PAPA

- Privacy
- Accuracy
- Property
- Accessibility

## Advantages:

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➤ the dynamics of information ethics

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➤ the filtering mechanism of information ethics

❑ the ethical issues of information

❑ the challenge of information to traditional ethics

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## Disadvantages :

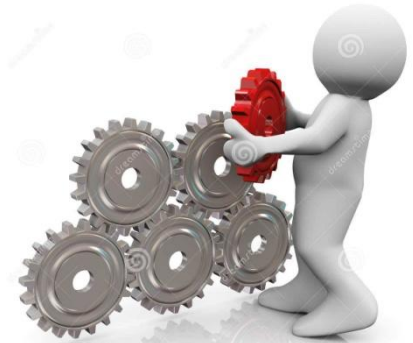
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I did not carefully examine the relationship

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between culture and ethics.

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Capurro, R. (2010, September). Global intercultural information ethics from an African perspective. In *Keynote address presented at the Second African Information Ethics Conference*.

Capurro, R. (2009). Intercultural information ethics: foundations and applications. *Signo y Pensamiento*, 28(55), 66-79.

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谢谢!

Thanks!