

Journal Entry # 4

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Ethics can be defined as the moral principle of a person. What is right? What is wrong? What is a socially accepted behavior and what is not? These are all part of our ethics as an individual. However, even though people all have a general idea of what ethics is, they still have their own interpretation of what is correct or incorrect. It can be very subjective. What is normal for a person from one part of the world, might not be the same for the other person living in a different part of the world.

With regards to the question, is it ethical to study people in cyberspace when they do not know that they are being studied? I would say no, it is not ethical for anybody to study people in cyberspace if they do not know that they are being studied. It is a clear violation of one's privacy. Anybody should be able to freely do what they want without the fear of being watched, recorded, and studied. In a way, it is a form of stalking someone. It has never been right and lawful to stalk someone in person, so why does stalking someone in cyberspace be any different? Without any form of consent, studying a person in cyberspace is unethical. Of course, in every rule, there is always an exemption. If the person has been proven to be a threat or has a previous history of violence and crime, then that would be different. In this specific scenario, studying and observing that person's actions and history in cyberspace becomes okay. That is not to say that you can just pry and spy everything on that person. There are still rules that need to be followed and protocols that need to be adhered to. As a society, we are obliged and expected to follow these rules, for we do not, how different are we from other criminals? At the end of the day, we tend to do things based on our own individual moral compass.