Karan Mudaliar Reflective Assignment 04/30/2023 Phil 335E

Reflective Paper

This class consisted of a series of tools and dilemmas that questioned the ethical standing of certain topics. The three case analyses that really resonated with me are the Privacy, User Data case analysis, and the whistleblowing analysis.

Firstly, the case analysis about using Google Street View of all the possible roads and streets possible was a big deal in a lot of countries. I always thought of this to be a very useful tool to help all lost travelers find a way out yet did not consider the potential threat of privacy. This was especially true when reading the assigned reading by Siva Vaidhyanathan on Googlization of Everything, where the author mentions the threat of privacy of civilians of countries like Japan where they treat a street as part of their home. My takeaway was having a lot more appreciation for the tool of Google Maps yet allowed me to learn to be more cautious of others views and incline to their reasoning to remain ethically professional.

The second analysis that truly blew me away was on User Data. I was shocked to learn how loose and relaxed American social media privacy laws are in comparison to the European Laws. I learned that even though we have freedom in the United States, our data is not truly protected but is used as needed for the social media platforms and often stored for future ads or use. This was a disturbing fact to learn and I hope to read more carefully into the terms and agreements of social media that I choose to use. I believe that I learned to be a lot more cautious with the information I expose on social media since I'm well informed of how our data can be stored and used for a company's own good.

Ultimately, my favorite "lesson" or case analysis was on the Whistleblowing Case. This was a surprisingly good read and really forced me to think about whether or not loyalty and whistleblowing was even a possible coexistence. I was happy to learn that it is definitely possible to stay loyal to your company and/or workplace yet, call them out on wrongful doings. Turns out, whistleblowing might even be the highest form of loyalty since calling out those in power misusing the power may save the reputation of the entire organization and save lives in the long run. I learned that it is possible to solve such strong dilemmas when following the ethical code of conduct properly. It can be puzzling to solve situations like this when they arise but having a code of Ethics to follow really simplifies the process. My favorite part was that Manning acted out of loyalty to both the American citizens and her workplace by exposing her coworkers no matter how difficult that may have been emotionally.

This class allowed me to learn a lot of new ways to solve difficult questions and forced me to think beyond my regular response to trouble and problems. I was able to analyze my personal privacy and reassess the amount of information I am sharing on social media, showed me the value and helped me appreciate the online tools like Google maps have and the path Google had to go through to give us such a helpful resource. I also learned that whistleblowing is not at all a deceitful or negative act as it may be seen at first, yet it is simply a way to be loyal to your organization by disclosing wrongdoings and keeping people accountable.