

Free Write #3

Is it ethical to study people in cyberspace when they don't they are being studied?

Privacy within cyberspace is a tricky subject. Using social media as an example, it would not be hard for someone to find information on someone else searching on Facebook. A majority of people either willing or unwilling accept that their personal data can be publicly accessed by anyone with internet connection. If someone wanted to find out if you were in a relationship with someone or wanted to find out where you worked, is it wrong for them to access publicly available content? I don't think it is. I think where it becomes a problem is on a bigger scale such as perhaps Google collecting data on its users. I personally feel as though it is a shady industry practice to collect personalized data and push out targeted ads based on those findings. Also there have been stories on other companies (not as big as Google) collecting data to then sell that data to other companies. This is where I think it becomes an ethical dilemma.