



Internet Privacy in the European Union and the United States:

Three Essays on Privacy, the Internet, Politics, Implementation, Business Power, and Surveillance in the European Union and the United States

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Abstract

This dissertation is a collection of three stand-alone papers each making distinct contributions and addressing different, but closely related, empirical puzzles that contribute to the literature on Internet privacy.

The first article starts by exploring some of the tangible consequences of the Snowden revelations and challenges the common-wisdom culturalist theories of Europe's privacy regime. Then, the second article offers a new explanation of the origins of America's privacy framework that also defies conventional culturalist explanations. Finally, the third article closes by offering a novel implementation and policy design analysis of the American and European privacy regimes.

Each article employs slightly different research methods and uses different yet compatible and complementary theoretical frameworks. In general, this dissertation adopts an institutionalist perspective studying how and why certain institutions change, and "why some flourish in some context and/or why some die out in others" (Steinmo, 2003a). The first article focuses on institutional reform, and resistance to institutional reform by corporate actors, following Culpepper's quiet politics framework (2011). The second article, borrowing from Steinmo (2003b) and Blyth (2002, 2011), discusses the interaction between ideas and institutions, following perhaps the clearest institutionalist narrative of all the pieces of this dissertation. The third article, building on Rothstein's general theory on implementation (Rothstein, 1998) discusses the implementation and policy design of the European and American institutions for the protection of privacy.



Jury: Henry Farrell (George Washington University), Sven Steinmo (EUI, Supervisor), Agustín Rossi Silvano (candidate), Bastiaan Van Apeldoorn (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Alexander Trechsel (University of Lucerne / formerly EUI)

Bio

Agustín Rossi wrote his PhD dissertation on Internet privacy in the European Union and the United States. Currently he is affiliated to the Global Public Policy Institute in Berlin and participates in the Ranking Digital Rights Project, hosted at the New America Foundation in Washington DC. Previously he worked at the Board of the Inter-American Development Bank. He studied at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra.