

## Communitarian Observations

*I often write about rather different matters, but in my mind they all deal with one core question: the guidance our shared values, especially the common good, provides to our public policies.*

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### Events

On June 5-6, 2014, the University of California Berkeley School of Law and The George Washington University Law School will jointly host the seventh annual Privacy Law Scholars Conference at the Marvin Center in Washington, DC. The PLSC assembles a wide array of privacy law scholars and practitioners from around the world to discuss current issues and foster greater connections between academia and practice. It will bring together privacy law scholars, privacy scholars from other disciplines, and practitioners with the goal of enhancing ties within the privacy law community and facilitating dialogue between different parts of that community. The deliberations will include a discussion of the paper “A Cyber Age Privacy Doctrine: More Coherent, Less Subjective, and Operational,” which represents an attempt to operationalized and extend a [previous paper](#) on the subject. Discussion of the paper will take place from 11:00-noon on Thursday, June 5.

On June 8-11, 2014, the Institute for Policy and Strategy will host the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Herzliya Conference, focusing on “the future of the Middle East and its implications for Israel’s national security and resilience.” Amitai Etzioni will give a presentation on “The Impact of Middle East Turmoil on the Muslim Communities in Europe and/or the United States.”

On June 12, 2014, Amitai Etzioni will speak at a morning colloquium on Contemporary Privacy Studies, hosted by the Minerva Center for Human Rights and the Buchanan Faculty of Law at the University of Tel Aviv. Additional speakers include Dr. Eran Toch, Dr. Irit Hadar, Professor Michael Birnhack, Dr. Tamar Ashuri, Dr. Ruth Halperin, Dr. Tali Hatuka, and Dr. Lotem Perry-Hazan. For additional information, please contact Michael Birnhack at [birnhack@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:birnhack@post.tau.ac.il).

### Short Pieces

*Final Frontier vs. Fruitful Frontier: The Case for Increasing Ocean Exploration*

“The nation should begin transforming the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) into a greatly reconstructed, independent, and effective federal agency. In the present fiscal climate of zero-sum budgeting, the additional funding necessary for this agency should be taken from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The basic reason is that deep space—NASA’s favorite turf—is a distant, hostile, and barren place, the study of which yields few major discoveries and an abundance of overhyped claims. By contrast, the oceans are nearby, and their study is a potential source of discoveries that could prove helpful for addressing a wide range of national concerns from climate change to disease; for reducing energy, mineral, and potable water shortages; for strengthening industry, security, and defenses against natural disasters such as hurricanes and tsunamis; for increasing our knowledge about geological history; and much more.” (Read more of “Final Frontier vs. Fruitful Frontier: The Case for Increasing Ocean Exploration” at the [ICPS blog](#).)

*Gary Becker – A Giant*

“Gary Becker, who just passed away, is correctly gaining much attention. The 1992 Nobel Laureate and University of Chicago professor was – as many are reporting – one of the most influential economists of the age, just next to Milton Friedman. Unfortunately, this does not mean that he carried the social sciences in the right direction, empirically or morally. Becker is justifiably famous for what is called economic imperialism – for arguing that economic models can explain social behavior, including courtship, crime, suicide, and much else. His main argument was that people act in these relationship the way they do in the marketplace. They know what they are after – which is invariably their self-interest; they collect information about their options, process it rationally, and then render a rational choice.” (Read more of “Gary Becker – A Giant” at [The Huffington Post](#) or at the [ICPS website](#).)

### *Strategic Reassurance: An Important Agenda*

“There is an obvious and a far from obvious reason the approach to the U.S. and China relationship, spelled out in a new book by James Steinberg and Michael O’Hanlon, deserves much more attention than it has received so far. The obvious reason is that the authors of *Strategic Reassurance and Resolve: U.S.-China Relations in the Twenty-First Century* are two of the best minds deliberating on this vital subject. James Steinberg, who served as the Deputy Secretary of State to Hillary Clinton, is known in academic and think tank circles for his tough mind—but constructive approach—when it comes to China. Michael O’Hanlon is a major voice in all matters concerning national security in Washington, though he is far from a dove. Much less obvious is the merit of the strategy they lay out, which relies much more on tit-for-tat measures of self-restraint and de-escalation (of the kind previously discussed [here](#)) rather than negotiated agreements. By “tit-for-tat” I mean measures that each side takes unilaterally but for which each side expects the other side to reciprocate with similar measures. The merit of a tit-for-tat approach is that it does not entail the kind of lawyerly haggling over texts, layers of approval by various departments and authorities in both nations, and above all U.S. Senate approval (or a similar one by a Chinese legislature) that is often not obtainable.” (Read more of “Strategic Reassurance: An Important Agenda” at [The Diplomat](#) or the [ICPS website](#).)

### **Longer Pieces**

[“A Liberal Communitarian Approach to Security Limitations on the Freedom of the Press.”](#) *William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal* 22(4). 2014.

Abstract: “*This article asks: What normative framework should one apply in finding the proper balance between the freedom of the press and national security? What effect, if any, should the change in historical conditions have on this balance? When highly sensitive national-security information is leaked to the press—who has the authority to render the weighty decisions about whether to publish such information? To what extent has the publication of classified information changed national security? To what extent have the subsequent leak investigations undermined freedom of the press? What mechanisms are available if the balance between liberty and security needs to be recalibrated? What steps can be taken to narrow the conflict between freedom of the press and national security? What role must moral dialogues play before major legal and institutional changes can be introduced?*”

### **From My Diary**

In *Ida*, a very poignant Polish film, a novice is out on the town for one final night before she takes her vows. She has a one-night fling with a musician, who asks her to accompany him to some more gigs. She asks, “And then?” He answers, “We buy a dog.” She asks, “And?” He replies, “And we get married, have

children, and buy a house.” She asks, “And then?” When nothing else is forthcoming, she chooses the convent.

In a recent exchange with China’s Xinhua News Agency:

**Xinhua News Agency:** Violent anti-Chinese protests erupted in Vietnam following China’s deployment an oil rig in an area of the South China Sea claimed by both China and Vietnam. What’s at stake for the U.S. in this conflict between China and Vietnam? How will the dispute over South China Sea unfold that best serves the interests of the U.S.?

**Amitai Etzioni:** The developments in Vietnam are one more reminder that both the United States and China must reconsider the course they are on. If they will not, they both will end up spending ever more on defense when both need to focus on domestic issues, and they may even end up in a military clash. China’s needs for energy must be served, but the strategy of creating facts, which may have some short-term payoffs, is generating a pushback (especially in Japan) that in the long run will more than offset these gains. The U.S. trend to turn more nations in the region into military allies in effect gives these small nations too much influence over U.S.-China policies. Both the U.S. and China would do better if they remembered that they have many shared interests. In Vietnam, China should seek a negotiated settlement, and the U.S. should slow down its military involvement.

**XNA:** Some Chinese view the United States as partly to blame for its regional partners’ emboldened stances against Beijing and some even accuse the U.S. of stirring up anti-China sentiment among Vietnam public. What’s your opinion on this view? Does Vietnam become an increasingly key U.S. ally in balancing China’s rise?

**AE:** Given the history of China-Vietnam relations—and U.S.-Vietnam relations—the people of Vietnam need no outside agitation to be resentful and nationalistic.

When I joined the faculty of Columbia University, the Department of Sociology was teaching students that if they wanted to make a number look large, they should precede it with the word “fully,” as in “fully 20%.” If they wanted to make a number look small, they should precede it with “only,” as in “only 80%.” It seems that the staff of *The Economist* attended the same lectures! “Fully 86% of Muslims [in France] voted for Mr Hollande in 2012, according to a poll.” (“[Muslims in Marseille: Behind the façade.](#)” *The Economist*. May 3, 2014.) “Fully 62% of the French told one poll that malls were their favourite places to shop, ahead of the high street or traditional department stores.” (“[French consumers: Made in France, not.](#)” *The Economist*. May 10, 2014.)

### I Read

Robert Perrucci and Carolyn C. Perrucci. “[The Good Society: Core Social Values, Social Norms, and Public Policy.](#)” *Sociological Forum* 29(1). March 2014.

Bernard Yack. [Nationalism and the Moral Psychology of Community.](#) Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

“China’s reaction is perhaps the most fundamental of all the factors making the rebalance so tricky. America insists it is not trying to contain China or thwart its rise. But if that is so, how to convince Asian allies of an unshakable military commitment to the defence of islands, reefs and rocks of no obvious relevance to American security?” (“[A tricky rebalancing act.](#)” *The Economist*. April 19, 2014.)

### **New Endorsers of the MAR Position Paper**

Eugenio Bregolat, Former U.S. Ambassador to China and Spain

Bruce Mazlish, Professor of History Emeritus, MIT

Bernard K. Gordon, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, The University of New Hampshire

*To read or endorse the MAR Position Paper, click [here](#).*

### **New Endorsers of the DWU Position Paper**

Uriel Abulof, LISD / Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University and Department of Political Science, Tel-Aviv University

Aviel Roshwald, Professor of History, Georgetown University

*To read or endorse the DWU Position Paper, click [here](#).*

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