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'You don't own me" – Protecting Workers' Right to a Private Life



Many of today's stickiest problems stem from systemic imbalances of wealth, access, and power. My research explores the implications of these asymmetries in the domain of employment relationships and the ways these imbalances may undermine employees' interests.

01. Context

How would you feel about your employer breaking into your house to read your private handwritten journal – the one that contains your most intimate hopes and dreams, your secret suspicions that members of the British royal family are lizards and the occasional petty spiteful rants about your coworkers?



02. Privacy

Do you think that if you are polite and diligent at work that should be enough for your employer, and that your private thoughts and what you do on your own time should be your own business?



03. Monitoring

In a nutshell, my research is about what the law is doing to hold the line against the employer overreach into workers private life. The short answer to this is – not nearly enough.



04. Awareness

As well as looking at what current law is around the world, I am also looking at ways that law could be improved to stop extractive and exploitative practices. I am interested in how technology could be beneficially used to protect workers' right to a private life. After all technology itself is neutral and it is up to us, as human beings, to decide whether and how we use it.

