INFORMATION SOCIETY : Governance, Ethics and Social Consequences

22-23 May 2006

Institute of Computer Science
University of Namur

Namur, Belgium

www.info.fundp.ac.be/informationsociety/

Organized in honor of the Professor Jacques Berleur
by University of Namur, Namur and IFIP

Introduction

'Information Society : Governance, Ethics and Social Consequences' is a two-day conference that pays tribute to and builds on the work of Professor Jacques Berleur of the University of Namur, Belgium. Two of the key institutions with which Jacques has worked closely over the years, the University of Namur and the International Federation for Information Processing, are joining together to celebrate his commitment to their endeavours in a very dynamic, pro-active, and future-looking way. The purpose of the conference is to dedicate academic reflection on the issues, challenges and problems posed by the Information Society, and also to focus on applied approaches. The Conference intends to bring together actors from institutions, organisations and companies as well as representatives of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) in an animated discussion.

Presentation of the conference

The last half of the 20ᵗʰ century has speeded up the integration of technological elements into economic production and social life. Those transformations are closely linked to some techno-scientific developments in various areas, and in particular, to some stunning developments in information and communication technologies (ICT). The ongoing complex process of the Information Society is still in search of a social and a political project, and of a steady frame of references and values. The essential stake is to build up the «world of networks» on the basis of a cultural model and of clear collective choices, so that the principles of democracy can be reproduced without any substantive losses. The issue of reframing technical and scientific choices through ethical and democratic perspective arises in the context of the Information Society, but faces its ideology of the fatality and the destiny of technology.

I. Problematic : Democracy in Question

The democratic power is still seeking to regulate the economic system, but it also has to control technological developments in setting up limits defined by societies, and in choosing technical means fitting their ethical ends. This challenge questions the ability of decision-making systems to solve the problems posed by the development of the Information Society according to the requirements of *democracy* and *ethics*. A reflexive approach is needed to more accurately determine more accurately the scope of ethics in a regulation context, as well as the relationship between ethics, rationality and innovation. The legitimacy of technological innovations requires a connection between the technical justifications and the social ones, to consider their ethical meanings and to demonstrate their democratic opportunity. At the time of a worldwide «cyberspace», democratic societies should concern about the nature of public space and of general interest, which questions the Information Society as a project and as a reality.

II. Which Approaches for Which Ethics ?

One should admit the failure of a methodology which grounds the ethical reflection on a sociological analysis of the techno-scientific systems and of the decision-making processes. In fact, each domain refers to some specific criteria which provides relevance and legitimacy to it, but which prevents ethics to be deduced from science. This suggests grounding a better governance of techno-science on the legitimate meaning of ICT, by favouring institutional education and by avoiding technology policies exclusively based upon risk evaluation or economic interest. It invites us to think differently about institutional experimentation in the area of democratic governance of innovations, as opposed to technocratic decisions and models. It is possible, then, to build a common world based on a mosaic of identities, interests and rationalities, which are all present in complex societies, and to make uncertain and controversial situations manageable.

III. The Link between Theory and Practice

Institutions are often bound by their mandates, and may find it difficult to respond to the demands made to them by civil society. On the other hand, non-governmental associations would often appreciate more opportunity to give feedback on policy and institutional decision-making. Why, and how, decision-making about information and communication technologies has been treated until today ? The fundamental question is then: How do we link theory and practice? With the theoretical framework given on the first day and the practical experiences provided by the second day speakers, the audience will work dynamically together to produce conclusions and proposals for work in the future. In the context of an exploration of the Information Society, the Conference provides an open opportunity for institutions and civil society to explore their mutual relationships.

Information Society
Innovation, Legitimacy, Ethics and Democracy
22nd May

08.00   Welcome

09.00   *Introduction*
        Michel Scheuer, Rector, University of Namur, Belgium
        Philippe Goujon, Institute of Computer Sciences, University of Namur, Belgium

PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH

09.25   *Do we need a theory of governance ? From ethics to political philosophy and legal theory*
        Marc Maesschalck, UCL - FUSL, The Centre for Philosophy of Law, Belgium
        http://www.cpdr.ucl.ac.be/perso/maesschalck/index.php

POLITICS AND TECHNIQUES

10.00   *Democracy, innovation, and the information society*
        Stefano Rodotà, Formerly Garante per la protezione dei dati personali, Italy

10.35   *How to regulate the Internet : new ways of governance*
        Yves Poullet, Law Faculty, CRID, University of Namur, Belgium
        http://www.droit.fundp.ac.be/crid/CV/ypoullet

11.10   **Coffee break**

ECONOMIC APPROACH

11.30   *When economics meets ethics: the governance of economic activities in the information society*
        Eric Brousseau, EconomiX, Université de Paris X et IUF, France
        www.brousseau.info/

11.55   *Economy, industry, innovation, and technical democracy*
        Philippe Defraigne, Cullen International, Namur, Belgium
        www.cullen-international.com

12.30   **Lunch break**

TECHNICAL APPROACH

14.00   *Assessing and enforcing safety and security standards for IT systems: about the joint responsibility of experts and governments*
        Klaus Brunnstein, Professor for Informatics, Hamburg University, Germany,   President of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP),
        http://agn-www.informatik.uni-hamburg.de/people/brunnstein/eng.htm

CULTURAL APPROACH

14.35   *Is democracy depending on IT (Information Technology)?*
        Riccardo Petrella, University of Louvain, Belgium

15.10   *Internet: new social contract, new principles of political right*
        Richard Delmas, European Commission, Administrator of the DG Information Society, Chief of the GAC secretariat, Belgium
        http://gac.icann.org/web/index.shtml

15.45   **Coffee break**

ETHICAL QUESTION

16.10   *Computer systems, ethics and democracy*
Deborah G. Johnson, Department of Science, Technology and Society, School of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Virginia, USA
www.sts.virginia.edu

16.45   *Gouvernance challenges : First lessons from the WSIS*
Jacques Berleur, University of Namur, Belgium
www.info.fundp.ac.be/jbl/

17.20   **Drink in honour of Jacques Berleur**

Social Consequences of IT :
Is there a gap between Theory and Practice?
23rd May

08.00   Welcome

09.00   *Introduction*
Penny Duquenoy, chair of IFIP WG9.2, Middlesex University, UK
www.cs.mdx.ac.uk/staff/profiles/p_duquenoy.html

09.15   *Ethics in Practice*
Deborah G. Johnson, Department of Science, Technology and Society, School of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Virginia, USA
www.sts.virginia.edu

09.45   *IT, Ethics and Education : Teaching the Teachers (and their Pupils)*
Bern Martens, Bern Martens, Teacher Training Department, Catholic University College Leuven, Belgium,
http://www.personeel.khleuven.be/~bemar

10.15   *Social Consequences and Politics*
Jan Staman, Director of the Rathenau Institute, The Hague, The Netherlands
www.rathenau.nl

10.45   **Coffee break**

11.05   *Social Consequences: The Glass Consumer, Life in a Surveillance Society*

11.35   *Embedding Ethics in Practice, Starting with Education - A View of the British Computer Society*
Richard Sizer, Eur. Ing., former chairman of IFIP TC9, member of IFIP WG9.2

12.05   *Social Consequences of Information and Communication Technologies and the European Union : Policy Links*
Vasileos Laopodis, Chairman, Cogniterra.org, formerly European Commission, DG Information Society and Media
http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/policy_link/index_en.htm

12.35   **Lunch break**

13.45   *How do we link theory and practice ? Work sessions*
         The afternoon's challenge will be to propose a solution to this problem. Using an interactive and innovative new methodology to facilitate a group-based approach, speakers and audience will work dynamically together on each of the topics introduced in the morning's session: ethics in practice, politics, consumer-based approach, business-based approach, policy and education. The discussion themes will follow the stimulating questions or statements given by each of the speakers in their morning's lecture.

15.20   **Coffee break**

15.40   *Social consequences : the gap between theory and practice. What should be done ?*
         This session will bring the various work groups back together in a plenary session, and will then focus the collective thinking on an action orientation toward what now needs to be done.

16.30   *Perspectives for future work*
         The Chairman will summarize the conclusions and proposals for future work and potential collaborations.

17.00   *How IFIP's work can link theory and practice*
         Penny Duquenoy, chair of IFIP WG9.2, Middlesex University, UK
         Jacques Berleur, former chairman of IFIP TC9, member of IFIP WG9.2, University of Namur, Belgium,
         www.info.fundp.ac.be/~jbl/

Members of the programme committee

IFIP – WG9.2
Philippe Goujon, University of Namur, Belgium
Penny Duquenoy. Middlesex University, UK, and chair IFIP WG 9.2
Jan Holvast, Privacy Consultants, The Netherlands
Diane Whitehouse, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

ICAM (School of Engineering)
Sylvain Lavelle, Lille, France

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Sponsored by

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Practical Information

Fees

Normal fee : 230 euros.
If registration before the 10th April 2006 : 210 euros.
Student fee (only with a copy of student card) : 50 euros (no proceedings included)
Registration will be closed on the 1st May 2006.

Registration will be confirmed by the payment of the fee. Please ask your invoice if needed directly on the registration form. No invoice will be given otherwise.
The fee includes paper material, lunch, coffee breaks and the proceedings (except for students) but does not include accommodation or dinner. The proceedings will be sent at the end of 2006.
You can book a room in the hotels listed below with a preferential rate (if applicable) if you indicate your participation to the conference 'The Information Society' at the **University of Namur**.

Schedule and maps

The welcome of the attendees will take place between 8.00 and 9.00 am each day.
The conference is scheduled from 9.00 am till 5.30 pm.
To locate Namur and its University, you can see the map on the following page or consult our web site : http://www.fundp.ac.be/universite/acces/.

Accommodation

We have selected four hotels within a walking distance of the University. These hotels are often used by the visitors of the university and have always given complete satisfaction. In order to ease your choice, an indicative comparison table is given below. Web links are provided to allow you to find additional information.

Hotels

Breakfast abbreviations: (B) = breakfast included, (B: +9) = add 9 EUR for breakfast
Credit card abbreviations: Visa (V), American Express (AE), Eurocard (E), Diners Club (D)

Grand Hôtel de Flandre
Place de la Station, 14 - B-5000 Namur
Tel : +32 81 23 18 68 - Fax : +32 81 22 80 60
www.hotelflandre.be
Distance with the University : 0,5 km
Prices in EUR(single/double rooms) : 51/67 (B)
Accepted credit cards : AE, D, E, V

Hôtel «Ibis»
Rue du 1er Lanciers, 10 - B-5000 Namur
Tel : +32 81 25 75 40 - Fax : +32 81 25 75 50
http://www.accorhotels.com/accorhotels/fichehotel/fr/ibi/3151/fiche_hotel.shtml
Distance with the University : 1 km
Prices in EUR(single/double rooms) : 65/78 (B)
Accepted credit cards : AE, D, E, V

Hôtel «Beauregard»
Avenue de Baron de Moreau 1 - B-5000 Namur
Tel : +32 81 23 00 28 - Fax : +32 81 24 12 09
http://www.hotelbeauregard.be/
Distance with the University : 2 km
Prices in EUR(single/double rooms) : 70/80 (B)
Accepted credit cards : AE, D, E, V

Hôtel «Les Tanneurs»
Rue des Tanneries 13/B B-5000 Namur
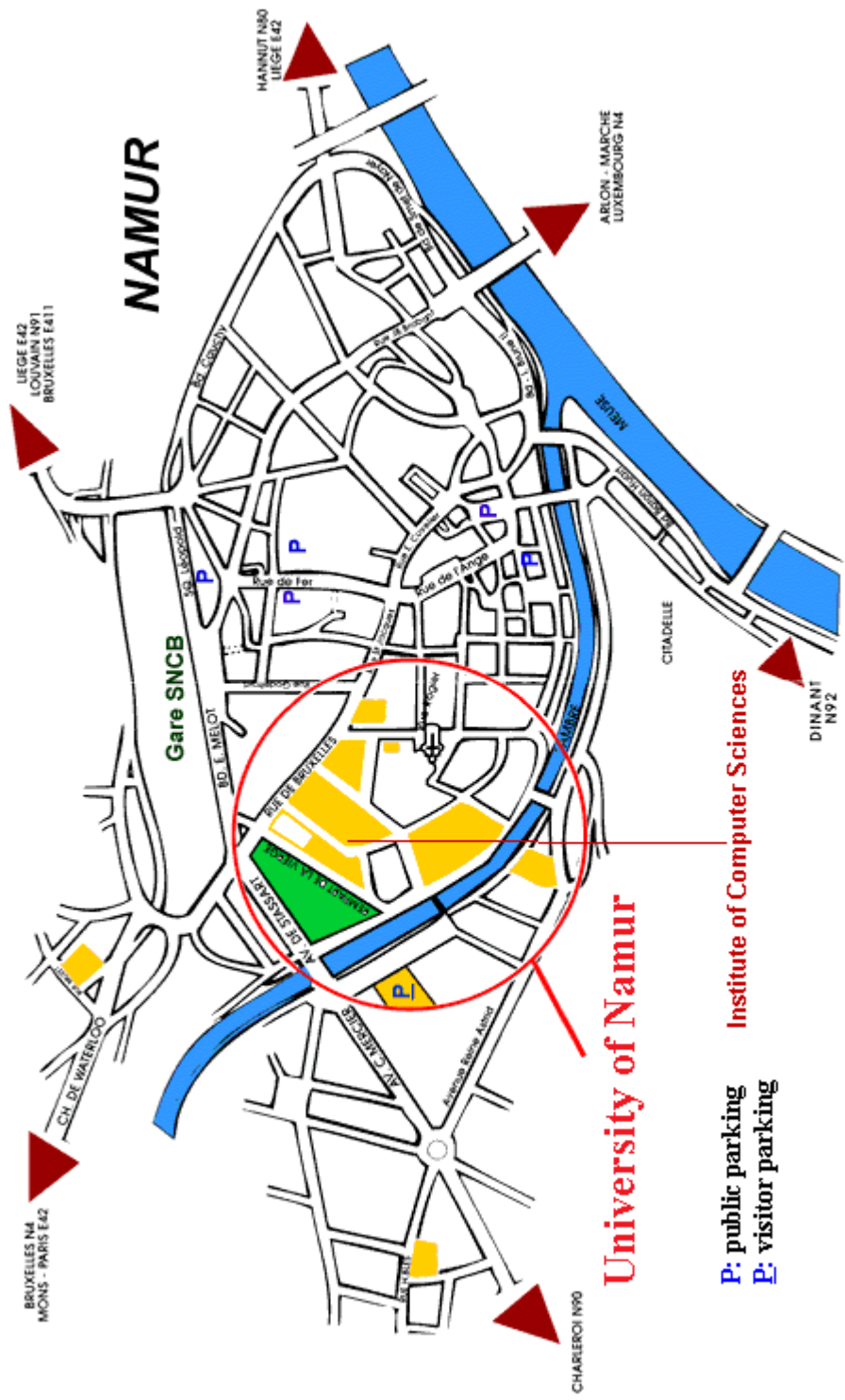Tel: +32 81 24 00 24 Fax: +32 81 24 00 25
www.tanneurs.com
Distance with the University : 0,8 km
Prices in EUR(single/double rooms) : 62-100/82-120 (B)
Accepted credit cards : AE

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REGISTRATION FORM
(One per participant. For additional registration, please use a copy)

Please return by May 1ˢᵗ, 2006 at the latest
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Participant information

Last name :

First name :

Title :

Organization :

Address :

City :   Postal Code :   Country :

Particular regime :   Vegetarian   Vegan   Other (specify) :

   I need an invoice   I need an authorization of parking on the campus

Registration

Registration **before** 10ᵗʰ April (210 €)   =   €

Registration **after** 10ᵗʰ April (230 €)   =   €

Student's registration (50 €) *[Proceedings not included]*   =   €
   I join a copy of my student licence

Method of payment
(Beware : No refunds for cancellations received after May, 15ᵗʰ)

Payment order   Account n°250-0074027-04 of the FU NDP, asbl, Namur
                 FORTIS BANQUE, rue Godefroid 6, B-5000 Namur (Belgium)
                 With the mention « CPO 9266 – *participant's name* »
                 Swift Code : GEBABEBB07A
                 IBAN Code : BE10 2500 0740 2704

International check Payable to « FUNDP, asbl, Namur (CPO 9266) »

Credit cards :   VISA   AMEX

Name (as it appears on the card) :

Card number :   Expiration date :   Confirmation code :

Date :   Signature :

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Information and Registration

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