

ETHICS: 4 DIRECTIONS IN WESTERN HISTORY

1. Deontological ethics (Kant +)
Means justify the ends
2. Consequentialist ethics (Bentham/Mill +)
Ends Justify the means
3. Virtue ethics (Aristotle +)
Living well as a developed skill
4. Culturalist ethics (Nietzsche +)
Culture and perspective define ethics
(Postmodernism)



*REMINDER: ETHICS VERSUS OTHER FORMS OF DECISIONS...



DEFINITION DEONTOLOGICAL ETHICS

1. ChatGPT
What is the deontological ethics?
2. Deontology theory
Ethics When the Means Justify the Ends
Ethics = principles: Act, not consequences matter
3. Deontology etymology
Greek duty (Deon) and understanding (logos)
4. *What people commonly think ethics is...

"Represent deontological ethics as a figurative image..."



OUTLINE

What is deontology / deontological ethics?

Means justify the ends, objective principles

Perennial duties

Fairness

Kant

Rights

Rights & Libertarianism

PERENNIAL DUTIES DEFINITION

1. Chat GPT

2. Definition

Most familiar ethics of most familiar ethics...

Ethical obligations found to subsist historically in various contexts and cultures...

(Question: Which histories and cultures count...?)

3. TWO BROAD CATEGORIES

Duty to ourselves: Ethical responsibilities we hold to ourselves, determining how we live and treat ourselves

Duty to others: Ethical responsibilities for others, determining how we live and treat others

(Thought experiment of pure one or other...)

PERENNIAL DUTIES

DUTIES TO OURSELVES

Develop our abilities and talents

Respect innate abilities by fulfilling them = natural gifts conceived as equally obligation to reciprocate/not waste

Example / Counter example?

(Do ourselves no harm: Implicit in duty to develop talents)

PERENNIAL DUTIES

DUTIES TO OURSELVES

Develop our abilities and talents

Receiving gift => feeling
obligation to reciprocate
(sometimes refuse gift because
you cannot reciprocate...?)

"Figurative representation of a gift you cannot reciprocate"



PERENNIAL DUTIES

DUTIES TO OTHERS (APPROXIMATE LIST...)

Reciprocity: Treat others as you would like to be treated by them

Respect others: Treat others as valuable in themselves, not tools

Beneficence: Promote others' welfare as reasonably possible

Honesty: Tell truth, leave nothing out

Fidelity: Keep promises

Gratitude: Thank/reciprocate

Reparation: Compensate others when we harm them

Forbes



2,069 views | Nov 22, 2019, 12:08 pm

The Richest Person In The World Just Gave \$98.5 Million To Help The Homeless



Eat The Rich
@EatTheRichPod

If you made \$50,000 per year this is the equivalent of giving away \$45.



punkassbamboo
@punkassbamboo

Replying to @Forbes @AngelAuYeung

A whopping .09% of his net worth. Thanks so much Jeff.
sing 2020 10/10

CASE: PERENNIAL DUTIES

DUTIES TO SELF

Develop talents

DUTIES TO OTHERS

Reciprocity

Respect others

Beneficence

Honesty

Fidelity

Gratitude

Reparation



CASE: PERENNIAL DUTIES

“The thought process that went into building these applications, Facebook being the first of them, was all about: 'How do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible?’

That means that *we need to sort of give you a little dopamine hit every once in a while*, because someone liked or commented on a photo or a post or whatever.

And that's going to get you to contribute more content, and that's going to get you... more likes and comments.”

-Sean Parker, Facebook's founding president,

DUTIES TO SELF

Develop talents

DUTIES TO OTHERS

Reciprocity

Respect others

Beneficence

Honesty

Fidelity

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Reparation

PERENNIAL DUTIES PROBLEMS

PERENNIAL DUTIES SOUND GOOD, BUT...

* THERE'S A REASON WE HAVE NOT STOPPED HERE

DUTIES TO OURSELVES

Develop our abilities and talents

How do we define our talents?

Are there some talents that ought not be developed?

Do ourselves no harm

End of life decisions?

PERENNIAL DUTIES PROBLEMS

DUTIES TO OTHERS

Reciprocity (Treat others...): Masochism

Respect others: Does everyone merit respect?

Beneficence: Is beneficence beneficent? (Pity and contempt)

Honesty: Uncomfortable circumstances

Fidelity: Agreements with false/evil agents

Gratitude: Beneficence converts into exchange?

Reparation: What if I can't afford it?

PERENNIAL DUTIES PROBLEMS

Easy but problematic...

WHERE DO PERENNIAL DUTIES COME FROM? (JUSTIFICATIONS BEYOND RECURRENCE)

At least three possibilities:

Written into the nature of the universe. Part of the way things are: moral complement to laws of physics.

Part of what it means to be human is to have this particular sense of right and wrong (genetic code, soul, as similar).

The idea of a (possibly implicit) social contract: we all agree to live by these rules

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Aristotle, *Treat equals equally and unequals unequally within decision domain*

Rawls, *Maximum advantage to least advantaged, inclusiveness*

Kant

Rights

Rights & Libertarianism

KANT: RATIONALITY AND THE CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE

Immanuel Kant

1724 – 1804, German

Sought strict ethical regulation/principle without ambiguity of perennial duties: a firmer mechanism of decision-making

2 Theories built on **rationality**:
Universalization + Dignity

?: Same idea in 2 ways, or 2 ideas...



KANT: RATIONAL UNIVERSALIZATION

“Act only according to that maxim whereby you can will that it become a universal law.”

- Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, 1785

Act only if the rule for your action could be universalized

*Universalisable action: An action that could be carried out by everyone all the time in that situation without internal contradiction.

Example: lying (or, stealing)

If everyone lies all the time, is this kind of reality rationally conceivable?

Is it possible to lie when everyone is lying all the time?

Examples...?

KANT: RATIONAL UNIVERSALIZATION PROBLEMS

The inquiring murderer...

Inflexible



KANT: RATIONAL UNIVERSALIZATION NOTE

*Perfect/imperfect duties...



KANT: (RATIONAL) DIGNITY

“Act so as to treat humanity, whether in your own person or in that of another, at all times also as an end, and not only as a means.”

- Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, 1785

Treat people as an end, and never only as a means to an end

*People as ends, not means: Requirement that people not be used as instruments/tools to get something else

CASE: KANT, REASON, DIGNITY, LAWS



Withstands test of universal reason?

Dignity?

KANT: DIGNITY PROBLEMS

If I hire you to write me some code, and I buy a computer for you to work with, is there a difference between how I treat you and how I treat the computer?

WHERE DOES CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE COME FROM? (JUSTIFICATION)

Pure reason

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RIGHTS

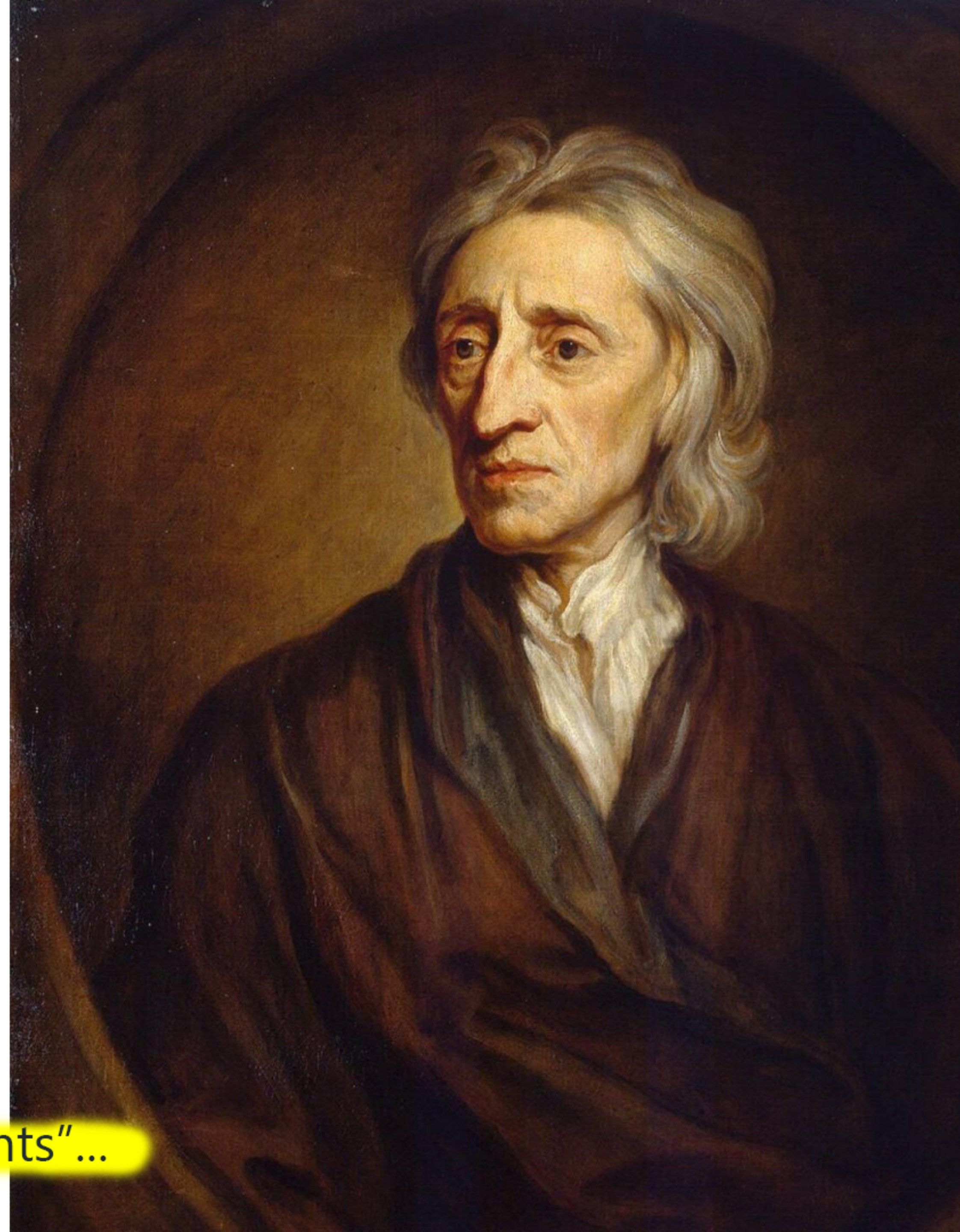
FREEDOM MAXIMIZATION

Individuals free up to the point where
their free acts violate the freedom of others
Speech, religion...

"Freedom limited only by freedom..."

John Locke, English, 1632-1704 (Later JS Mill)
Political reflections include U.S. Declaration/
Constitution v Kant and Germany

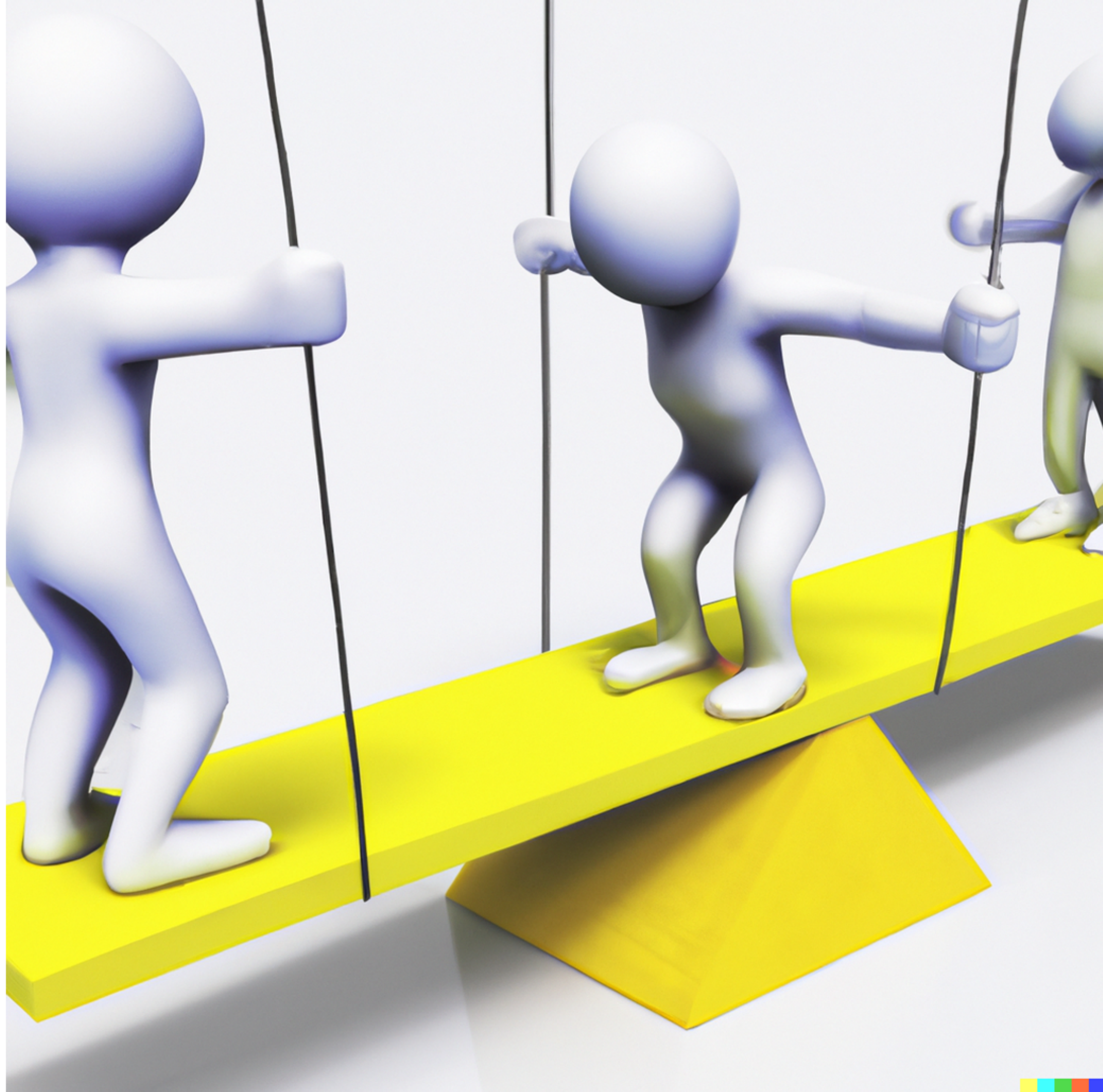
**Distinct from more expansive idea of "Human rights"...*



RIGHTS

Freedom limited only by freedom

"3D image represents concept of human personal freedom limited only by the freedom of others"



RIGHTS

Justified claim against others (versus the perennial duties which represent claims others press upon me.)

Duties

Protective in nature

About assuring that people
aren't mistreated

Define what you cannot do

Rights

Liberating in nature

About assuring that you're as
free as possible

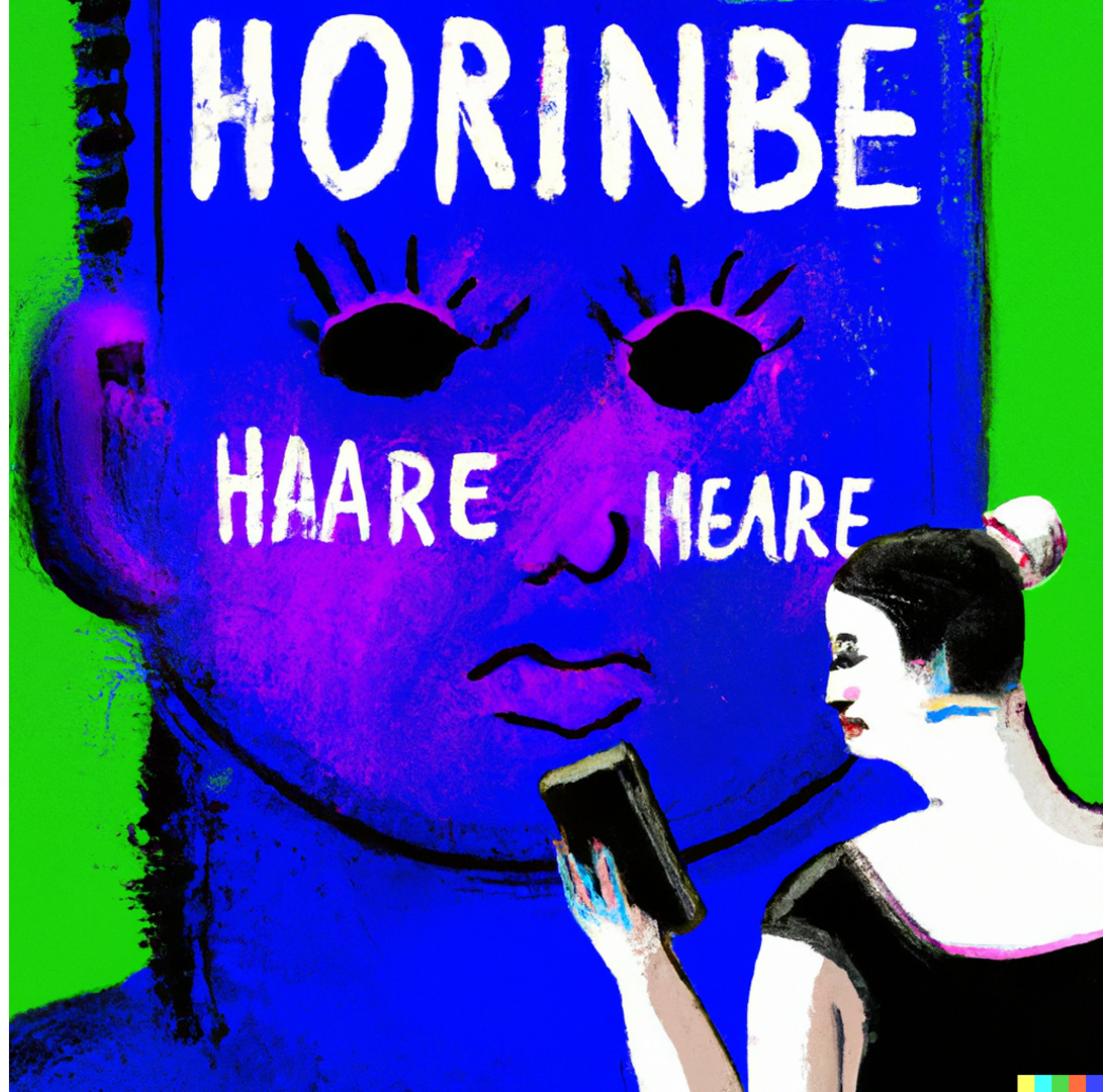
Maximize what you can do

CASE: ONLINE HARASSMENT

Freedom limited only by freedom

Someone could turn off/disconnect
- is that enough?

*"A cover illustration for a book
about online harassment"*



RIGHTS: PROBLEMS

Makes it hard for us to live together



RIGHTS: SOURCE

Natural law... (Locke)

Laws of nature

Laws of human being

(Could be argued as social contract)

*"Figurative depiction of the
concept of natural law"*



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RIGHTS & LIBERTARIANISM

Libertarianism

Rights theory emphasizing the right to our possessions and fruits of our work.

Possessions and fruits of creative labor don't just belong to individuals, they become part of what it means to be that individual: an extension of natural self and identity.

As individual identity includes their property and creative acts, they may use those things freely just as they may use their own body freely.

RIGHTS & LIBERTARIANISM

Libertarianism

Individual identity includes property and creative acts

*Works well for art

*Works well for data? (Is there a difference between data and personal information?)

?

RIGHTS & LIBERTARIANISM CASE: HEALTHCARE DATA

Radiology...

https://www.researchgate.net/journal/Philosophy-Technology-2210-5441/publication/342188494_Own_Data_Ethical_Reflections_on_Data_Ownership/links/5fc464e092851c933f76a50b/Own-Data-Ethical-Reflections-on-Data-Ownership.pdf