The background of the slide is a vibrant, abstract pattern. It features thick, wavy, overlapping bands of color in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, pink, and black. Interspersed among these bands are several solid-colored circles in blue, red, and yellow. The overall effect is a dynamic, high-energy, and visually busy composition.

Human Rights at the IETF:  
what happened & where do  
we go next?

# TODAY'S TALK

01

HELLO WORLD

---

An anthropologist in the IETF?

02

RESEARCH CONTEXT

---

Human rights advocates in the IETF?

03

MY FINDINGS

---

Human rights are an IETF evergreen

04

Quo Vadis?

---

Where to Next?

# HELLO WORLD

Dr. Corinne Cath

*Anthropologist of Internet Governance Cultures  
University of Cambridge, Minderoo Centre*

E: [cc2162@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cc2162@cam.ac.uk)

T: C\_\_CS

W: [corinnecath.com](http://corinnecath.com)

*This work was generously supported by the Ford Foundation [grant number 136179, 2020]*

# Re: [Last-Call] Last Call: BCP 83 PR-Action Against Dan Harkins, 10 oct 2022 ietf@ietf

Harkins is an outlier; he is not just an example of `Corinne Cath-Speth's 'loud men talking loudly'` in her 'IETF Culture Wars' piece i.e. taking confidently and passionately about the positions they understand and believe — but Harkins is an out-and-out bully conducting ad-hominem attacks. His bullying behaviour goes back years, with years of attendant complaints to the IESG.


<https://hackcur.io/whats-wrong-with-loud-men-talking-loudly-the-ietfs-culture-wars/>



Key Take-Away

We ~~Don't~~ Do Politics,  
and not just in HRPC.

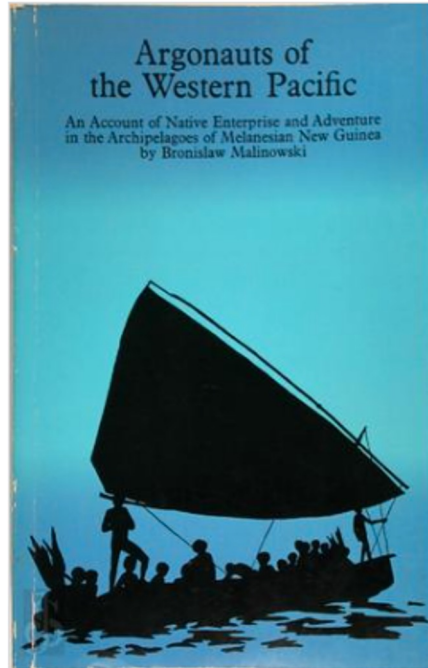


The background of the slide is a vibrant, abstract composition of thick, wavy, and curved lines in a variety of colors including red, yellow, blue, green, pink, orange, and black. Interspersed among these lines are several solid-colored circles in yellow, blue, red, and black. The overall effect is a dynamic and colorful pattern.

01

# An IETF anthropologist

Am I lost?



# ABOUT US

Anthropologists are everywhere, we study “up” (i.e. powerful people) and “at home” (i.e. our own societies).

# What, How, Why of Anthropology



What? —————

Study of human cultures  
and social behavior



How? —————


Participant observation,  
interviews, fieldwork



Why? —————

How cultural conditions  
shape society





02

## Research Context

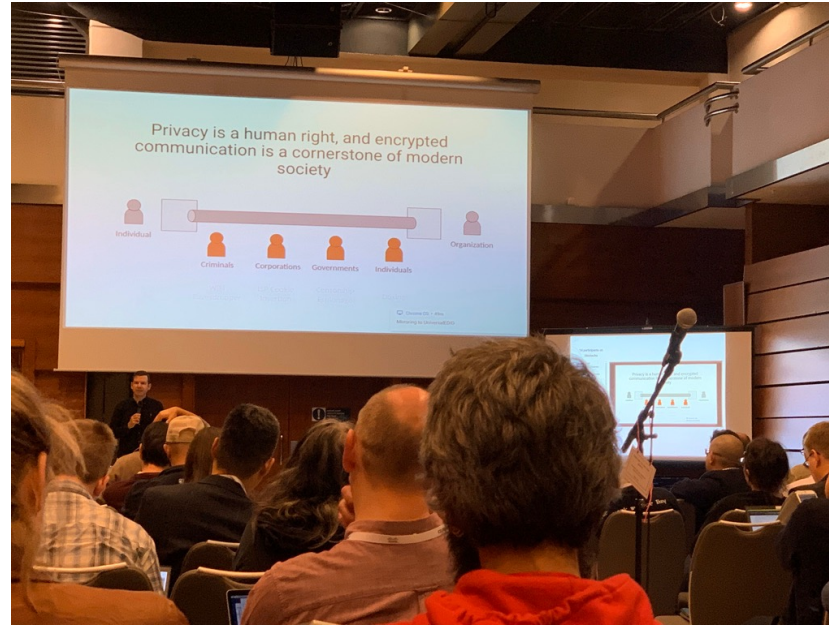
Human Rights advocates in the IETF & IRTF

## Human Rights Protocol Considerations Group



<https://hrpc.io/>

# Human Rights Advocacy in the HRPC: *a brief overview*



# RFC 9673, 2013

Internet Architecture Board (IAB)  
Request for Comments: 6973  
Category: Informational  
ISSN: 2070-1721

A. Cooper  
CDT  
H. Tschofenig  
Nokia Siemens Networks  
B. Aboba  
Skype  
J. Peterson  
NeuStar, Inc.  
J. Morris

M. Hansen  
ULD  
R. Smith  
Janet  
July 2013

## Privacy Considerations for Internet Protocols

### Abstract

This document offers guidance for developing privacy considerations for inclusion in protocol specifications. It aims to make designers, implementers, and users of Internet protocols aware of privacy-related design choices. It suggests that whether any individual RFC warrants a specific privacy considerations section will depend on the document's content.

### Status of This Memo

This document is not an Internet Standards Track specification; it is published for informational purposes.

# Policy Considerations for Internet Protocols, 2010

## Policy Considerations for Internet Protocols draft-morris-policy-cons-00

Status

[IESG evaluation record](#)

[IESG writeups](#)

[Email expansions](#)

[History](#)

### Versions:

00

draft-morris-policy-cons

00

Oct 2010

### Document

#### Type

Expired Internet-Draft (individual)

#### Authors

[John Morris](#) ✉, [Hannes Tschofenig](#) ✉, [Dr. Bernard D. Aboba](#) ✉, [Jon Peterson](#) ✉

#### Last updated

2010-10-18

#### Stream

(None)



# Professor Braman, 2011 Early RFCs research

Article



## Privacy by design: Networked computing, 1969–1979

new media & society  
14(5) 798–814  
© The Author(s) 2011  
Reprints and permission:  
sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav  
DOI: 10.1177/1461444811426741  
nms.sagepub.com  


**Sandra Braman**

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA

### Abstract

Discourse analysis of the technical document series that records the internet design history, the RFCs, shows that those involved during the first decade saw privacy as a multi-dimensional and interactive problem requiring use of a suite of solutions at the network, individual, and data levels that had to take into account the need to balance privacy against experimentation and innovation. Internet designers were sophisticated in their pragmatic thinking about privacy when evaluated vis-a-vis theoretical developments since that time, viewing privacy as a contextual matter involving boundary setting, and using information architecture and metadata as tools for privacy protection. Those in the social science and legal communities think about the privacy effects of communication on humans, while those in the technical design community must focus on privacy as a set of logistical problems. Bringing these diverse communities into a single conversation can considerably enrich and strengthen the work of all.

### Keywords

ARPANet, information architecture, information policy, innovation, internet, network architecture, network design, privacy, RFCs, sociotechnical





Policy as an Evergreen ?

The background of the slide is a vibrant, abstract pattern. It features thick, flowing lines in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and pink. Interspersed among these lines are several solid-colored circles in yellow, blue, and red. The overall effect is a dynamic and colorful visual texture.

03

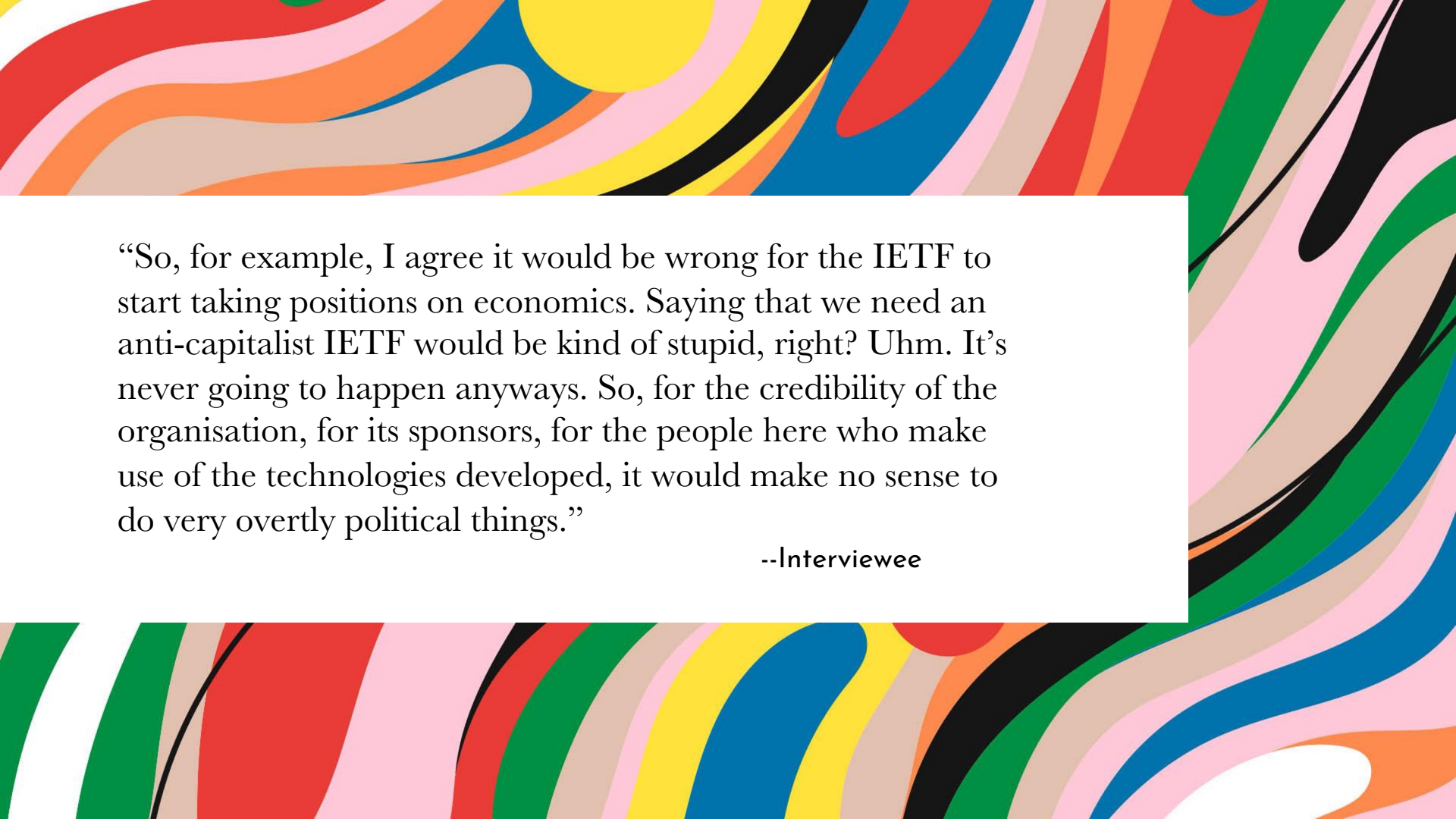
HRPC

Human Rights in the IETF / IRTF



Key Take-Away reshuffle

We ~~Don't~~ Do Politics,  
and not just in HRPC.



“So, for example, I agree it would be wrong for the IETF to start taking positions on economics. Saying that we need an anti-capitalist IETF would be kind of stupid, right? Uhm. It’s never going to happen anyways. So, for the credibility of the organisation, for its sponsors, for the people here who make use of the technologies developed, it would make no sense to do very overtly political things.”

--Interviewee



Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)  
Request for Comments: 7258  
BCP: 188  
Category: Best Current Practice  
ISSN: 2070-1721

S. Farrell  
Trinity College Dublin  
H. Tschofenig  
ARM Ltd.  
May 2014

## **Pervasive Monitoring Is an Attack**

### **Abstract**

Pervasive monitoring is a technical attack that should be mitigated in the design of IETF protocols, where possible.

### **Status of This Memo**

This memo documents an Internet Best Current Practice.

This document is a product of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). It represents the consensus of the IETF community. It has received public review and has been approved for publication by the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG). Further information on BCPs is available in [Section 2 of RFC 5741](#).

Information about the current status of this document, any errata, and how to provide feedback on it may be obtained at <http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7258>.



# HRPC IMPACT?







# LONG ARCH OF IETF PUBLIC INTEREST TECH WORK

The image features a row of empty black theater seats with dark gray cushions. The seats are arranged in a perspective that recedes into the distance. A vibrant, abstract border with swirling colors of blue, yellow, red, green, and pink frames the top and bottom of the image. A white rectangular box is positioned in the lower-left foreground, containing the text "Quo Vadis?".

Quo Vadis?

# Thank you!

<https://corinnecath.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CathCorinne-Thesis-DphilInformationCommunicationSocialSciences.pdf>

