

**Workshop: Aesthetics of Information Ethics.**  
**By Paolo Cirio, 2017.**

The so-called information revolution brings us an increasing number of pressing ethical issues. Artists can be particularly sensitive to these issues and they are able to question ethics by proposing and challenging perceptions and scenarios beyond common understanding. This process can become part of the work of art through participants commenting and responding to the artist's propositions.

As an Internet artist and activist, Paolo Cirio has been working for over a decade with online privacy, fake news, piracy, algorithms, big data, leaks, and hacking. He explores boundaries and consequences of reconfiguring, exposing, and creating social relations within the risks of challenging institutions and making compromises for artistic and social agendas.

Paolo Cirio works on a reflection of the complexity of information ethics and how central it is today. He is interested in how aesthetics can navigate the uncertain and unjust social conditions produced by information systems. He examines liability of algorithms, responsibility in anonymous networks, exploitation of shared content and labor, censorship on social media, freedom of speech used to harass, public shaming to condemn, hacking to protest or leak, and micro-targeting for political campaigning. In order to inspire inquiry and policy making, the artist questions what can be justified and sacrificed to balance freedom, empathy, justice, and accountability.

Paolo Cirio's workshop presents a set of ethical questions concerning historical cases, hypothetical scenarios, and particular technological systems that affect personal and societal conditions. The artist will pose discussion topics which the students can debate, such as hypothetical information policies and the questionable ethics of some artworks. These ethical questions will also be shown on the floor, the boards, and the screens in the space. In this immersive workshop, students will build paths in the space to navigate complex ethical issues and arguments. Students will also give feedback on shared documents, have discussions with people who have different opinions, and develop their projects during the workshop.

This project addresses specific highly problematic cases like the Facebook Files, Right To Be Forgotten, Wikileaks DNC leak, Predictive Policing, and Cambridge Analytica, and generally, emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Darknet. These issues urgently need democratic debate. The discussion can't be limited to technocrats, legislators, coders, and opaque internal policies of private entities. Art can play a role in this process of creating awareness and reflection on difficult ethical questions by making them relevant and engaging.

In the workshop Paolo Cirio will also discuss his ongoing campaign Right to Remove to bring a form of Right To Be Forgotten in United States. His proposal for this specific Internet policy is at the heart of the philosophical questions for balancing social accountability, freedom, empathy, access, and human rights on the Internet.

This workshop elicits and addresses participatory decision-making on ethical issues affecting the security, privacy, and dignity of everyone for a just and equal society. Nevertheless, discussing the aesthetics of information ethics will help artists and audiences to assess contemporary works of art.

**Some problematic issues that will be discussed during the workshop:**

***Search engines & social media moderation:***

Hate Speech  
Harassment  
Trolling  
Bullying  
Blackmail  
Stigmas

***Social Profiling:***

Social score & bias  
Consumer profiling  
Racial profiling  
Sex offenders  
Criminal records  
Predictive Policing

***Privacy and surveillance:***

State and corporate surveillance  
Cryptography for power structures  
Cryptography for individuals  
Public shaming

***Security:***

Hacking  
Leaks  
Theft

***Piracy:***

Copyright  
Trademark  
Royalties  
Fair use  
Education

***Sharing Economy:***

Labor rights  
Private property

***Media and politics:***

Targeting Voters  
Fake News

***Algorithms:***

Accountability of coders  
Artificial Intelligence control

***Blockchain, deepweb, and darknet:***

Anonymity  
Trust  
Privacy  
Fraud  
Hate speech  
Cruelty

***Digital Currencies:***

Transparency  
Volatility  
Access

***Robotics:***

Automated weapons  
Automated Labor

***Infrastructures:***

Internet of things policy  
Cloud servers  
Decentralization  
Ecological impact