

# PRIVACY: THE DELICATE ENTANGLEMENT OF SELF AND OTHER

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## ABSTRACT

Privacy is an entanglement of public, individual and governmental interests. The concept of privacy, however, has developed indiscriminately over time, developing vague boundaries. From the earliest examples of mythical omniscient godheads that ruled by eliminating all hope of private thoughts or actions, through the first notions of hiding from the godhead, to our modern, post-Industrial, technological urban setting where all may be in view, privacy has collected a multitude of meanings along its journey.

By identifying some of the developments of the notion of privacy in Western thought as found in philosophy, legal analysis, and literature, one can consider how individuals use privacy as an expression of thought when people are constantly working with it in their daily lives. This understanding spurs analysis into some issues of privacy as the groundwork for examining the delicate entanglement that privacy thoughts create in an open society.

Blakley explores the historical evolution of privacy concepts and then, using Ludwig Wittgenstein's "family resemblance theory" (examined beyond its application to privacy thought by David Solove) in coordination with ordinary language methodology, attempts to define the core family resemblance as "control of disclosure of self." This conceptualization is applied to representative privacy jurisprudence in an effort to use the core's idea to understand some of the entanglements that pervade conceptions of privacy and provide more clarity for future analysis and jurisprudential speech about privacy.

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