ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CRISIS MAPPING

LECTURE 6

CRISIS MAPPING AND DIGITAL HUMANITARIANISM MODULE

ETHICS

ethics
/ˈɛθɪks/ 🔊

noun

1. moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity.
   "medical ethics also enter into the question"
   synonyms: moral code, morals, morality, moral stand, moral principles, moral values, rights and wrongs, principles, ideals, creed, credo, ethos, rules of conduct, standards (of behaviour), virtues, dictates of conscience
   "the ethics of journalism"

2. the branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles.
   "neither metaphysics nor ethics is the home of religion"

⌄ Translations, word origin, and more definitions

•Are the producers or recipients of data from these projects exposed to security risks or other potential adverse consequences, including threats to privacy?

•What negative effects may result from false or distorted reporting? For example, after the Haiti earthquake, many reports of victims trapped inside collapsed buildings were posted by people seeking help for digging out the corpses of family members who had been buried in the rubble.

•Does the establishment of a crowdsourcing platform for crisis mapping create unwarranted expectations that there will be a timely response to reports by people in need? Some observers have suggested that creating an Ushahidi platform for a disaster zone is akin to establishing a 911 telephone line without giving the dispatchers any emergency response capability.

•What are the ethical implications of creating universal surveillance systems that compile streams of data from diverse sources?

•In the context of violent conflicts and other political crises, how can parties to the conflict be prevented from using crowd-sourcing platforms to spread disinformation or incite violence, e.g. by exaggerating the number of victims or falsely accusing their opponents of war crimes or mass atrocities?