

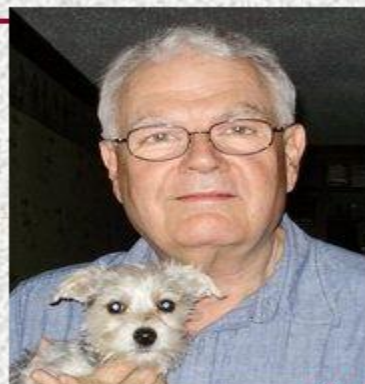
Systematic Approach to Transcultural Information Ethics

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Walter Maner



- Computer Ethics studies “ethical problems aggravated, transformed or created by computer technology.”
- Traditional ethical theories should be applied to these new problems.



Terrell Ward Bynum



Simon Rogerson



From Information Ethics 1.0 (Computer Ethics) to Information Ethics 2.0 (**Global** Information Ethics)

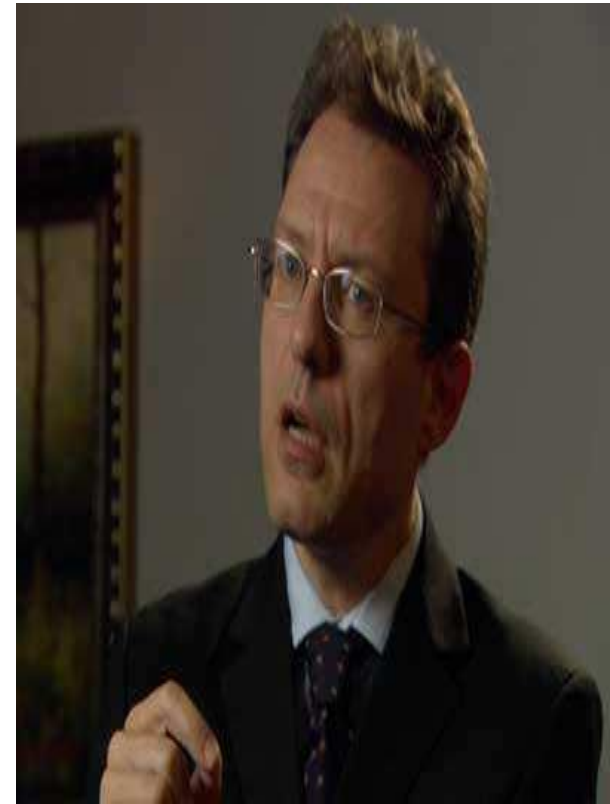
Global and Cultural Diversity



图片来源：拍信 Paixin.com

Floridi's Theory of Global Information Ethics:

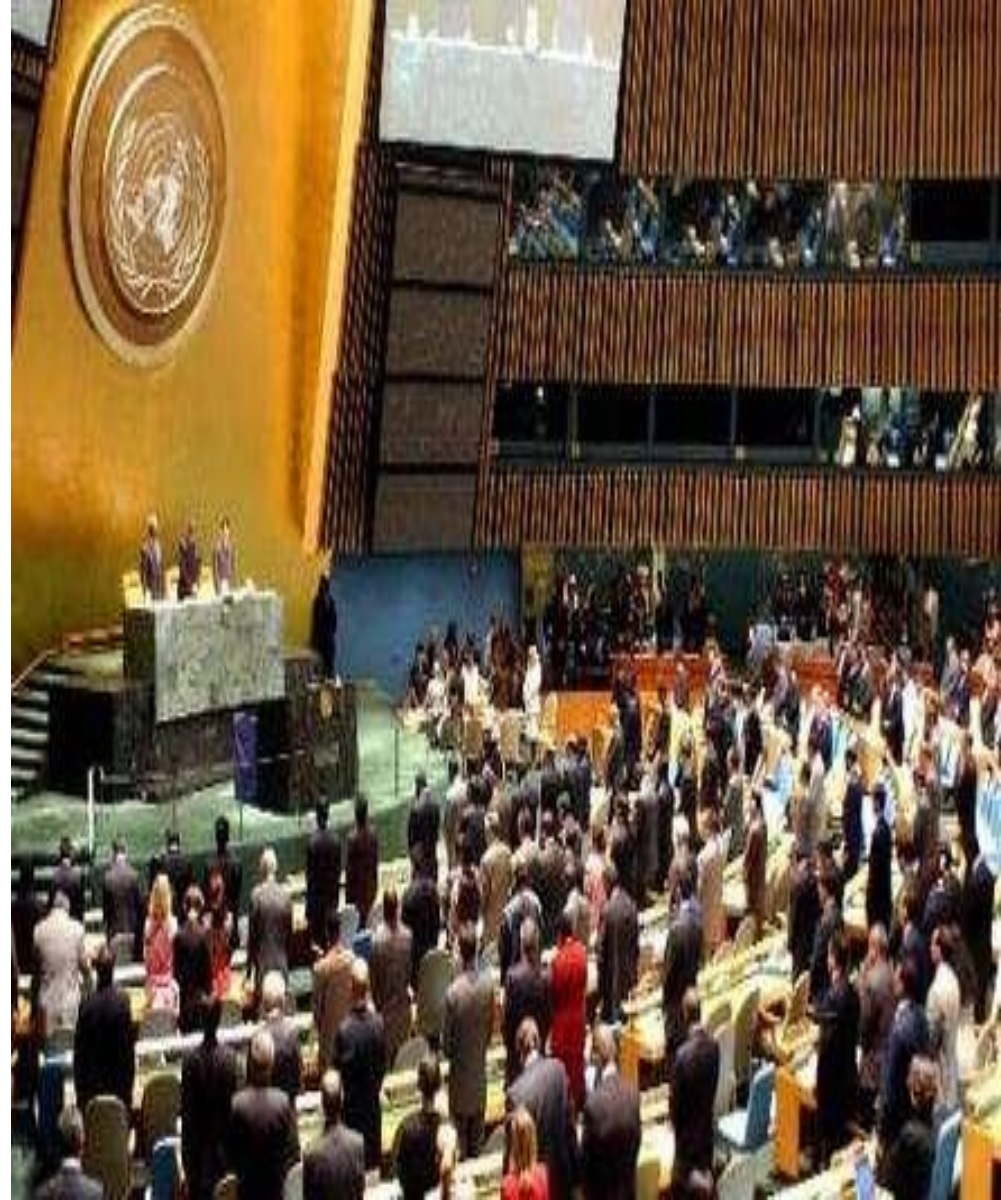
- He overlooked the specific causes and processes of globalisation and listed six key shifts in globalisation.
- He believed that information ethics can meet the challenges posed by six key shifts .
- So, Floridi presented the Meta-Information Ethics Program and regarded information ethics as "global ethics" and considers it to be a meta-ethic, which is the common ontology.



Luciano Floridi

Criticism:

- Information ethics and globalization are closely related and cannot be taken apart.
 - Global information ethics cannot be synonymous with the ethics of globalization. There are many reasons for globalization. ([example](#))
- This theory is unrealistic and reductionism.



Capurro's contribution:

action to promote the research of information ethics in different regions. (Africa & East Asia; Conferences; The International Center for Information Ethics)

Criticism:

Without further comparison, just describe the information ethic in different regions. Although he has some views on intercultural information ethics, he has not formed his own theory.

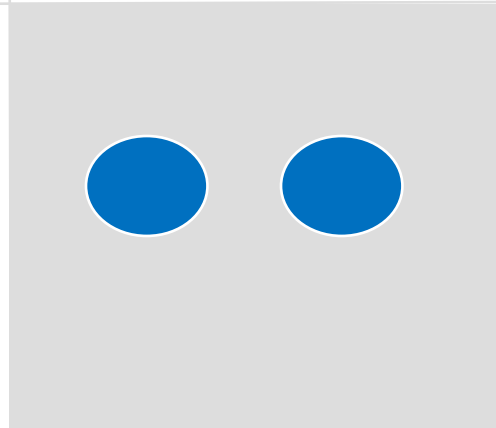
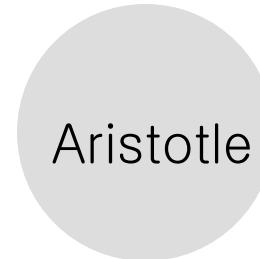
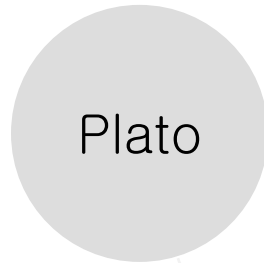


Rafael Capurro

Ethical pluralism

Compatibility
framework for
different cultures

Irreducible
differences



Charles Ess

Criticism:

- he has ignored other factors (politics, economy, etc) how to influence on information ethics.
- he has not taken a closer look at the formation process of information ethics.

➤ Lack of the **dynamics** of information ethics

Culture System Theory

Method: General System Theory

“A system can be defined as a complex of interacting elements.”
–Bertalanffy, L. von. "General system theory: foundations, development, applications." (1968).

➤ Various cultures form a culture system

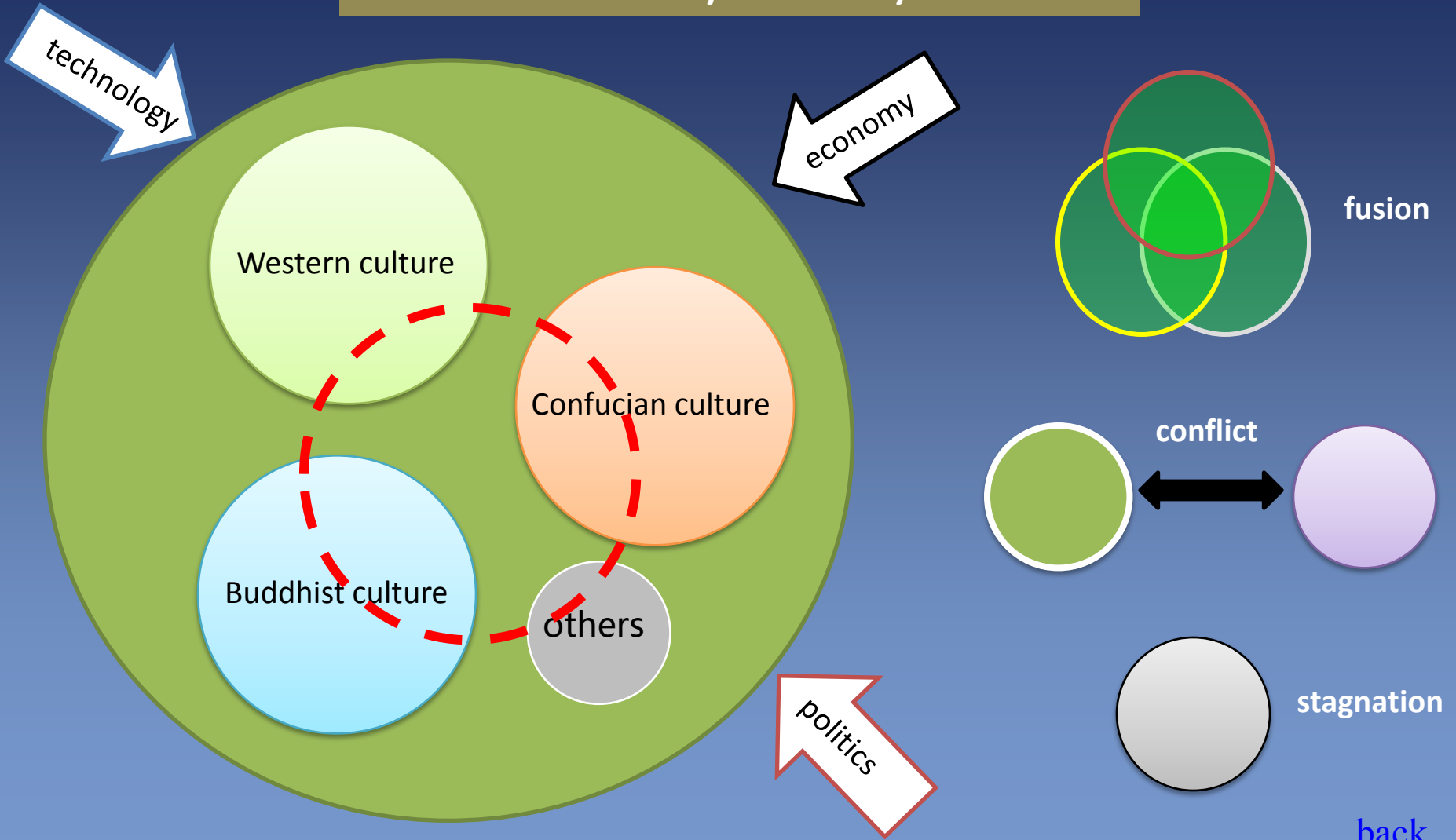
➤ System elements: Western culture (rational), Confucian culture (relationship), Buddhist culture (intuition or enlightenment), etc.

➤ The form of interaction: communication, film, text, etc.

➤ Other effecting factors: external environment (politics, economy, technology, etc) .

➤ Possible trend of the system: fusion, conflict or stagnation

culture system theory



culture system in detail

technology

economy

CULTURE

customs

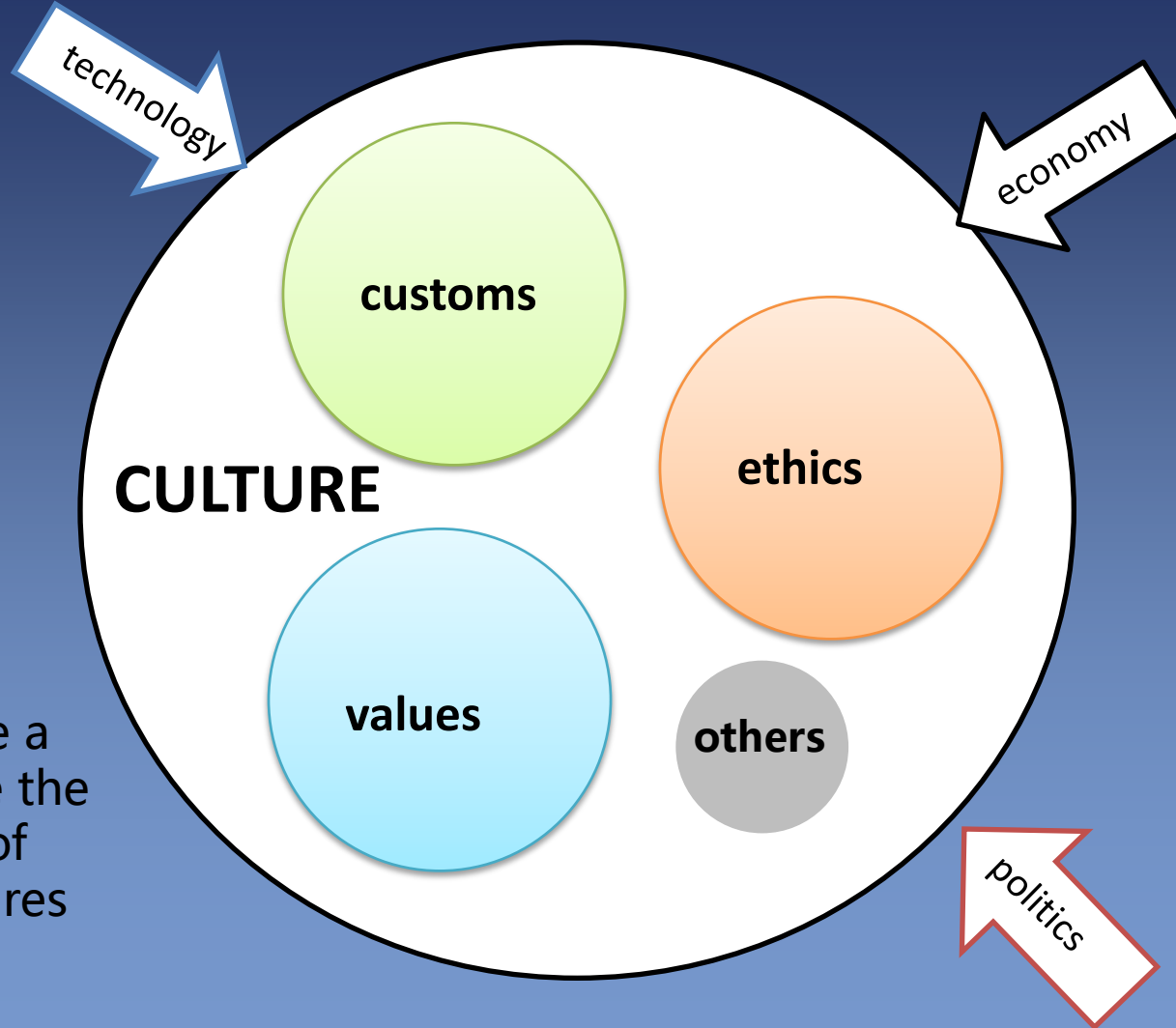
ethics

values

others

politics

Only examine a
culture : ignore the
interaction of
different cultures



the different of data privacy protection in laws

utilitarian (US) approaches

deontological (EU) approaches

“In ethical terms, it is the contrast between more **utilitarian (US)** approaches (e.g., as these are more likely to allow **cost-benefit** analyses to override concerns regarding primary rights and responsibilities) and more **deontological (EU)** approaches (as these lay greater stress on **protecting individual rights** - first of all, the right to privacy - even at the cost of thereby losing what might be research that promises to benefit the larger whole).”

“In this light, it is clear that E.U. citizens enjoy a priority on individual privacy vis-a-vis business interests

- i.e., **a deontological emphasis on respect for persons in the form of privacy protections vs. U.S. favoring business interests over individual privacy.**”

References: Ess, Charles. "Ethical decision-making and Internet research: Recommendations from the aoir ethics working committee." *Readings in virtual research ethics: Issues and controversies* (2002): 27-44.

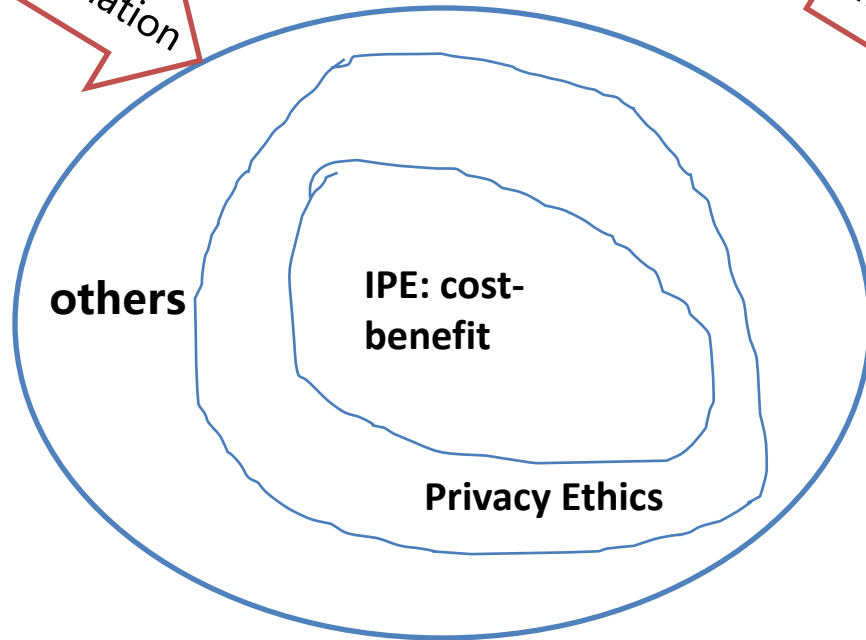
**Information Privacy
Ethics = IPE**

the impact of information technology on traditional ethics **(between western cultures)**

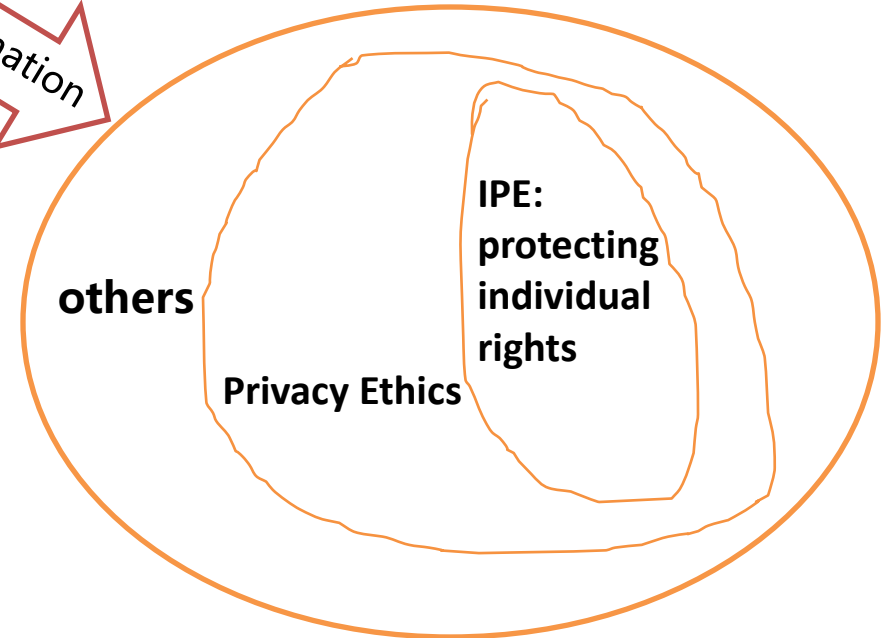
utilitarian (US) approaches

deontological (EU) approaches

information



information



**Information Privacy
Ethics = IPE**

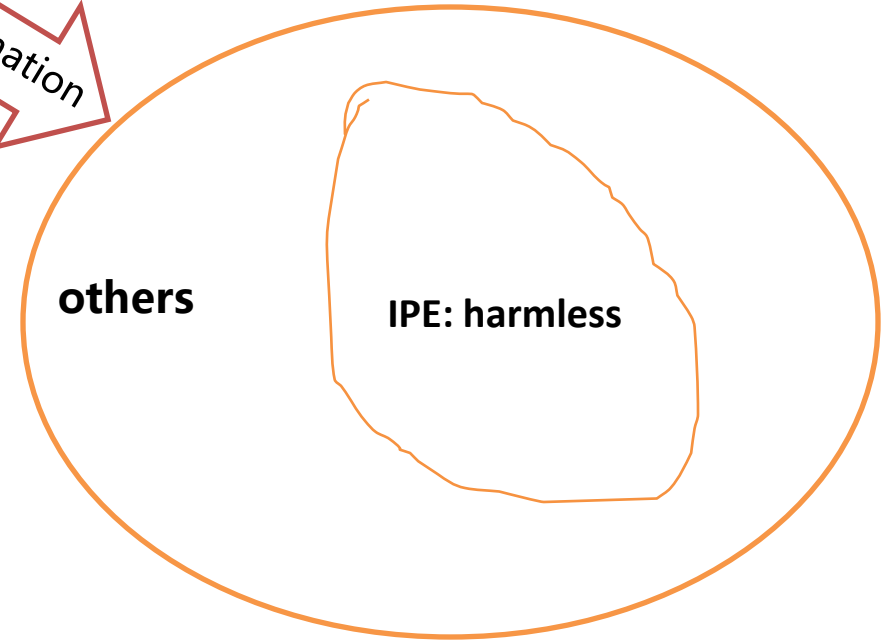
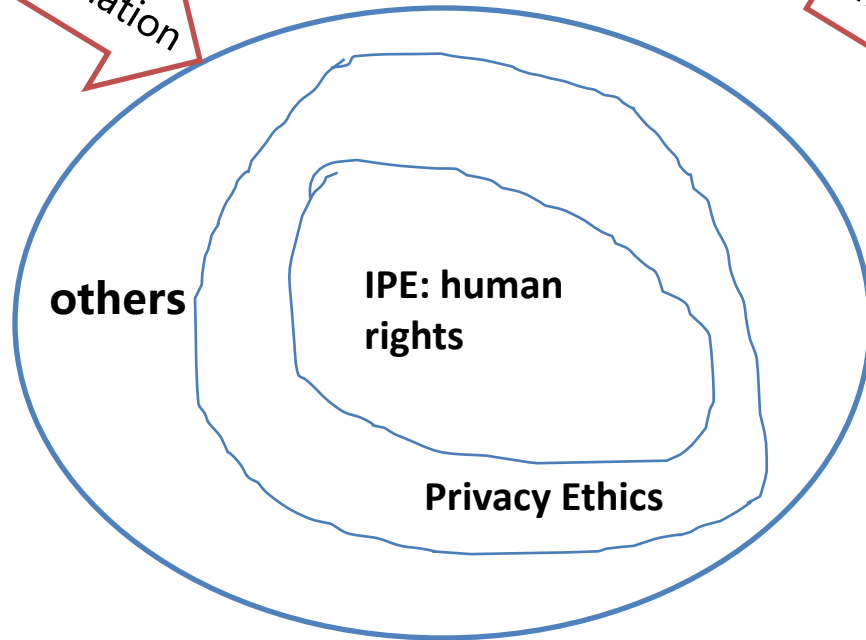
the impact of information technology on traditional ethics (between west and east)

West: Pay attention to privacy

East: Ignore privacy

information

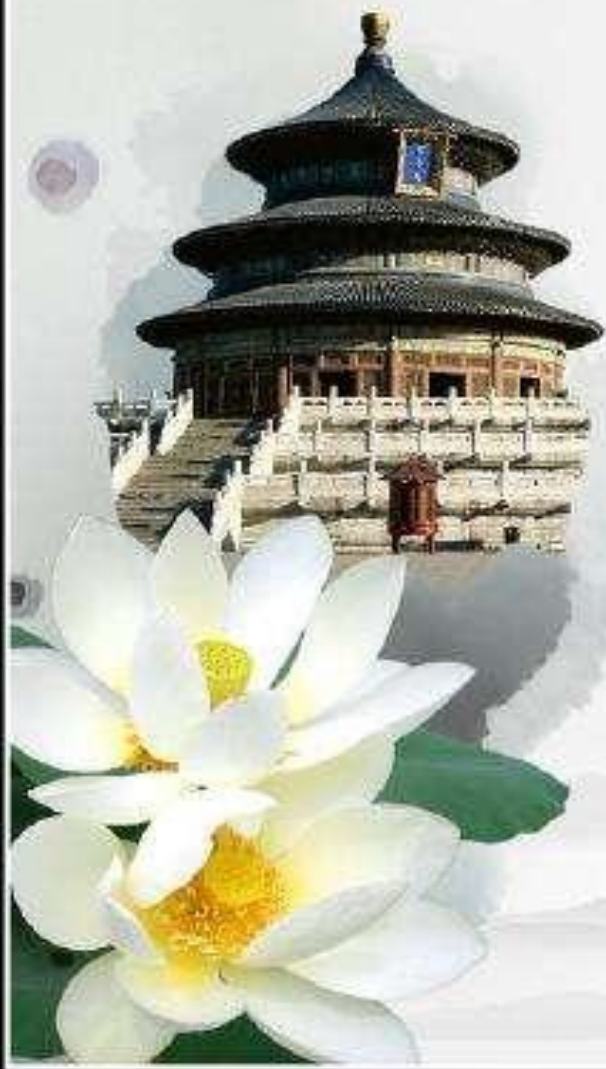
information



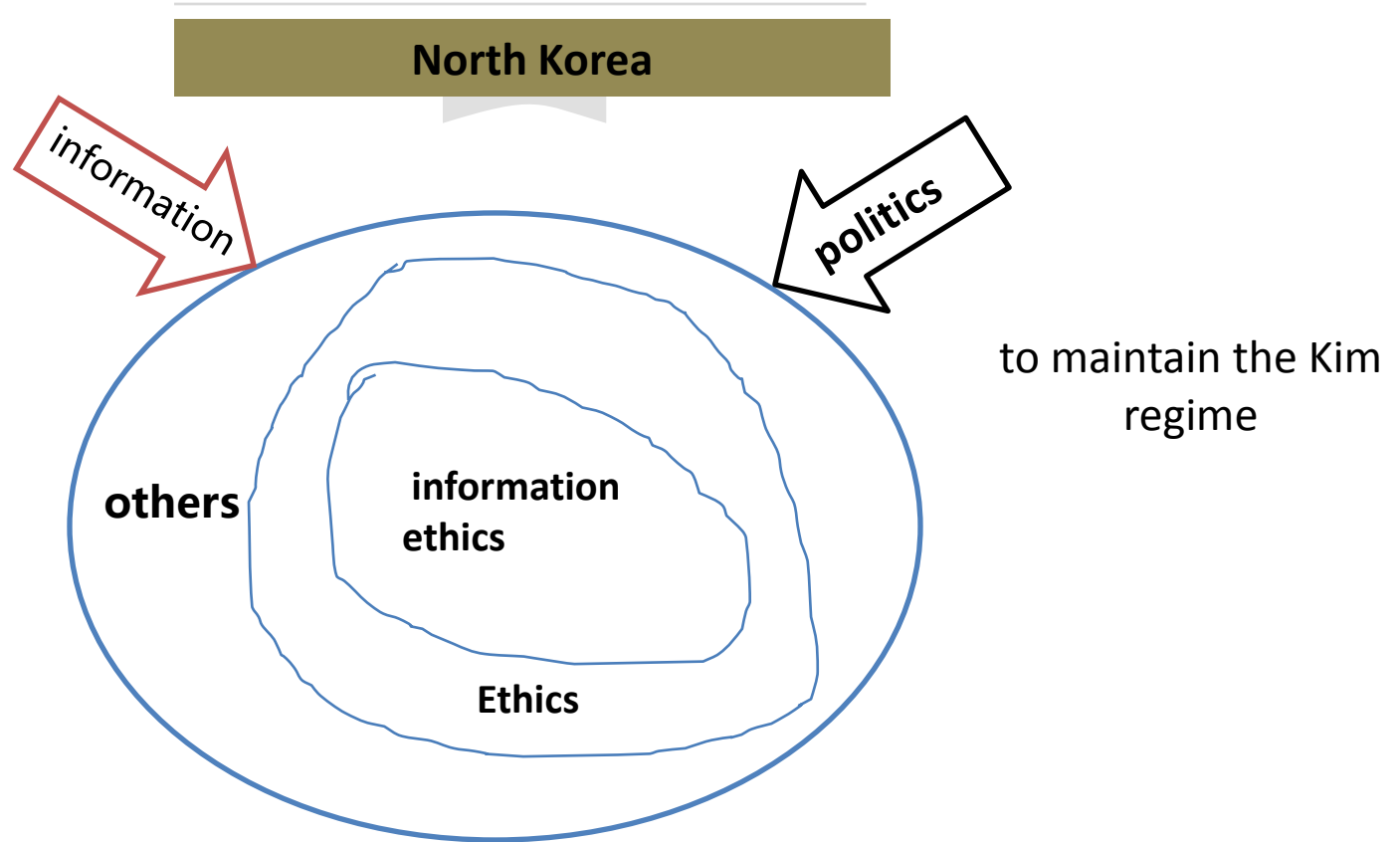
Confucianism: tradition of maintaining social stability



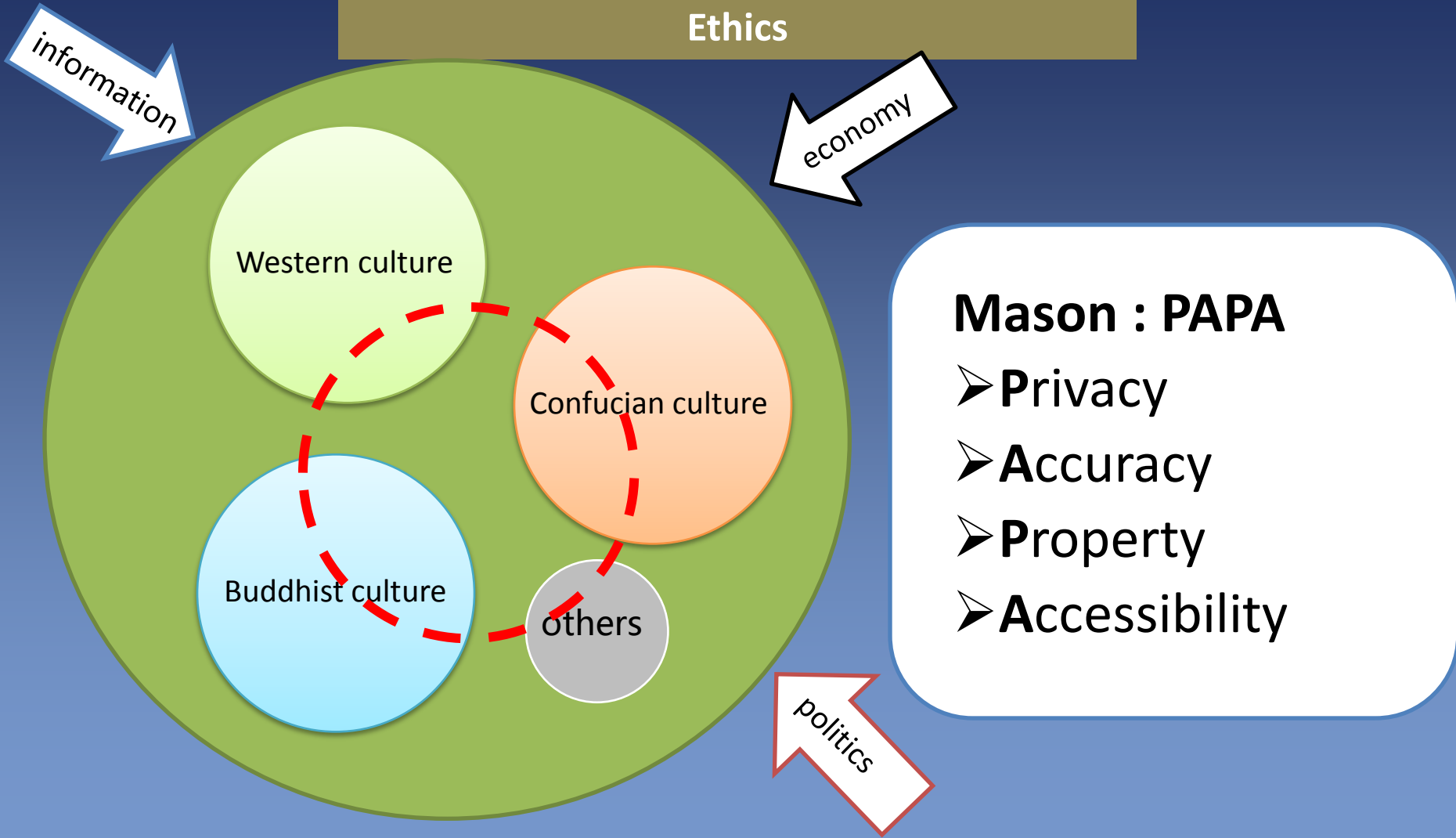
中西文化



the impact of other external factors on traditional ethics



The Complexity of Transcultural Information Ethics



Advantages:

- the **dynamics** of information ethics
- the **filtering** mechanism of information ethics
- ❑ the ethical issues of information
- ❑ the challenge of information to traditional ethics

Disadvantages :

I did not carefully examine the relationship

between culture and ethics.



References:

Capurro, R. (2010, September). Global intercultural information ethics from an African perspective. In *Keynote address presented at the Second African Information Ethics Conference*.

Capurro, R. (2009). Intercultural information ethics: foundations and applications. *Signo y Pensamiento*, 28(55), 66-79.

Ess, C. (2013). *Digital media ethics*. Polity.

Floridi, L. (2007). Global information ethics: The importance of being environmentally earnest. *International Journal of Technology and Human Interaction*, 3(3), 1.

Mason, R. O. (1986). Four ethical issues of the information age. *Mis Quarterly*, 5-12.

Von Bertalanffy, L. (1969). *General system theory: foundations, development, applications* (Revised Edition).



谢谢!

Thanks!