

Abstract

Privacy is an important issue that cuts across all sections of society, especially during this time and age when technologies have developed in such a way that they are ubiquitous. This report investigates the nature of privacy. After reviewing a number of salient literature in the field, it is found that privacy is best defended and justified through a *pragmatic* conception, where privacy is viewed as a key factor, an instrument, in bringing about democratic and just society, and not as something issuing from individual rights as previously assumed. The argument presented here hinges on an analysis of the individual person as a construction and as a conventional entity, which is different from the standard conception that takes the metaphysical status of the individual to be a given.