

## Perspectives on the Right to Privacy from Boston, London, and Berlin

Yordana Gerdzhikova, 2023

With the world of information at our fingertips, the dangers of deception and manipulation are lurking not only in Senate Houses or Parliamentary Floors, but in our pockets and on our desktops, with the trust we put in smartphones and laptops. This field research component preceded Institutional Review Board approved research on privacy perspectives within Western Democracies with intelligence relationships— The USA (Boston), UK (London), and Germany (Berlin.) Trust and privacy can be on the same or the opposite side of the coin, but what did experts think, who've worked on the ground with sensitive legal cases and human futures. Amusingly, I cannot share whom I interacted with, for privacy reasons. But I am eager to offer my insights and how they compare to my expectations.

Ultimately, this Davis Research Grant enabled my soon to be submitted research article draft which focuses on the fundamental difference in understanding the agency individuals have in the US and the EU. To clarify, the main UK privacy law, the [UK GDPR](#), is based on the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR,) so I indirectly refer to it via the EU. For the US, there is no single federal privacy law, but six states have [privacy laws](#) signed, only three of which are effective at the time of writing. Existing scholarship discusses the issue of privacy in philosophical, legal, economic, and legal dimensions. Yet, the [5As](#) Digital and Computational Studies framework, developed by C. Hall, F. Nascimento, and E. Chown, which is the basis for this Bowdoin major, provides a unique interdisciplinary view which had not been applied to privacy yet. This grant is helping me draw attention to privacy design and policy.

Using topic modeling analysis in the R coding language, I explored how the text of the US State Laws and the GDPR text align and differ on the question of granting agency to the individual (consumer rights) versus demanding data protection from companies (business obligations.) A sample of the output I provide here, delighted to talk more about at [ygerdzh@bowdoin.edu](mailto:ygerdzh@bowdoin.edu).



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