The Utilitarian Implications of Privacy Protections

Models of privacy:

CS/Law: Privacy has intrinsic value

- Optimize algorithms subject to desired level of privacy
- Clear separation between privacy and behavior

Economics: Privacy has instrumental value

- Internalize privacy concerns into behavior and equilibrium analysis

This project:

Combine models by taking into account both intrinsic value of privacy and strategic behavior of individuals.

Main innovation: incorporate privacy concerns into individual utility functions.

Main goal:

When are privacy protections beneficial and when are they harmful to overall welfare?

Broader impacts:

Contribute formal models and analysis to broader debate about privacy and its desirability