

“All That Is Solid Melts Into Air”: The History Of Copyright As A Form Of Industrial Regulation And Its Disorientation In The Age Of Information

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Abstract

Amidst this debate over the role of copyright legislation in the age of networked information economy, we attempt an examination of the interrelationship between copyright policy and legislation and the methods of cultural production in the past, so as to compare it with the trends and objectives of copyright law-making and policy today, taking into account the impact of digital networked technologies on consumption and production of cultural goods. For this aim, our paper is divided in the following parts: a. to examine whether the assertion that copyright protects the rights of authors is consistent with the very origins of copyright legislation in Europe and the US; b. to consider how copyright regulation in the 20th century was amended to fit the established industrial processes of intellectual production; and c. to estimate whether the “copyright bargain” between the owners of information and society is still maintained, in light of changes to the model of intellectual production in the 21st century.