

The right to be forgotten in the digital era

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Abstract

A society that is devoid of memory may end up experiencing monumental disasters; in addition to its historical value, however, memory may also perceive the form of the Erinyes, who persecute individuals and deny them the ability to be reborn. The society we currently live in is one of absolute digital memory: every-thing is being recorded and follows us throughout our lives, whether we desire this or not. Indeed, a particular concern is raised by the enhancement of memory through the internet, along with the danger posed by the data processing that takes place, which is undisclosed and imperceptible to the average citizen. An unfortunate moment, such as a provocative photograph with an ex-partner or a dark page of our lives for example, may be linked to aspects of our past that we do not wish to remember or want others to talk about. It is this very concern regarding the extremely sizeable memory of the internet, as well as more generally the unbearable consequences that come with having each and every move of ours recorded, that was 'heard' by the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation) which, in turn, effectively reaffirmed the already-existing right to be forgotten.