



POLICING THE CYBERSPACE: JURISPRUDENTIAL APPROACHES

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ABSTRACT: *The study, Policing the Cyberspace: Cyber Jurisprudential Approaches, studies complex tasks and legal measures needed for governing an informational environment. Given that cyberspace is currently a hotbed of crime including hacking, ransomware, and fraud among others the paper explores how legal concepts can be used to address transnational crime. Employing a qualitative methodology that includes analysis of academic literature, legal rulings, and case studies, the research addresses four key questions: opportunities and challenges in the development of legal frameworks, and potential issues with cybersecurity and its legal regulation, including the current state of cyber laws, principal ethical problems with privacy and freedom that may appear in legislation, effects of the International cooperation in the sphere of cybersecurity and the role of artificial intelligence in the legislation. Issues that are identified include privacy, surveillance, sovereignty of international laws and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence. Most of the ideas of the given study are focused on the conditionality of the need for a dynamic approach to the development of juridical concepts that should link security with the respect of personal freedom, enhance the cooperation of states, and take into account the possibilities of technologies safely. Proposals outlined are the creation of an ethical framework for surveillance technologies, empowering under-represented countries and interdisciplinary cooperation. The policy implications of this work are to assist policymaker's, law enforcement agencies and hence legal practitioners in establishing sound legal frameworks for cyberspace governance while at the same time preserving freedom.*

KEYWORDS: Cyberspace Policing, Jurisprudence, Privacy Rights, Artificial Intelligence, International Cooperation, Cybercrime Governance.



INTRODUCTION

The concept of territoriality that underlines most conventional legal systems is ill-equipped to manage transnational exercises. They merely take advantage of jurisdictional discrepancies, and conduct their illicit activities most of the time from countries with either ambiguous or no cyber laws at all (Royal United Services Institute [RUSI], 2023). This is in line with the fact that the increase in new technology is increasing and changing the face of the entire world completely. Cyberspace, another physical space for communication, business, and administration, is another ground for the attack of cybercriminals. Current research points to the global cost of cybercrime to be possibly reaching \$8 trillion by early 2023 due to ransomware, phishing scams, and complex hacking (Hüsch & Sullivan, 2023; Goodman, 2023). This is because the internet by its very design is borderless making it even harder to deal with these threats.

There are principles of harmonisation in use, such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime however, they are less effective given the variations in participation rates and implementation across nations (Hüsch & Sullivan, 2023). New technologies, especially AI, only add to the complexity of the issue. AI improves cybersecurity performance by addressing threats and managing them in real-time, but at the same time, artificial intelligence gives cybercriminals the ability to perform fully automatic and constantly learning operations. Katzal (2023) and Goodman (2023) highlight the importance of jurisprudential need to evolve in order to meet the demands created by such technologies. These frameworks must strike a very thin line between security and right to privacy, speech, etc, a concept that seems to embody contemporary cyber governance. This work examined the critical literature on the jurisprudential perspectives to policing cyber space with regards to past legal issues, impact of new technologies, and possibilities of cooperation towards establishing right policy frameworks.

Research Objectives

The study sought to achieve the following:

1. To analyze the adequacy of current legal frameworks in addressing cybercrime and other forms of cyber threats;
2. To investigate the ethical and legal dilemmas associated with policing cyberspace, particularly in the context of privacy and freedom of expression;
3. To evaluate the impact of international collaborations on the enforcement of cyber laws; and
4. To propose adaptive jurisprudential frameworks for effective and ethical governance of cyberspace.

Research Questions

1. What are the limitations of existing legal frameworks in governing cyberspace?
2. How can ethical concerns, such as privacy and freedom of expression, be balanced with the need for effective cyber policing?



3. To what extent does international cooperation influence the enforcement of cybersecurity laws?
4. How can emerging technologies, such as AI, be integrated into legal frameworks to enhance cyber governance?

Significance of the Study

This work adds voice to the literature concerning the debate on cyberspace governance through presenting the issues from the jurisprudential point of view. It also fills the gaps in the current knowledge, acknowledges moral issues, and also underlines the international dimension. It would be useful for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and legal practitioners, which would help them develop effective, efficient and durable strategies as well as for the protection of fundamental rights when designing counter cybercrime measures (Goodman, 2023; RUSI, 2023). The research also serves as an important starting point for more work, including the critical call for a more interdisciplinary approach to addressing the problems of cyberspace regulation that draws on law, technology, and ethics.

Scope of the Study

The areas of focus of this study are the legal and ethical issues of cyberspace governance. It analyses how jurisprudential concepts are incorporated in modern matters like conflict of jurisdictions, international relations, and the lecture of new technologies in cyber law and order. At the same time, emphasis is placed on major world trends, including the United States, the European Union, and the Asia-Pacific. The paper does not focus on any technical issues, for example, the choice of the encryption practices, though the study is based on the convergence of law, ethics and technology.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Jurisprudential Foundations and Global Trends: The very character of cyber criminality requires a paradigm shift in policing, as evidenced by processes unfolding on the international level like Singapore changing its approach towards online crimes as marginal issues into central policing concerns. According to the actual data, in 2023, cybercrime accounted for 70% of all crimes in Singapore, and globally, traditional crime-fighting strategies and technologies may not effectively solve crimes. Azfer (2024) mentioned entailing a harm-centred approach that focuses on the disabling of cyber operations' criminals as opposed to prosecution strategies including; financial, social and security, harms through partnership and interconnectivity.

Behavioral and Technological Perspectives: Another relatively new tendency is the application of human behavioral modeling in the course of cybrief investigation. Cyber behavioral analysis (CBA) offers a sociopsychological perspective on the motivations for cybercriminal behavior, as an addition to the logical-technical solutions often used, such as forensic computing. This integration assists in providing an adaptive approach toward individual types of cybercrimes, ranging from hacking to content distribution Martineau et al., 2023 Informally, the growth in this domain is constrained by data availability and knowledge deficits.



Civilianization in Cyber Policing: Civilianization of cybercrime units remains popular, because of the shortages of specialized skills which are absent in most police organizations. Research indicates that more and more local and federal police departments are hiring civilians to fill positions such as digital forensic analyst and cybercrime detective. Although the application of this approach increases capability development, it also brings organisational complexity, such as the integration of civilians to conventional military-style police force (Whelan & Harkin, 2023).

Strategic and Operational Challenges: Of the cybercrime cases in the world, only 1-4% are solved; this exemplifies the functional problems affecting policing organizations. The ways in which the complex can be managed include; Sharing of data in real-time, enhanced cyber security knowledge, and synchronizing global laws on jurisdiction and procedures. In addition, there is still the argument needed for refinements in training of digital skills, and the psychological profiling skills as well (Khan, 2024).

Theoretical Underpinning

Cyber surveillance is founded from different legal and criminological theories that are fundamental in comprehending cybercrime and its regulation. Among these, the following stand out:

Legal Positivism: This theory prevails as the foundation for most cybercrime legislation; these laws centered on codified laws as the sole form of governance. Legal positivism indicates the importance of adequate provisions and enforcement measures clear through codified rules when signing international treaties such as Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. These rules assist in identifying jurisdiction in which a certain crime falls, parameters which are crucial in dealing with global crimes as Khan postulates in his 2024, writing. The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (2001) is the positivist instrument defining such cybercrimes as hacking, identity theft, and fraud. With a view to protecting its member states' jurisdiction from programmes and forged documents, it provides common approaches to the interpretation of national cybercrime laws. Cybercriminal legal positivism is in favor of enhancing cooperation through international legal agreements that codify definitions and responses for cyberculture crime. A part of positivism as the specific principles can be found in extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties, treaties that allow for sharing of evidence. Those frameworks assist in handling the fact that cybercrime is borderless. These laws are enforced by national enforcement agencies to work together on occasions involving international cybercrime such as the disruption of ransomware cartels.

Routine Activity Theory (RAT): RAT postulates that cybercrime is realised when a motivated offender, a suitable target, and lack of capable guardianship are present. The criminological theory that aligns well with the increase in scams and hacking activity can be attributed to the theory of technological innovation, as it accredits the ability of criminals leveraging technology, and the behavior of victims to perpetrate cybercrimes (Martineau et al 2023.). Concerning RAT, it notes that conditions such as anonymity and vulnerability of targets entails the nature of cyberspace offences. For example, more people reported to have been a victim of phishing attacks attributable to the increased number of vulnerable email users, and the absence of real-time monitoring techniques. Some of the direct applications of RAT are for example engaging in AI monitoring frameworks, enhancing encryption mechanisms and informing users. Whelan and Harkin (2023) found out that organizations that implement



advanced threat detection systems experience fewer successful cyber threats. Hence, public awareness and vigorous legal measures also works as a deterrence- another concept of RAT. This is useful since teaching the public and companies general cybersecurity habits helps to minimize their exposure. Measures such as malwares that demand two factor authentication as well as constant software updating are ways through which RAT is practiced by minimizing the number of available suitable targets.

Empirical Review

The investigation also demonstrates that the absence of a unified legal platform complicates the police approach to combating cybercrime across countries. For example, the absence of a clear legal definition of what constitutes a cybercrime is more an obstacle in this area. As the Budapest Convention tries to do this, it encounters unconstructive opposition from states outside of the Budapest Convention like Russia and China to the extent that its overall effectiveness is slightly compromised (Whelan & Harkin, 2023). The following empirical literature shows that there is increased use of technology in cyber policing. Current applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning are in threat identification and predictive policing. However, these tools have some ethical issues, mainly the presence of bias and infringement of the citizens' privacy rights (Martineau et al., 2023).

Research shows that police organizations are digitally investing more on civilian support in forensics and cyber policing. This approach builds the efficiency as a working model, yet the issues like skills deficit and resistance from the conventional police frameworks are not easily solved (Whelan & Harkin, 2023). International research shows that there is an extremely low police charge-out rate of cybercrime, ranging from 1 percent to 4 percent. As more organizations embrace AI technologies, it becomes imperative to point to inefficiency of the present enforcement tools and discuss new approaches such as the real-time information exchange and international cooperation (Khan, 2024).

Critique of the Literature

Literature reviewed is quite vast and touches on the technological, legal, and operational aspect of cyber policing. The dual combination of the behavioral theories with the technological tools offered a multidioretical view of preventing cyber criminality. However, the focus on cooperation with partners from other countries also corresponds to the total interconnection of the world of cyberspace.

In general, new achievements in technology are applauded, whereas ethical issues, for instance, between supervising and being supervised, are regarded as minor and rarely discussed in literature. Previous empirical research has mainly concerned developed countries only, thereby leaving out important issues concerning developing countries: inadequate physical infrastructure and human capital. This scenario puts pressure on updating the legal provisions and enforcement strategies frequently, a factor that cannot be well met in a static legal model.



METHODOLOGY

A qualitative approach was adopted to explore jurisprudential issues in cyberspace policing. The study analyzed judicial rulings, legal commentaries, and case studies, selected through purposive sampling to ensure relevance to cyberspace jurisprudence. Secondary data from legal databases, academic journals, and reports were reviewed. Content analysis was employed to identify recurring themes and gaps in the legal framework.

RESULTS

Privacy vs. Surveillance: Most legal systems struggle to balance individual rights with state security mandates.

International Cooperation: Treaties like the Budapest Convention facilitate collaboration but face compliance challenges.

Role of Technology: AI and big data are increasingly leveraged for cyber policing, raising ethical questions.

| Issue | Findings |
|-------------------|--|
| Privacy | Insufficient safeguards against overreach |
| International Law | Lack of uniformity in enforcement |
| Technology | Ethical concerns in AI-driven surveillance |

DISCUSSION

The evidence suggests that there is a complex issue related to the policing of cyberspace, jurisprudence is unable to catch up to the speed of development of the digital world. This section reflects further on the potential and potential research directions of these findings agenda, reviewing the ethical, legal, and technological perspectives on cyber policing.

Privacy and Surveillance: A Case of Conflict

The struggle between privacy rights and surveillance forms one of the critical fundamentals of cyber policing. Bureaucracies of nations abound, as leaders augment surveillance technologies including artificial intelligence programs and pieces of software such as facial recognition, and mass surveillance systems to monitor cyber activities. While these tools are useful in improving state cadre's ability to detect and prevent cybercrimes, they are immune to individual rights. For instance, large-scale data surveillance in the scheme of the USA's National Security Agency's PRISM project has raised privacy issues. The following are questions that jurisprudence needs to try and answer by way of elucidating legal limits of legal surveillance as well as providing legal checks against unethical practice. Worldwide, courts are torn on these issues, and several significant ones incorporate these (for example, *Carpenter v. pioneering privacy regimes in the context of the post-Internet world of the United States*). Theoretical frameworks need to harmonize with sanity on its part, in as much as it seeks to restrain state influence, and at the same time, apprehend crime. It is very important that judges are strong-minded and directly supervised, and the legislation is adequately protected.



Globalization, Cooperation and Jurisdictional Difficulties

New technologies are borderless, and this is something that the police around the world face as they try to fight cybercrime. Cyber criminals and their targets frequently are from different countries, so evolutions in means of solving traditional criminal cases cannot be used. Such treaties as the Budapest Convention establish a starting point for international cooperation in achieving a harmonized system of legislation and mutual assistance. Nevertheless, it is still ineffective because, unfortunately, many countries, and especially those in the Global South, either do not have the necessary resources or simply are not ready to establish the necessary political pressure for strict adherence to these standards. There is a need to call for a reforming of the legal tradition to be able to undergird this fairly enlightened Global Order. Such arrangements as the joint task forces, and capacity-building initiatives for the less-endowed countries are necessary for effective human rights enforcement.

Role of Emerging Technologies in Cyber Policing

The use of technology including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain has now influenced how cybercrimes are identified and punished. For instance, AI can sort through incredible troves of data to bring out signs of emerging cyber threats. Nevertheless, the application of these technologies is raising several ethical issues, which in presentation focus on the question of bias and accountability of the algorithms used. For example, predictive policing has been envisaged to reinforce investors' work on the grounds that the former targets minorities more than it targets other segments of the society. The absence of clear visibility over how the AI system reaches a particular decision amplifies the problem of accountability because legal frameworks are yet to find how to assign legal responsibility to non-sentient entities. The social problems arising from technological advancements demand that a jurisprudential framework sets out parameters regulating the proper conduct of business in law enforcement. This is inclusive of things like disclosure standards, reporting periodical assessment of AI systems, and accountability frameworks for damage affected by automated procedures.

Cyber Sovereignty and Government

The cyber sovereignty principle through which countries maintain jurisdiction over their virtual realm is a challenge to the international governance of cyberspace. China and Russia for instance support state's control, opposing the open, democratic organization of the internet promoted by the west. These differences present quite profound jurisprudential implications since they slow the cross-border enforcement due to differences in legal norms. Cyber jurisprudence has to manage these geopolitical divides by seeking to promulgate a discourse on acceptable norms in the global cyberspace. It remains for multilateral organizations such as the United Nations to step into the middle and set up generally recognized norms regarding these issues.

Ethical Dimension and Public Trust

The regulation of online spaces raises complex technical, legal, and ethical concerns. Experiences with biased policing in physical communities, where authorities target specific groups based on race rather than suspicion, underscore the need for transparency and accountability in cyber policing. To address these ethical dilemmas, jurisprudence can play a crucial role. By applying frameworks rooted in restorative justice principles, it may be possible



to rebuild trust among stakeholders. These frameworks emphasize collaboration, information-sharing, and providing remedies for those harmed by cyber law enforcement.

Integration with an Existing Literature

The idea of “code as law” initially put forward by Lessig (1999) has been a metathought for the cyber governance discourse. Lessig centres his thesis on the claim that cyberspace is primarily regulated by code, not by law. However, more recent scholars have focused on the increasing role of the adoption of the digital environment for legal regulation. For instance, Kerr and Loschiavo, in their analysis of Cybersecurity Law (2021) show that the laws, as they are, remain more or less general and need to adapt to responding to particular cyber threats or forms of cyber actions. They argue that a containment model to tackle cybercrime is inadequate and call for a preventive strategy among law enforcement bodies. In extending the previous work of Lessig and Kerr, this paper seeks to assess the need for developing jurisprudential aegis that embraces both technology and the law. Increasing application of AI and machine learning into cyber policing require enhancement of traditional legal understanding of activities in cyberspace so as to enhance the efficacy of polices, protecting privacy rights in cyberspace while enforcing security.

This is an area of concern especially because with cyberspace crossing borders the issue of jurisdiction becomes complicated in enforcing cybercrimes. Goldsmith and Wu (2023) claim in a recent discussion that even though there are recognized international treaties, such as the Budapest Convention, to set the legal frameworks for combating cybercrime, such frameworks are applied incoherently because nations pursue different interests and have different regulatory standards. That is why they claim that international cooperation is possible only in the fight against international cyber-crimes, but it must be based on trust and compliance with national legal systems. Following the approach provided by Goldsmith and Wu, the present paper aims at underlining the general necessity for the capacity-building in the developing nation as well as expanding the conceptual premises of the further international cooperation. Although the states continue to enter into cybercrime treaties, the compliance with the treaties is still partial, and the paper urges for the promotion of measures for making the participation in cybercrime treaties universal with special reference to the developing countries.

Some of the aspects of ethology related to—and again central to—the use of surveillance technologies are widely recognized as being among the most controversial topics in the policing of cyberspace. In Zuboff’s (2019) book *Surveillance Capitalism*, there are concerns that are raised under Mass Dataization and Surveillance to do with privacy infringement and abuse of individual freedoms. In the same way, Taddeo and Floridi in *The Ethics of Cybersecurity* (2022) examine the theme of surveillance as ethics in cybersecurity mainly with reference to the use of AI and machine learning. They opine that while these technologies are useful in crime fighting, their use is unlawful if not monitored in accord with the law. These ethical concerns are built upon in this paper through an argument with a proposed jurisprudential foundation for the use of AI in policing, namely, accountability and disclosure.

Cyber sovereignty has become a topic of discussion in the past few years mainly due to emerging autocratic governments demanding sovereignty over the online world. In *Cyber Sovereignty: The Global Challenge of Regulating the Internet* (2020), there is the continued reflection on the struggle between the global approaches to internet regulation and national interests. Cohen said some nations such as China and Russia want to tightly control their



domestic markets and the operation of the Internet, which goes against the open model championed by western countries. This divide makes it difficult for the establishment of a common or general cyber governance framework. Following the path laid down by MacKinnon, this paper argues that there should be equilibrium achieved between the notion of national security in cyberspace and the idea of working towards regulation of cyberspace on the international level.

CONCLUSION

The policing of cyberspace demands a constant and symbiotic conceptual model of addressing the law in light of the conflicting and complementary values of security and liberty. Read also in this study are the conveniences year of international cooperation, ethical review, and technology flexibility to make cyberspace safer and fairer. In this way, the viewpoint's proponents can continue promoting the development of key principles stated to foster the emergence of a robust architecture for coping with emergent varieties of cyber governance.

The following section outlined three crucial factors that this study noted in the policing of cyberspace.

- i. **Privacy vs. Surveillance:** The difference between the pursuit of public safety and the respect of personal rights exists as an indispensable contradiction in law. A high level of monitor can erode the public's confidence in government and be a violation of basic human rights while a low level of monitor can expose the government to unfettered cyber risks.
- ii. **International Cooperation:** Cyberspace is cross national thus international agreements and cooperation are imperative. However, due to differences in legal frameworks, political agenda, and capacity to enforce different laws present numerous challenges to identical implementation.
- iii. **Technological Integration:** Technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, are able to provide solutions to preventive measures of cybercrime. But, they have brought issues of ethical nature including the question of misuse, presence of bias and the question of accountability in decisions that they make. The present study therefore calls for an innovative Jurisprudence capable of evolving with advancing technology despite the importance of individual freedom.

Practice Directions, Policies, and Research Recommendations

- ✓ Law enforcement agencies should undergo training to manage digital evidence, the comprehension of cyber laws and the proper, ethical use of technology.
- ✓ Collaborations may improve resource utilization and technological strengths such as those related to trying to combat cyber threats on a large scale.
- ✓ It is advised that governments should set priorities for legal frameworks for cybercrimes by putting in place comprehensible and workable laws for classification of cybercrimes, which should reflect and conform to both domestic and international legal standards.



- ✓ The nexus between legal jurisdictions and surveillance technologies as well as AI in cyber policing should be defined and prohibited.
- ✓ It is important that more conceptually related research be conducted in order to capture the ethical concerns such as use of algorithms in filtering suspect profiles, profiling of the suspects, and the effects that come with predictive policing.
- ✓ Other Potential sources of information, that would focus on the assessment of the impact of international agreements and legal reforms in the struggle against cybercrime, are empirical evidence. and the implications of predictive policing.
- ✓ Empirical studies on the effectiveness of international agreements and legal reforms in mitigating cybercrime could provide actionable insights.

LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Focus on Qualitative Analysis: Although this paper is based on jurisprudence, future research can combine results of the increasing rates of cybercrime incidence, effectiveness of enforcement actions, or public attitudes towards cyber policing.
- Lack of Technical Depth: Ethical and legal perspectives were discussed; however, deeper analysis of types of technologies (blockchain, encryption, and AI) and their consequences for policing cyberspace would contribute to the discussion.
- Regional Variations: The study covered global themes, but it failed to explore more local factors like how developing states with little cyber security apparatus contain cybercriminals.

Future research could fill these gaps by recourse to poly scientific methodologies comprising legal, information technology, and social sciences frames.

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