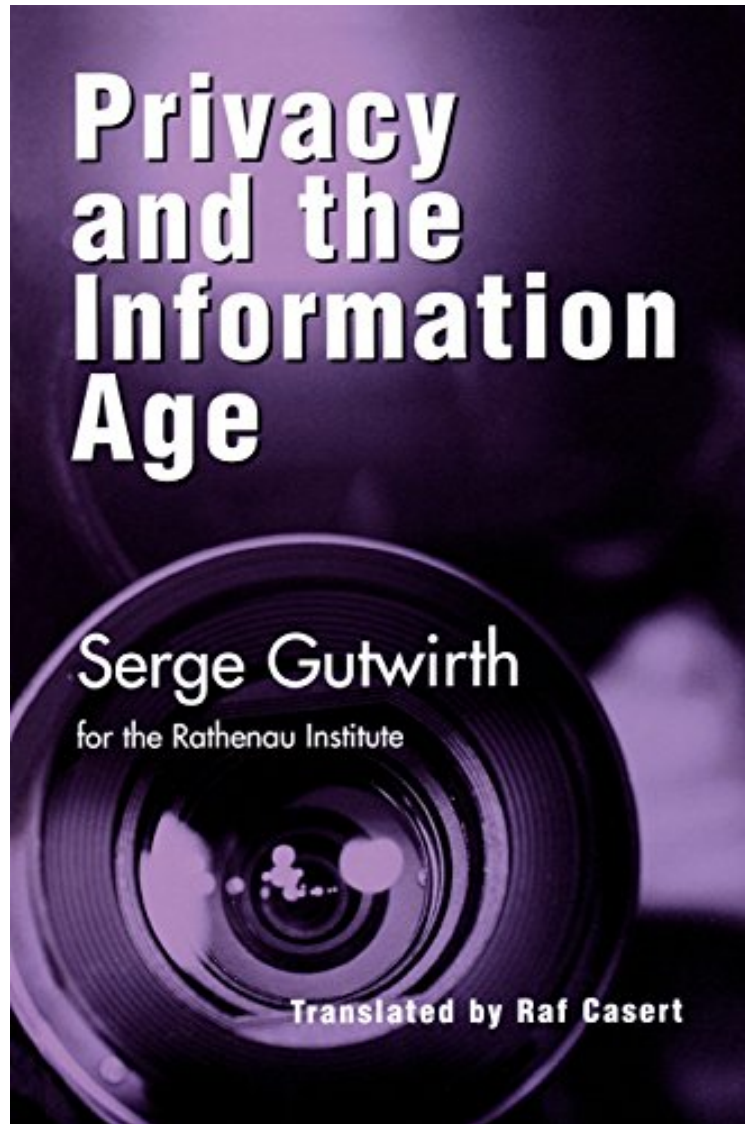


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Privacy and the Information Age (Critical Media Studies: Institutions, Politics, and Culture)

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Privacy and the Information Age (Critical Media Studies: Institutions, Politics, and Culture):

In a time in which new technologies make it easy to gather and process data, the discussion on privacy tends to focus exclusively on the protecting of personal data. To Serge Gutwirth, privacy involves far more. He advances the intriguing thesis that privacy is in fact the safeguard of personal freedom—the safeguard of the individual's freedom to decide who she or he is, what she or he does, and who knows about it. Any restriction on privacy thus means an infringement of personal freedom. And it's exactly this freedom that plays an essential role in every democracy.

Serge Gutwirth impressively draws on Dutch, German, French, and English language sources to develop a strong argument regarding the centrality of privacy to personal freedom and the challenges to that sacred connection posed by new, and increasingly omniscient, information technologies. A most welcome addition to the comparative literature on privacy and technology. (Gary T. Marx, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; author of *Windows Into the Soul: Surveillance and Society in an Age of High Technology*)
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About the Author
Serge Gutwirth is professor of law at the Free University of Brussels and the Erasmus University Rotterdam. The Rathenau Institute, the Dutch national technology assessment organization, is an independent organization and is one of the institutes of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.