

## Acknowledgments

We are living in an interconnected world, and this interconnectivity can hardly be more evident than in this particular book. To begin with, this interconnectivity makes our volume possible; while most of us have never met one another in person, everyone involved with the production of this book—the authors who live in faraway places, the publisher, the two editors who live in separate continents—all communicate with one another almost seamlessly through the wonders of information and communication technologies. Second, this interconnectivity is the impetus of the book itself; we share the deep conviction that such interconnectivity entails new demands in and from the fields of information and computing ethics. First of all, we must address the cultural perspectives of these ethics, as they now implicate technologies that virtually interconnect all peoples and cultures around the globe. This book is a result of our shared effort.

Intercultural information ethics, to use the term introduced by Rafael Capurro, has become much more significant in today's world due to a variety of reasons. Information and communication technologies, while originating in and conveying the values of Western cultures, now have spread throughout the world; the non-Western traditions need to reflect on what is available in the intellectual and spiritual resources of their traditions to find out how best to respond to the challenges posed by these technologies. In particular, many issues, as is well-known, do not know of any national or cultural boundaries; yet, these issues very often carry an impact locally. It is the local people and local communities that feel these impacts most acutely. Most systems underlying current computer and information ethics, however, have not, to our minds and those of the authors, adequately addressed how culture plays a role in reflecting, pronouncing judgments, interpreting, and reinterpreting their resources and environments in such a way that well-informed and carefully thought through ethical deliberations within local dimensions could take place. This book is a result of this common effort.

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