

CS-234 Anonymity

"On the Internet
nobody knows
you are
a dog"



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

Why anonymity?

PRIVACY

- avoid spy / surveillance.
- avoid prejudice (start from scratch) → judgment because who you are.
- protect from harassment in the real world.
- get honest opinions (without concerns).
- avoid discrimination (race, gender, sex orientation).

FREEDOM

= Protection of free speech.

- to avoid harm / punishments.

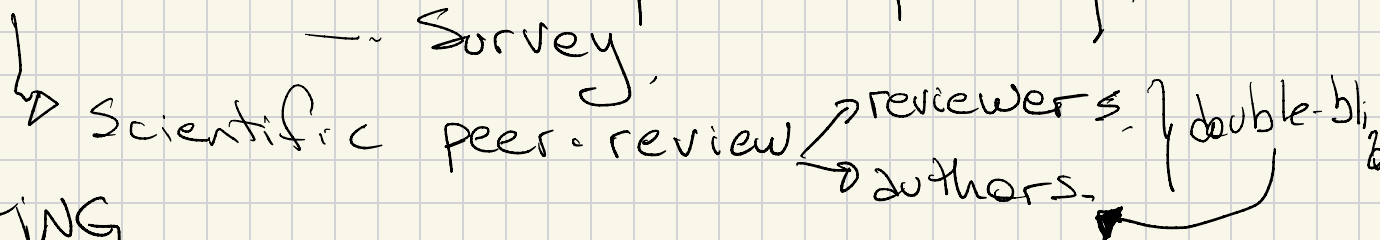
Anonymity (context / purpose),

- Speech (opinions / debates / ...)
- work / education (in any place where

there is a different in power between who gives the opinion & who receives it)

Judicial system → suspected people, informers, jurors.

- Research → Participant's privacy, Survey.



- VOTING,

- ACCESS TO INFORMATION → Whistleblowing → Nation state.

- ASKING FOR HELP (financial aid, dealing with illness/drugs...) → Industry.

"Dark side"

- harassment, ^{online} attacks,
- spread misinformation -
 - ↳ "emotionally-charged" content provokes fast reactions
 - ↳ LIKE
 - ↳ ANGER
 - ↳ SHARE
- difficult to use age restrictions for content.
- get engaged in illegal activity.
 - ↳ racism.
 - ↳ hacking, websites.
- SCAMS.
- VOTE STUFFING.

Anonymity ————— Identity
Balance?

- Anonymity with Accountability -

consequences

↳ for misbehaviors. / incentives

- de-anonymize. → How does it work?

↳ Who does it?

- Police? Private contractor?

- Punishments = ban forever?

is it a fair process?

- "WACK A MOLE" Problem -

• Other mitigations?

- ephemeral messages.

- delete / messages. / from sender and recipient -
delay ↓

- moderation → humans,
↳ AI

- Who decides? What rules?

Is the people/institution who "mitigates"
accountable?