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Cross-Culture Perspectives on Privacy Law: A pilot case between a U.S. Community College and a French Business School

The Covid-19 pandemic illustrated the need for transnational cooperation to solve global crises. To this end, understanding different cultures and world views becomes imperative. We provide some preliminary results based on a collaborative online international learning project (COIL) on “Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Privacy Law”, co-organized by a law professor from the IESEG School of Management, a Grande École (post-baccalaureate) and graduate business school in Paris, France and a criminal justice/paralegal professor at Hostos College, a community college in the City University of New York system.

Students explore the regulatory systems, similarities and divergences across countries in the nascent field of privacy law and data protection, comparing US federal and state law, including California’s statute, and the EU's General Data Protection Regulation. The analysis of different regulatory approaches to privacy is a proxy to help students reflect on their own and their nation's implicit values and philosophical standpoints, the influence of politics, history and the economy in lawmaking and the perception of the law and fairness. We show how innovative technology and educational practices can help future generations bridge cultural gaps and regulatory divergences in order to solve complex global issues.