INFORMATIONAL PRIVACY IN COMPARATIVE CONTEXTS

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I make reference to the constitutionalism in the European Union institutions, Germany, India, Canada, France and USA relating to a focus on the privacy/dignity/liberty claims arising from informational surveillance. A ‘big picture’ rendition of the global landscape and a transdisciplinarity of approach are also briefly attempted. It is argued that profound imperatives of privacy or security within a particular system are determined by the manner in which authority-holders attribute information. The authority holder could be a citizen, intelligence agent, judge, political functionary, or other entities. Information attribution across comparative constitutional terrain throws light on how and why uncertainties relating to prudence and/or reason are mirrored in the law and in legal actors. The process of authoritative identification of a single attribute of the information that foretells the application of prudence and reason as regards legal treatment of that information - is hinted at in constitutional text, illustrated through judicial decision, and embedded in technology.