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Internet sex offenders: individual autonomy, 'folk devils' and state control

Martellozzo, Elena  and Davidson, Julia (2009) *Internet sex offenders: individual autonomy, 'folk devils' and state control*. In: *Regulating autonomy: sex, reproduction and family*. Sclater, Shelley Day, Ebtehaj, Fatemeh, Jackson, Emily and Richards, Martin, eds. Hart Publishing, Oxford, UK, pp. 129-146. ISBN 9781841139463. [Book Section]

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ABSTRACT

[Publisher's description of the book that contains this chapter:] These essays explore the nature and limits of individual autonomy in law, policy and the work of regulatory agencies. Authors ask searching questions about the nature and scope of the regulation of 'private' lives, from intimacies, personal relationships and domestic lives to reproduction. They question the extent to which the law does, or should, protect individual autonomy. Recent rapid advances in the development of new technologies - particularly those concerned with human genetics and assisted reproduction - have generated new questions (practical, social, legal and ethical) about how far the state should intervene in individual decision making. Is there an inevitable tension between individual liberty and the common good? How might a workable balance between the public and the private be struck? How, indeed, should we think about 'autonomy'?

The essays explore the arguments used to create and maintain the boundaries of autonomy - for example, the protection of the vulnerable, public goods of various kinds, and the maintenance of tradition and respect for cultural practices. Contributors address how those boundaries should be drawn and interventions justified. How are contemporary ethical debates about autonomy constructed, and what principles do they embody? What happens when those principles become manifest in law?

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Martellozzo, Elena ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1249-7611> and Davidson, Julia (2009) *Internet sex offenders: individual autonomy, 'folk devils' and state control*. In: *Regulating autonomy: sex, reproduction and family*. Sclater, Shelley Day, Ebtehaj, Fatemeh, Jackson, Emily and Richards, Martin, eds. Hart Publishing, Oxford, UK, pp. 129-146. ISBN 9781841139463. Abstract. [Publisher's description of the book that contains this chapter:] These essays explore the nature and limits of individual autonomy in law, policy and the work of regulatory agencies. Authors ask searching questions about the nature and scope of the regulation of 'private' lives, from intimacies, personal relationships and domestic lives to reproduction. I've also worked in a psychiatric treatment center and a juvenile detention center with numerous child sex offenders, and nearly all of them had been subjected to terrible sexual abuse prior to acting out with other children. [permalink](#). [embed](#). The Chris Hillenburg child made me sad, you can tell he is just a child and that he has issues with controlling himself. I had to turn it off. [permalink](#). In many states, sex offenders must report their place of employment or schooling, which may then be listed online alongside their home address. They must regularly check in with law enforcement. If they're convicted of a less serious crime—indecent exposure, for example—usually they only have to make an annual visit to a police station. But more serious crimes may require a check-in every three months. If a registered sex offender moves to another state, he or she must provide written notice of relocation to local police within a narrow window of time. If you move to Maine, for example, you ha