

**Balázs BODÓ**

***Underground Commons, Illegal Archivists  
– The Secret Life of Intellectual Properties***

Balázs Bodó spent the last year as a Fulbright visiting researcher at the Stanford Law School looking at the technological, economic, legal and social frameworks of culture production and distribution. In the post-Napster world it has become apparent that there is an increasing distance between the legal rules governing this field (copyrights) and the emerging social norms governing the behavior of content producing, distributing communities (copy-norms). Studies show that this distance is the result of a conscious resistance to the legal system. This copyright underground thrives in the (semi)dark cracks of enabled by the digital communication technologies: closed, hard-to-detect, difficult-to-control communities create illegal libraries, underground digital archives, distribution networks which in itself makes them an interesting topic. But their real significance becomes apparent in their conflicts with the mainstream, legitimate systems. The paper describes the role of illegal content networks in the cultural ecosystem of Hungary and using them as an example tries to identify a similar phenomena in the mobile world. Citing recent examples when controversial pieces of user generated mobile content leak into the mainstream we try to map the effects of this digital, mobile “samizdat” network in our everyday life.

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