Data driven tech, what is different?

'AI does not alter the core violent social sorting rationale of borders, but rather supplements this rationale with new capabilities '

Claudia Aradau
Borders have always been artificial: Migration, data and AI

Scale and Veil

Data-driven tech creates a different landscape in **2 main ways: scale and veil**

- **Scale:**
  Reach, **efficiency,** data processing, record comparison, speed

- **Veil:**
  Shield of "**objectivity**," difficult to understand, and depoliticize : making it a 'tech' issue

Scale and Veil

Aim of tech is to **refine, optimise and intensify** existing systems

Many of the changes proposed do not require specific changes to legislation, and are **presented as technical issues**

This way they may well escape any substantial public and political scrutiny.

Pushing back

- demystify tech; 'unhyping AI'

- problematise, historicise and politicize tech

- community research to untangle and explore the issue *but*

through a social justice & organising lens:

- you don't need to be an expert and know how it works to see

what harms it causes

- looking for concrete points of intervention
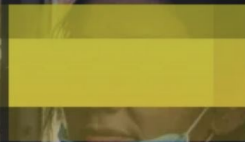
Exploring the issue
Police tech taxonomy

TRACKED

Stories at the Intersection of Migration, Technology, and Human Rights

Surveillance Tech

Which examples have you encountered in your context?

Identification who are you			Movement surveillance where how many what					Communication surveillance				Risk prediction predictiv
Databases	Biometric Identity Tech	Phone extraction	Camera's	Drones	Satellite/ Aerial surveillance	Ankle monitoring	GPS	Phones	Phone monitoring (eg telco data)	Social Media	Spyware	Phone extraction
ANPR												

Resistance

What where the points of intervention?

non-compliance

digital security

monitoring, exposure, awareness

political lobby & litigation

direct action

'unhyping'

Resistance

non-compliance
direct action
digital security

monitoring, exposure, awareness

'unhyping', demystifying tech
problematise, historicise and politicize tech

community research

political lobby & litigation

Identification: who are you? - databases

Main trends: the move to **large-scale biometric databases**
More databases, linking databases, adding biometric data

• police forces are investing in **new databases, updating, linking and enhancing**

their databases: **' interoperability'**

• **more access for more institutions**

• making more data more **accessible for day-to-day operations** by mobile

systems

• offers infrastructure to build all kinds of AI, risk profiling etc. on.

; biometric identity documents; and surveillance and data infrastructure.

Police to be able to run face recognition searches on 50m driving licence holders

Exclusive: Privacy campaigners say clause in new criminal justice bill will put all UK drivers on 'permanent police lineup'

Daniel Boffey
Chief reporter

Wed 20 Dec 2023 23.24 CET

📷 A law change being quietly introduced will allow police to run facial recognition searches on a database containing images of Britain's 50m driving licence holders. Photograph: PA Images/Alamy

The police will be able to run facial recognition searches on a database containing images of Britain's 50 million driving licence holders under a law change being quietly introduced by the government.

	Met Police	South Wales Police	Combined
True Positives	25	315	338
False Positives	150	2,825	2975
Total Matches	175	3,140	3313
True Positive per cent	13.3 per cent	10 per cent	10.2 per cent
False Positive per cent	85.7 per cent	90 per cent	89.8 per cent

86%
INNACURATE

For example, new database: Entry/Exit System (EES)

• track the movements of "bona fide" travellers. Tourists and businesspeople will be required to hand over increasing amounts of personal information to EU and member state authorities

• Travellers will need to scan their passports or other travel document at a self-service kiosk each time they cross an EU external border. It will not apply to legal residents or those with long stay visas.

• The system will register name, biometric data, and the date and place of entry and exit. Facial scans and fingerprint data will be retained for three years after each trip.

• Monitors the dates, places and times at which temporary visitors (e.g. tourists or businesspeople) enter and exit the Schengen area.

New database: Prüm Entry/Exit System (EES)

The system will automatically calculate the amount of time an individual is allowed to stay in the Schengen area and **issue automatic alerts to national authorities on individuals who stay longer than permitted, with the aim of having them removed from the Schengen area (whether via deportation or "voluntary return").**

Demystifying tech: not easy to implement

EU Entry/Exit System (EES)

The introduction of EES has been much delayed. It was previously scheduled for implementation in 2022, and then May 2023, and then delayed again until the end of 2023. However, EES is not now expected until 2024, possibly to be introduced after the Paris Olympics in the Summer. 18 Jul 2023

Biometric databases

Eurodac extension

- As well as fingerprints, facial images and a wealth of biographic data will be stored in the database. Data will also be gathered from a far broader group of people:
  - expanding to irregular migrants,
  - persons disembarked following search and rescue operations,
  - persons eligible for resettlement in the EU;
  - lowering the age limit for data collection to six.

• Currently, the system holds information on asylum-seekers and people apprehended in connection with the irregular crossing of an external border who are 14 and older.

Source: Statewatch, Frontex and Interoperable databases

more access for more institutions

● FRONTEX is being assigned new powers to obtain, access and use personal data in its operations.

Details on which databases etc: Statewatch [report:](#)
Frontex and interoperable databases. Knowledge as power?

Pushing back:

The "Personal Data for Risk Analysis" (PeDRA) project, launched jointly with Europol, sought to use data collected by Frontex from "debriefing" interviews with migrants to feed Europol's databases and analyses. Frontex sought to gather genetic data and data on sexual orientation, and to gather information not just from people suspected of involvement in criminal activities, but from victims and witnesses as well.

Press coverage was followed by criticism from the European Data Protection Supervisor and MEPs, and the project was put on hold. Balkan Investigative Reporting Network: BIRN, did a lot of work here

Expanding Databases

• More "third" countries join **MIDAS Migration Information and Data Analysis system**

• Operational in over 20 countries (Madagascar, Liberia, Congo, Burkina Faso..).
• Developed by IOM in 2009, to collect, process, store and analyse traveller information, capturing both the biographic and biometric information of travelers.

" Central to the core mandate of the The Gambia Immigration Department....ultimate long-term target is to have such system installed at all the official entry points of the country and **also have the provision of the MIDAS mobile kit to all their border patrol teams across the country**."

Ms. Fumiko Nagano, IOM's chief of mission in The Gambia said MIDAS is a high quality, user friendly, cost effective and fully customised border management information system that was developed by IOM for states in need of a cost effective and comprehensive solution.

Mapping

Surveillance Tech

Identification
who are you

Databases

Biometric Identity Tech   Phone extraction

ANPR

Movement surveillance
where how many what

Camera's   Drones   Satellite/ Aerial surveillance   Ankle monitoring   GPS   Phones

Communication surveillance

Phone monitoring (eg telco data)   Social Media   Spyware   Phone extraction

Risk prediction predictiv

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What did you encounter in your context?

Movement surveillance
where how many what

Camera's   Drones   Satellite/ Aerial surveillance   Ankle monitoring   GPS   Phones

Eg: What do we know about drones / aerial surveillance?

HERON
MULTI-ROLE MALE RPAS

" *The drone transmits a near-live video feed and other information captured through a wide range of optical and thermal sensors to Frontex headquarters in Warsaw, where data are analyzed and operational decisions affecting its flight path are taken and fed back to Malta in a constant feedback loop.*"

-[Airborne Complicity](): Frontex Aerial Surveillance Enables Abuse

HRW & Border Forensics

Frontex's drones in Malta and Greece are controlled by Airbus. The German defense company also provides their satellite communications. This is now said to have failed.

A drone flown by the EU border agency Frontex crashed into the sea 70 nautical miles southeast of Crete on Thursday. This is according to a unanimous report by Greek media. The Israeli-built "Heron 1" was reportedly on a surveillance mission when it lost satellite communication with the ground station for unknown reasons. Flight data tracking websites show that the drone crashed into the sea at a speed of 120 kilometers per hour in the incident.
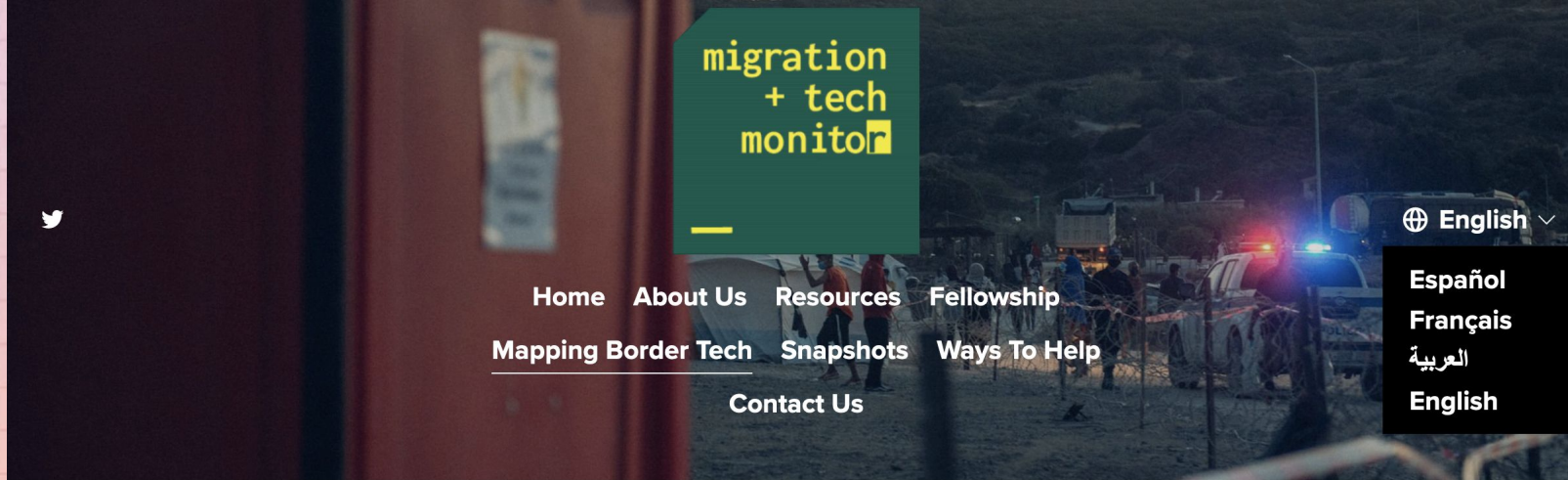
The "Heron 1" with a wingspan of almost 17 meters has been stationed at the military airport in Tympaki in Crete since July 2022, where it has been flying missions in the Ionian Sea. An identical drone has been monitoring the central Mediterranean Sea from the international airport in Malta since 2021. For this purpose, the "Heron 1" is equipped with cameras, night vision devices as well as radar equipment. Reportedly, technology for locating satellite phones is also on board.

What is useful to know / monitor?

Eg: Can or do you want to organise around drones?

Resources

- Statewatch
- Border Forensics
- HRW
- Mathias Monroy, security architectures in the EU: https://digit.site36.net/

Home   About Us   Resources   Fellowship

Mapping Border Tech   Snapshots   Ways To Help

Contact Us

Below is a map of border technologies across the world. You can click on the points for details related to each area. (This non-exhaustive map is actively updated - if you have a tip, please contact us!)
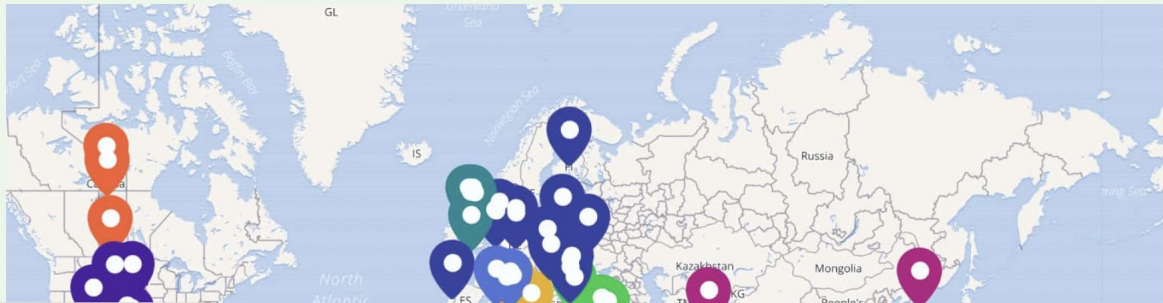
"High Tech Camps"

All information converges in a new monitoring centre housed in the building of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in Athens. Last week, the supreme authority had presented the installation to journalists. The connected authorities use the "Microsoft 365" platform for their work, which the ministry rapturously describes as "democratic".
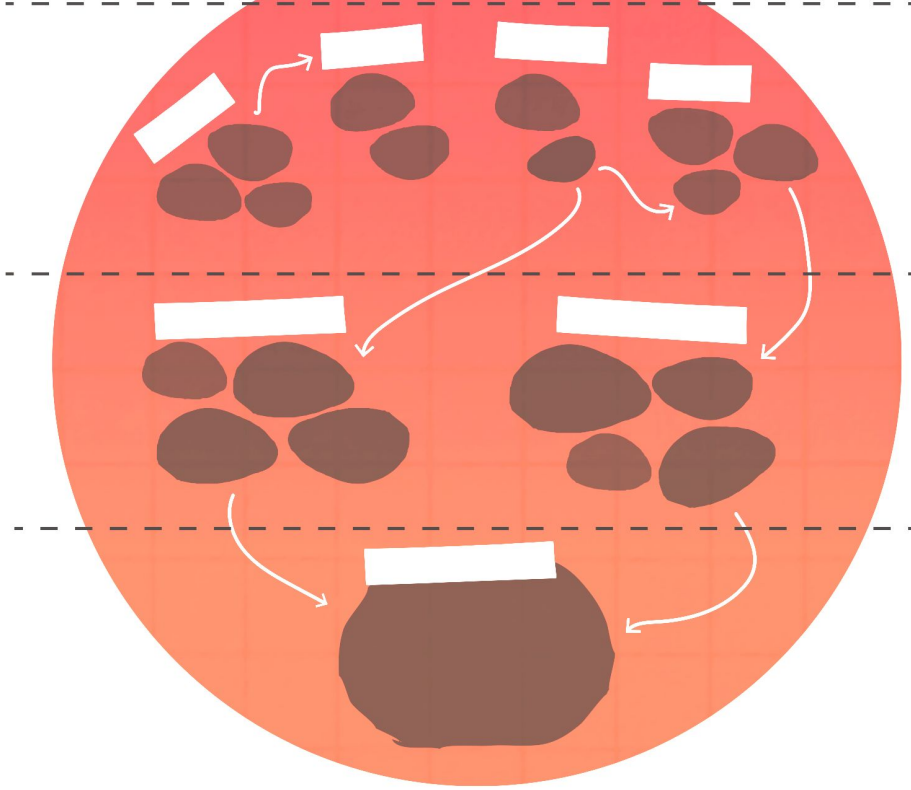
IDEOLOGICAL

INSTITUTIONAL

OPERATIONAL

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

The people who are impacted by the algorithm, and who hold the power to resist it. Includes the way the harm is manifested.

- Who is the community impacted by this algorithm?
- What kinds of harm does the algorithm create?

OPERATIONAL

The technical components of the algorithm and the people who directly use those technical components.

- **What is the function of the algorithm?**
- **Where is the data stored?**
- **Who interacts with the algorithm?**
- **What do they do with it?**

INSTITUTIONAL

The institutions and entities that uphold the ideologies of power (for personal and institutional gain) and fund/create the technology either directly or through each other.

- Who funds the program?
- Who benefits?
- What interests came together to create the program?

IDEOLOGICAL

The values and ideologies that the algorithmic system creates and perpetuates.

- What ideologies motivate the actors within this system?
- What ideologies are upheld, intentionally or unintentionally, by the algorithmic ecology?

ALGORITHMIC ECOLOGY

Scientific Objectivity | Settler Colonialism | White Supremacy | Patriarchy | Capitalism

IDEOLOGICAL

INSTITUTIONAL

OPERATIONAL

COMMUNITY

FED GOV — DOJ, NIJ, DOD, BJA

ACADEMIA — UCLA, USC, UCI

PRIVATE INTERESTS — PredPol, Inc., Developers

LOCAL GOV — City Hall, LAPD, LAPC, LA County

PREDPOL — data, algorithm, research, software, training, patents

LAPD — training, policing, data cleaning, oversight, crime analysis

COMMUNITY
+ population control
+ displacement
+ digital redlining
+ incarceration
+ bullet hits the body
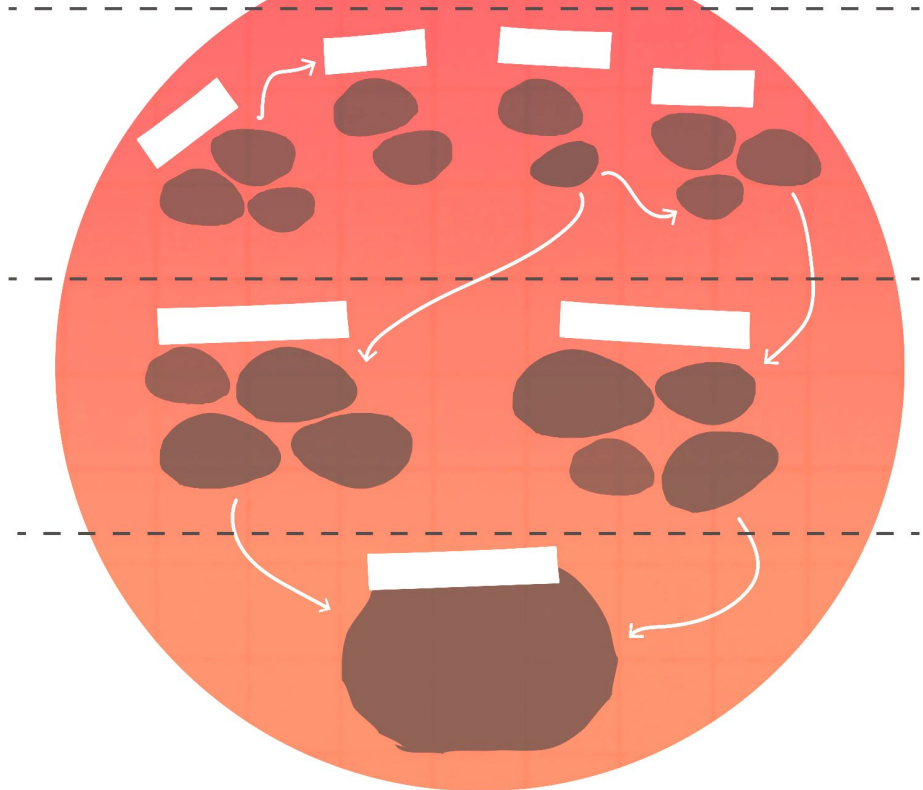
IDEOLOGICAL

INSTITUTIONAL

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COMMUNITY

Points of intervention

Operational layer	Indentify the point	Intervention Ideas
Institutional layer		
Ideological layer Challenging underlying beliefs, ideology. What is the assumption we're challenging?		

example: high tech border camp

Community level:
  - collecting harms from testimonies

Operational level:
  - overview of the different systems, what do they do?
  - who is implementing it? who is contracted etc?

example: high tech border camp

Institutional level:
- funding
- research institutes, developers
- local, national EU government bodies involved
- security tech vendors
- consultancies: Deloitte, Accenture

example: high tech border camp

Institutional level:
- funding
- research institutes, developers
- local, national EU government bodies involved
- security tech vendors

   points of intervention?

example: who gets funded to develop border tech?

Statewatch/ Euromed report:
Between 2014 and 2022, the EU has provided more than €250 million to 49 projects seeking to develop border technologies.

- the Greek Center for Security Studies (€12.8 million),
- France's Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (€8.4 million)
- TNO from the Netherlands (€4.5 million), Germany's Fraunhofer Institute (€4.4 million)
- Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (€4.3 million) make up the top five.

example: what kind of legislation and legislative bodies are involved?

On EU level:
" legislation that will play a role in reinforcing Europe's techno-borders: the Eurodac Regulation, the Screening Regulation, changes to the Schengen Borders Code, and the Artificial Intelligence Act."

could these be points of intervention?

Not only to map what you know, but also what you do not know and would like to know

Tools to build your Algorithmic Ecology

Some places to look for blank spaces in your algorithmic ecology:

- **Academic papers and conference presentations**
- **Media, personal connection to journalists**
- **Public records requests**
- **Government /EU Portals**
- **FOIA**
- **City Contracts, tenders**
- **Publicity Materials from vendors**
- **Board of directors/staff information**

Group work

- Make your own algorithmic ecology mapping in your group
- Which tech is relevant for you to further explore / would you like to organize around?

Next session

- What came up for you as you were creating this ecology?
- What are your next steps after having created your ecology (i.e., any questions that need to be followed up on, next steps for your campaign)?