Artificial Intelligence, Authentic Belonging?

#OtheringandBelonging
Detroit Community Technology Project

@detcommtech
@combsthepoet
detroitcommunitytech.org
Data and Digital Justice
Since 2015, ODB has been working in three cities--Charlotte, North Carolina; Detroit, Michigan; and Los Angeles California.

To date, we have completed 137 in-depth interviews with residents of these cities’ most historically marginalized neighborhoods. Our project combines community-based organizing, capacity-building, and rigorous academic research.

Our goal was to find answers to three main questions:

- How do marginalized adults experience and make sense of the collection, storage, sharing and analysis of their personal information?

- How, if at all, do marginalized adults connect their ability to meet their basic material and social needs to their inclusion in (or exclusion from) data-based systems?

- What strategies do marginalized adults deploy, if any, to protect their digital privacy, self-determination, and data rights?
The Team

- Detroit Community Technology Project
- Center for Community Transitions, Inc.
- Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN)
- Stop LAPD Spying Coalition
“Each institution [should] deal only with the information it needs... Collection systems should only capture data that’s necessary. They should not intimidate people. They should not violate their human rights.”—ANGÉLICA (LOS ANGELES)

“For their benefit they do communicate. But for my benefit, no.”—ASSATA (CHARLOTTE)

“My cell phone is a prepaid cell phone. I don’t have a contract, so there is no true tie back to my identity. Wherever I can minimize me giving someone any of my information, I will. I avoid as many contracts as possible. I do a lot of direct channel transactions if I can. I don’t think there is anything that you can really do to secure yourself.”—RENITA GRAY (DETROIT)
What We Discovered

Patterns across all 3 cities:

- insecurity and targeting
- resignation and resistance
- separation of family (incarceration, detention, deportation, foster care)
- trade-offs (data for human needs)
Secure Cities Are Not Safe Communities

Often, for undocumented, black communities and other marginalized communities, the safer a city proposes to be, the less safe those communities can become. When cities use data and statistics to make decisions about the security of neighborhoods by adding surveillance cameras and increasing the militarization of police departments, it poses an imminent threat to those residents who are often deemed expendable. The security mindset without the human element is inherently unsafe.
“I mean your face is not even your own anymore. Your face is being captured by cameras.” – Da Hive (Detroit)
More DCTP Collaborations/Organizing

- DDJC Data DiscoTechs (Census 2020)
- Recommendations for Equitable Open Data
- Project Greenlight Research & Data Visualization
- Equitable Internet Initiative (Consentful Technology)
- ODB Digital Defense Playbook
Learn More About Our Work

Detroit Community Technology Project
Website: www.detroitcommunitytech.org
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Our Data Bodies Project
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Coordinated Entry System Research and Development for a Continuum of Care in Northern California

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SOMETHING IS WRONG ON THE INTERNET
OUR POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS ARE HAPPENING ON AN INFRASTRUCTURE BUILT FOR VIRAL ADVERTISING.
dual-use technology
BUILDING tribes
FORM DISTINCT GROUPS
REINFORCE IN-GROUP IDENTITY
CREATE A MEDIA MIRAGE
PROPAGANDIZE WITH NUANCED INFLECTION
DEVELOP PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
ACTIVATE FOR A PURPOSE
IMPACT
democratized
PROPAGANDA
weaponized
NARRATIVES
Additional Resources

• People’s Guide to AI
  • www.alliedmedia.org/peoples-ai

• Algorithmic Accountability Toolkit (AI Now)
  • ainowinstitute.org/aap-toolkit.pdf

• Digital Defense Playbook (Our Data, Our Bodies)
  • www.odbproject.org/tools/

• Detroit Community Technology Project Resource Page
  • detroitcommunitytech.org/?q=learning-materials