



Should AI (e.g. facial recognition) be Used in State Policing and Surveillance Efforts?

Team B

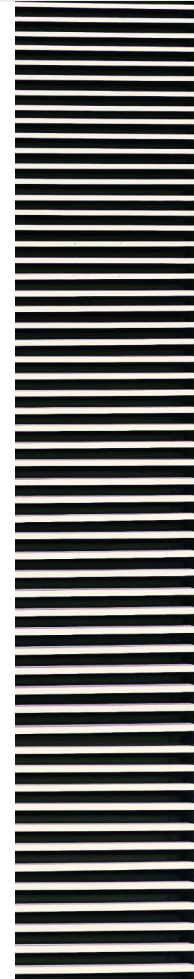


Introduction

AI tools can be beneficial in state policing and surveillance efforts such as crime prevention through prediction, as well as locating wanted criminals or other beings through facial recognition without the concern of human error. Partnering with human capabilities, it can provide assistance in investigations, improving public safety.

However, the merits of AI in this field also come with serious issues such as privacy, transparency, accountability, abuse of power, and bias within these systems.

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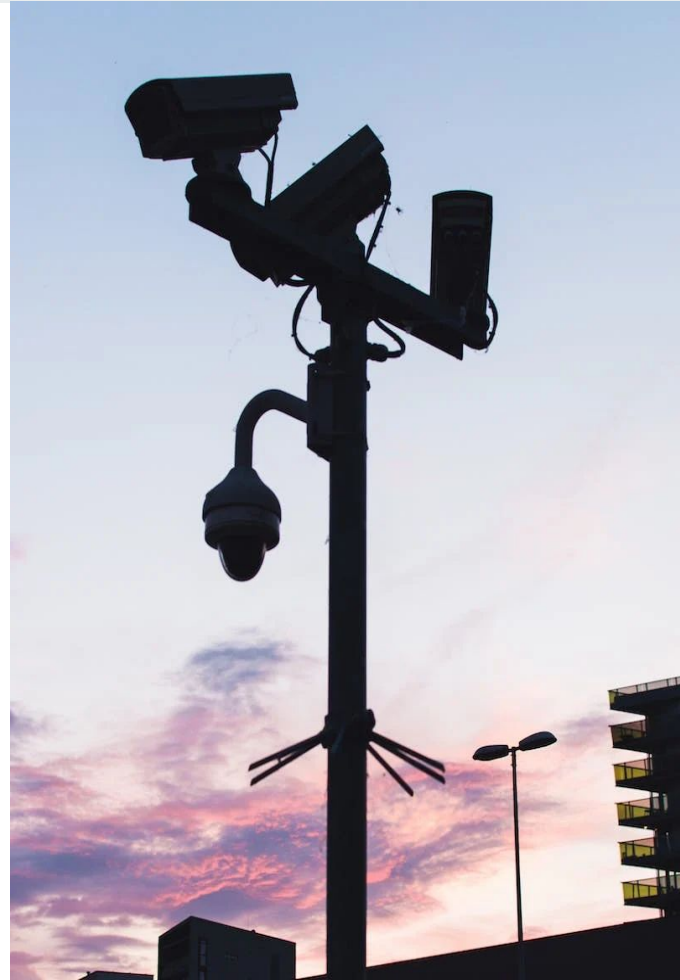
Some types of AI in the Policing System Currently being Used or that are in Development

Facial Recognition: Identification of individuals based on their facial features and their whereabouts in real-time cameras, as well as images and videos.

Scene Detection: Automatic detection of traffic accidents, gunshots, and other violent crimes.

Crime Forecasting: Prediction of criminal activity based on prior data and records, as well as related content on social media and other channels.

Fraud Detection: Detection of fraud through recognition of patterns.



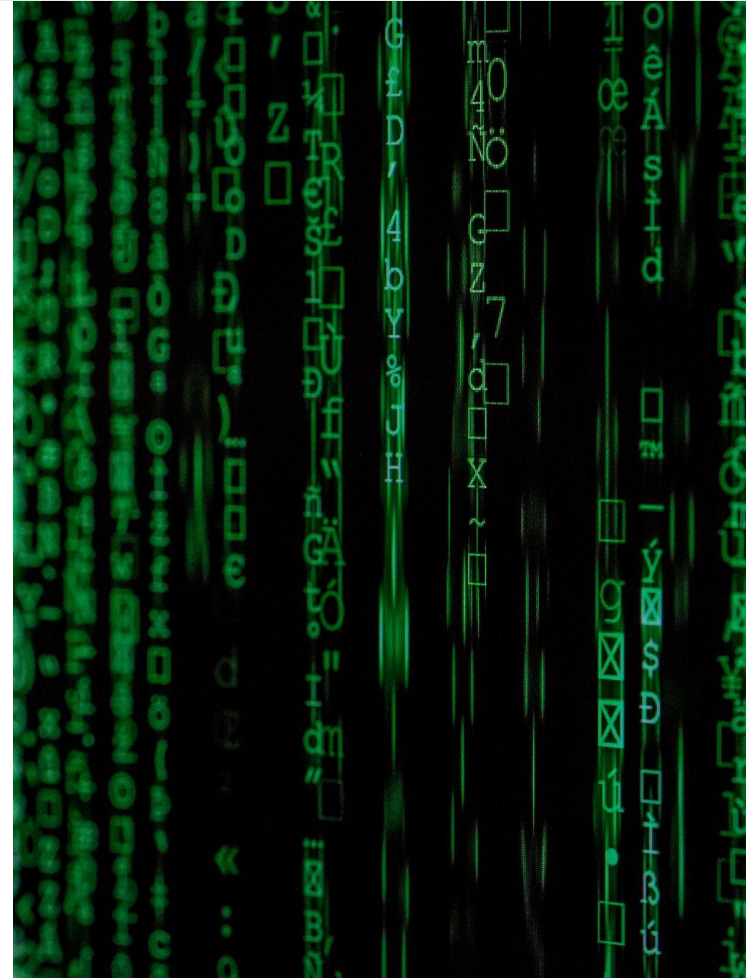
London: Met Police Using Facial Recognition

- The Metropolitan Police use live facial recognition cameras in London, which operate for five to six hours, targeting suspects of serious crimes.
- The systems work by mapping existing faces from police files and utilising cameras to scan and analyze faces in real-time, aiming to identify possible matches against known individuals in their database.
- An independent review revealed, however, that most matches made by the cameras are false alarms. Privacy campaigners view this as a significant infringement on civil liberties.



Chicago: Police Utilising Predictive Policing Tool

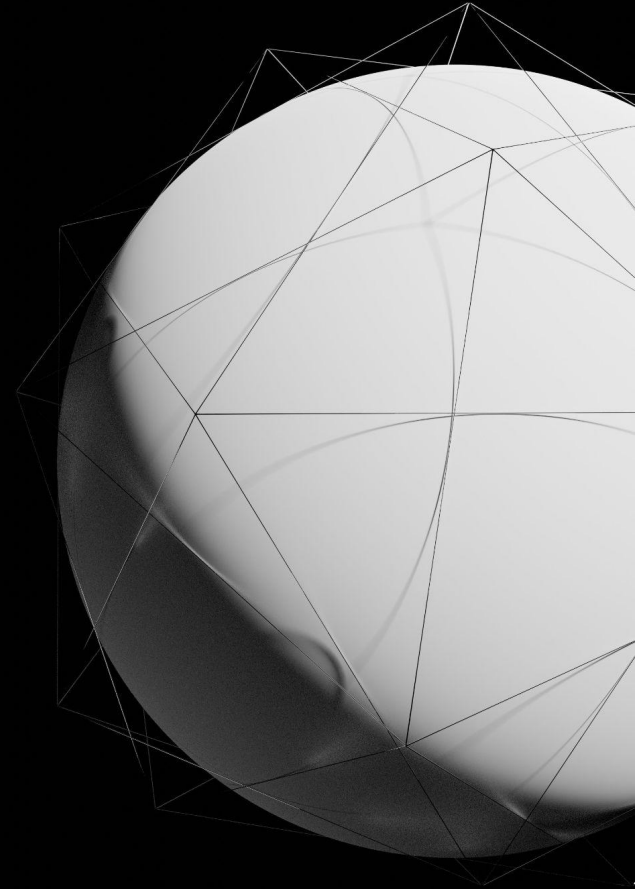
- To try to reduce the amount of shootings in Chicago, the police have been testing an algorithmically generated list of individuals most likely to be involved in shootings.
- The algorithm identified people who were suspect for arrest and also those who are socially connected to them.
- The tool didn't successfully reduce homicide but rather served as a useful list to conduct arrests after crimes had happened.





Los Angeles: Data Driven Crime Prediction

- The LAPD also employs a program called PredPol (Predictive Policing) that utilizes AI algorithms to forecast areas and times where certain types of crimes are more likely to occur.
- The predictive models take into account various factors, such as past crime patterns, seasonality, and even environmental factors, to make predictions.
- However, critics argue that relying on historical crime data may perpetuate biases and disproportionately target minority communities, leading to biased policing and concerns about civil liberties.



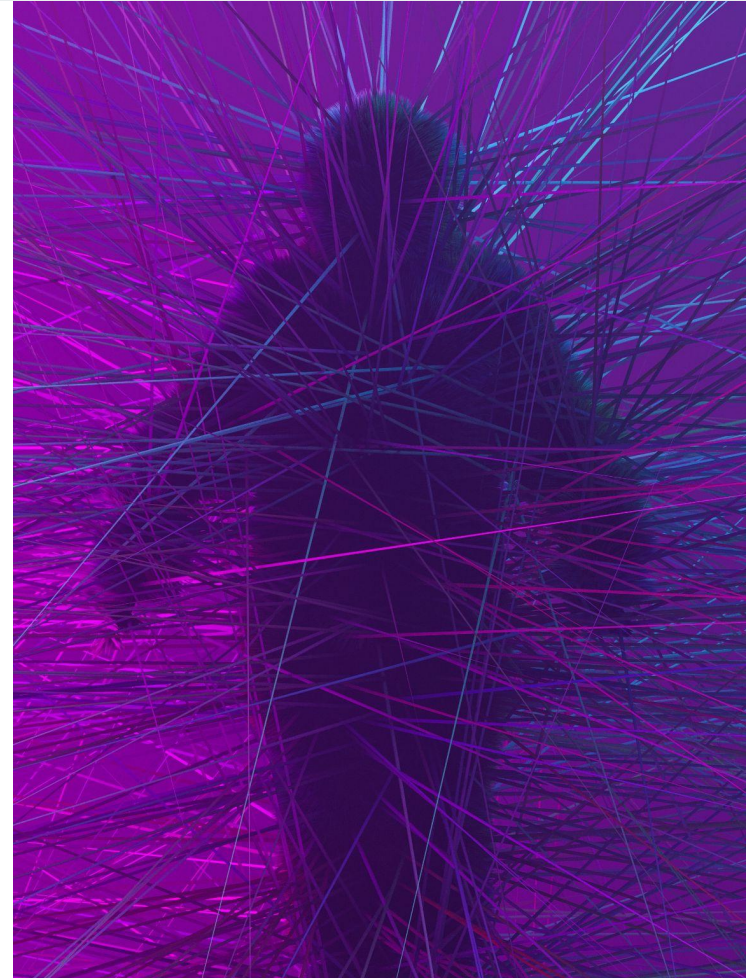
China: “One person, one file” residential surveillance

- AI residential surveillance in China utilizes methods like surveillance cameras, facial recognition, and online activity monitoring to keep tabs on residents.
- The "one person, one file" concept assigns a single unique digital profile to each citizen based on their behavior and activities in the social credit system, providing authorities with a centralized view of an individual's activities and behaviors.
- While China claims this policy identifies potential threats to social stability and manages access to public services, critics argue that the system raises concerns about privacy, personal freedoms, and potential abuse of power by authorities.



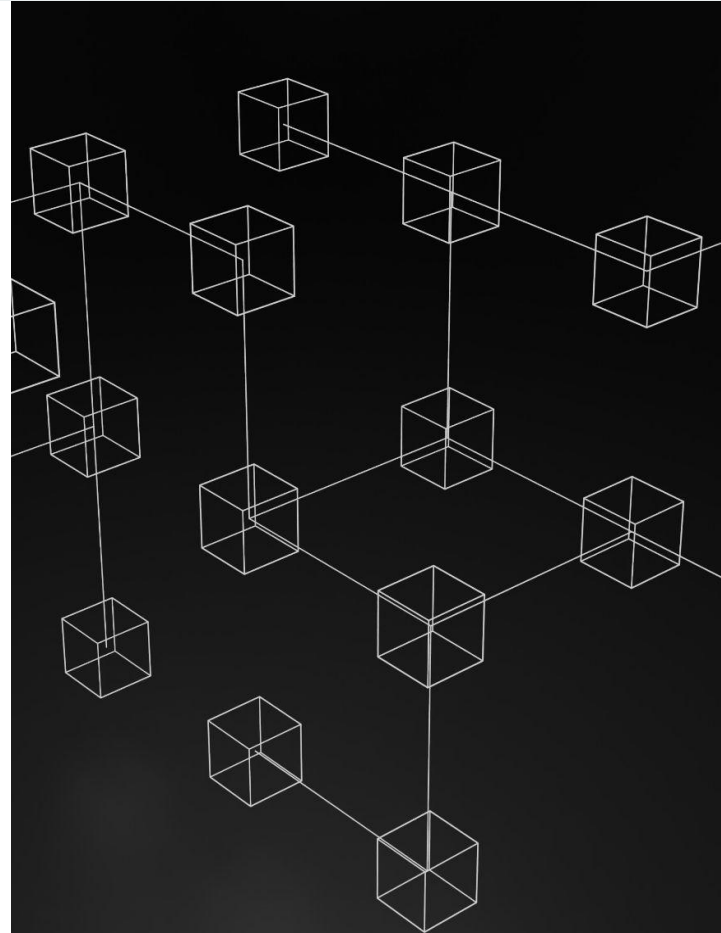
Pro: Improved Public Safety

- **Enhanced criminal identification:** AI surveillance systems aid in accurately tracking and identifying criminals.
- **Strengthened border security:** AI systems analyze data at immigration checkpoints to identify potential threats and prevent unauthorized entry.
- **Proactive threat detection:** AI surveillance monitors public spaces for suspicious activities, enhancing security measures for public and private entities.
- **Deterrence and crime prevention:** AI-powered surveillance systems act as a deterrent, reducing criminal activities and improving public safety.



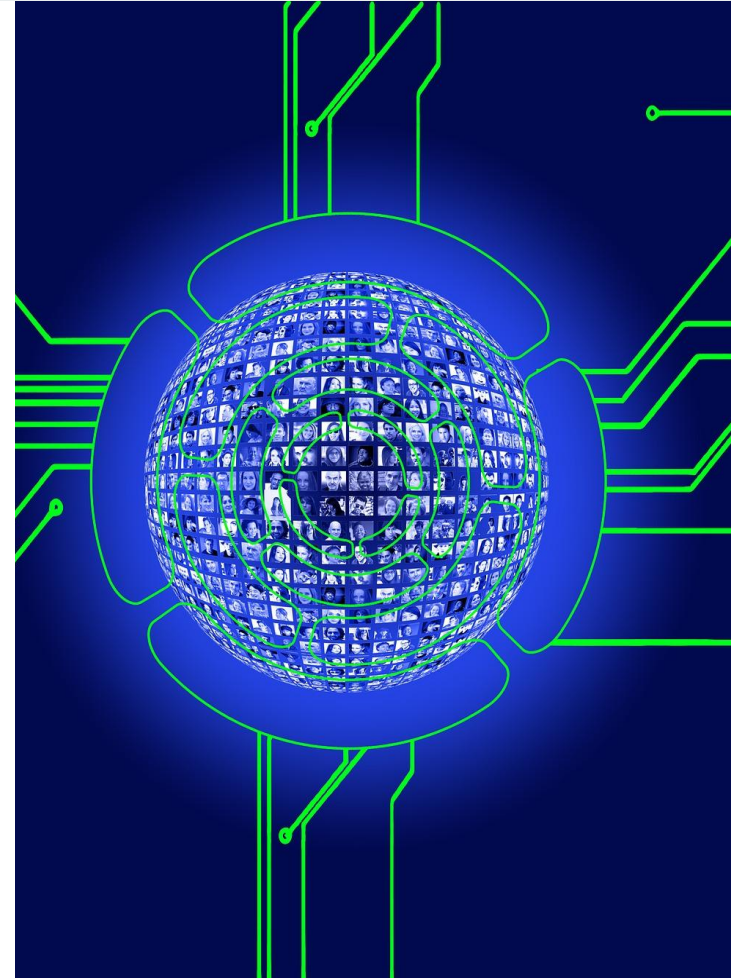
Pro: Crime Prediction and Prevention

- **Trend analysis:** AI algorithms analyze historical crime data to identify patterns and potential crime hotspots.
- **Resource allocation:** AI predictions help allocate resources strategically, preventing criminal activities proactively.
- **Targeted interventions:** AI-powered crime prediction enables focused preventive measures in high-risk areas or times.
- **Community engagement:** AI-driven crime prediction encourages community involvement and proactive reporting to prevent crime.



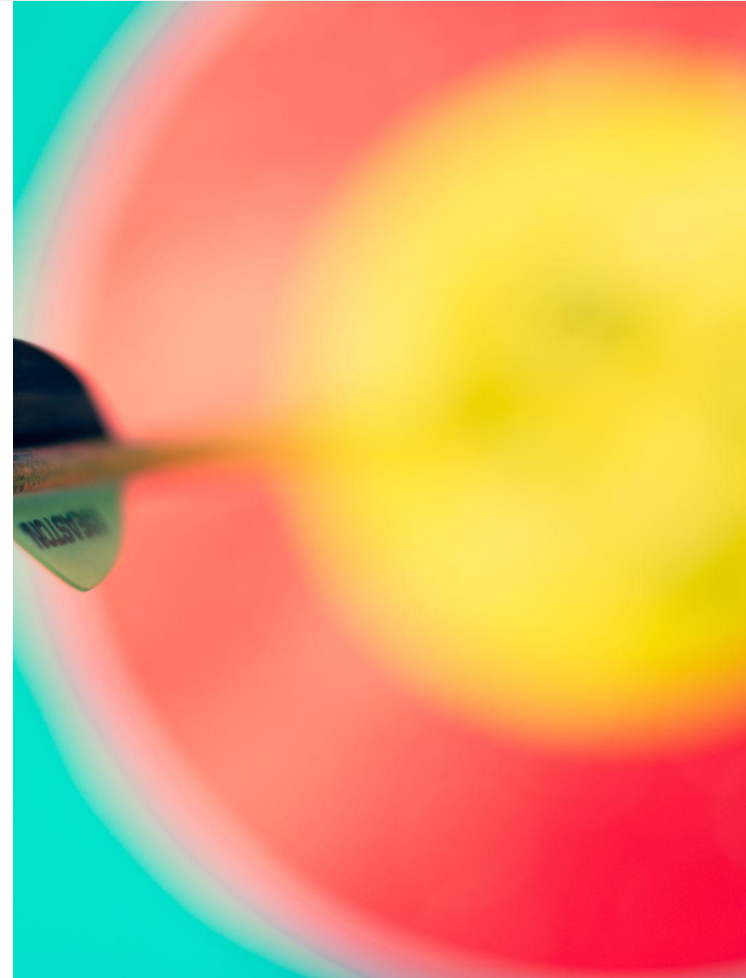
Pro: Assistance in Investigations

- **Suspect identification:** AI technologies like facial recognition help to quickly and accurately identify potential suspects.
- **Evidence analysis:** AI-powered video analytics enhance the analysis of surveillance footage for valuable evidence.
- **Crime scene reconstruction:** AI algorithms analyze various data sources to digitally reconstruct crime scenes, aiding investigations.
- **Accelerated investigations:** AI automates tasks, expediting investigations and increasing the likelihood of apprehending criminals.



Pro: Efficiency & Accuracy

- **Efficient data processing:** AI systems quickly analyze large volumes of data, aiding law enforcement in identifying patterns and potential threats.
- **Proactive threat detection:** AI algorithms detect suspicious behavior and anomalies, enabling authorities to intervene before crimes occur.
- **Resource optimization:** AI helps allocate resources effectively by identifying high-risk areas and times, maximizing operational efficiency.
- **Informed decision-making:** AI-driven insights assist investigators in making accurate decisions, enhancing overall effectiveness in law enforcement.



Con: Privacy Concerns

- **Lack of Informed Consent:** individuals are unaware that their facial data is being collected or analyzed through AI systems. The lack of informed consent undermines individuals' ability to control how their personal information is used and shared.
- **Function Creep:** Where facial recognition technology is initially deployed for specific purposes, such as public safety, but is later expanded to unrelated areas without individuals' consent or knowledge. This mission creep can lead to an overreach of surveillance powers.
- **Security Risks:** Inadequate security measures or data breaches can lead to unauthorized access, theft of personal information, or misuse of biometric data.



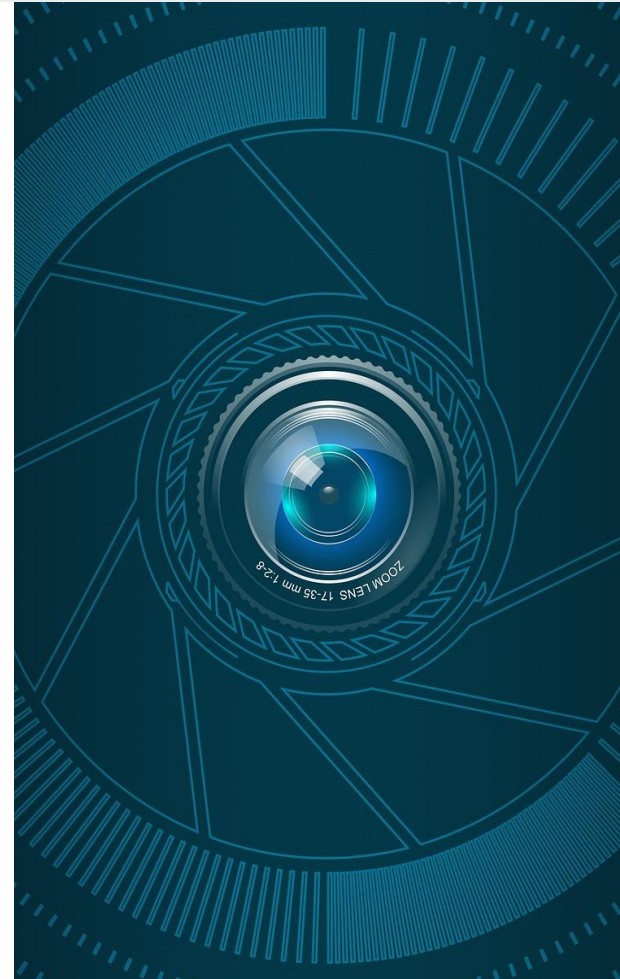
Con: Lack of Transparency and Accountability

- **Lack of Disclosure:** State policing and surveillance agencies may not always provide clear information regarding when and how facial recognition tech is deployed. Lack of transparency about the extent and purpose of the systems hinders public oversight and accountability.
- **Lack of Clear Legal Frameworks:** In some jurisdictions, there may be a lack of regulations governing the use of facial recognition technology. This absence can create ambiguity and limit accountability for potential abuses or privacy violations.
- **Opacity** can undermine public trust and raise concerns about the potential for biased or unjust outcomes, as it is difficult to understand how decisions are made.



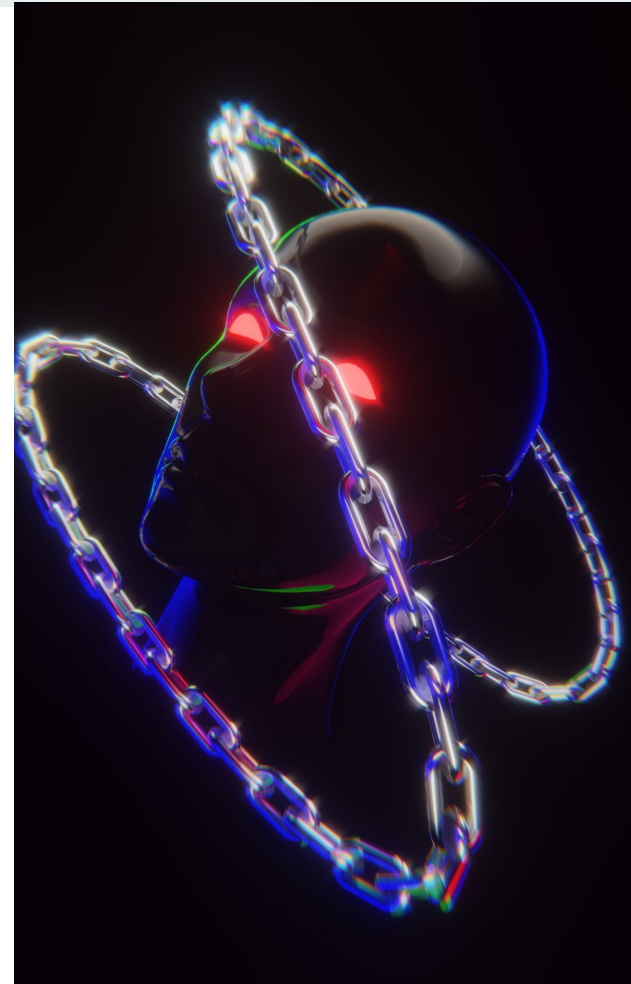
Con: Bias & Discrimination

- **Accuracy Disparities:** Studies have shown that these systems can have higher error rates when identifying individuals with darker skin tones or from marginalized communities. This bias can result in disproportionate targeting or false accusations against certain groups.
- **Dataset Bias:** Facial recognition algorithms are trained on existing datasets that may not be adequately diverse or representative of the population. If the training data primarily consists of images of certain demographics, the algorithms may not perform equally well for individuals from underrepresented groups.



Con: Potential for Abuse of Power

- **Social Control and Oppression:** coupling facial recognition with AI algorithms can enable social control and oppressive measures by identifying and monitoring individuals based on their affiliations, beliefs, or social activities. This can lead to the marginalization and suppression of certain groups or communities.
- **False Evidence and Manipulation:** Manipulated images or videos, can be used to create false evidence or misleading information. This can be exploited to frame innocent individuals or manipulate public perception, eroding trust in the justice system and democratic processes.
- **Risk of Overreliance:** as this tech develops, errors did and will continue arise, potentially condemning innocent people if too much power and trust is given to these systems.



Conclusion

Should AI (e.g. facial recognition) be Used in State Policing and Surveillance Efforts?

The recent AI breakthroughs and the increased use of this technology in various domains, coupled with rising concern of what it will imply supports the relevancy of this question.

While cases like residential surveillance in China or crime prediction in Los Angeles outline some issues related to this use of AI, other cases such as the Predictive Policing tool in Chicago might show some opportunities.

We are glad to leave you to it to reach a possible answer.

Thank you!





References

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