

While facial recognition systems may be helpful for policing in matters such as illegal housing, criminal identification, or identify theft, the authoritarian misuse potential is equally as high. Very recently, China has begun building a powerful recognition system with the means of identifying its 1+ billion citizens within seconds. Concern rises when considering these projects are backed by very few data privacy laws (India for example having none in place), that algorithmic bias has been a very recent topic (we talked about Joy Buolamwini), and that protest against these systems are in our current news (Hong Kong protestors knocked down facial recognition towers, worried the people's private information was continually being extradited to China). I think there's a lot to unpack in the sphere of the dark side of facial recognition, being that there is a thin line between security and disaster.