

Week 7: State surveillance/law enforcement (plus continuing the discussion about immigrants' rights and privacy)

Real time guest lecture: July 17, 8:30 am Pacific/11:30 Eastern AND July 18, 8:30 am Pacific/11:30 am Eastern (PLEASE NOTE TWO LECTURES THIS WEEK)

Overview

The post-9/11 environment has spawned an incredibly vast and well-funded security state. Edward Snowden's 2013 revelations about NSA mass surveillance shined sunlight on many of these new surveillance capabilities, and since then the work of activists and journalists have further revealed the highly sophisticated surveillance tools used by law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

This week, we'll hear from two guest lecturers (one lecture will happen on Tuesday, and one on Wednesday). Immigration and criminal defense attorney Franklin Bynum will talk to us on Tuesday July 10th about how minor criminal offenses, such as drug charges, are used to fuel the deportation machine, and how the surveillance state aids in those prosecutions. Freddy Martinez of Lucy Parsons Labs joins us to discuss some of those capabilities and the authorizations that allow them. Our readings this week will cover more of those capabilities in depth and some case studies about how they've been used against our communities.

Learning objectives

- Basic understanding of police capabilities and tools
- Basic understanding of major surveillance authorizations
- Understand how these capabilities have been used and against whom

Readings

- EFF's guide to NSA surveillance authorizations: <https://www.eff.org/nsa-spying> (browse through this)
- EFF's guide street-level surveillance: <https://www.eff.org/sls> (browse through this)
- ACLU's summary of Stingray tracking: <https://www.aclu.org/issues/privacy-technology/surveillance-technologies/stingray-tracking-devices-whos-got-them>
- ACLU's factsheet on surveillance of Muslims by the NYPD: <https://www.aclu.org/other/factsheet-nypd-muslim-surveillance-program>
- MuckRock's report on police using social media surveillance: <https://www.muckrock.com/news/archives/2017/nov/09/social-media-surveillance-2017/>
- Patriot Act used to fight more drug dealers than terrorists: https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/patriot-act-used-to-fight-more-drug-dealers-than-terrorists/2011/09/07/gIQAcmEBAK_blog.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.d88bd9f5313c

- Facial recognition may be coming to a police body camera near you:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2018/04/26/facial-recognition-may-be-coming-to-a-police-body-camera-near-you/?utm_term=.9c3238e56cbb
- Project Hemisphere (a prime example of collaborative efforts between major corporations and government surveillance):
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemisphere_Project

Guest lecturer

Franklin Bynum, immigration and criminal defense attorney (<https://bynumlaw.net/>)

Freddy Martinez of Lucy Parsons Labs (<https://www.lucyparsonslabs.com/>)

Discussion

- How have these new surveillance capabilities affected your communities?
- Add to the discussion from week 6 based on what you learned from Franklin Bynum

Assignment

- Write 3-5 talking points about how you'd discuss these subjects with library staff or patrons, or;
- Try to find out what surveillance equipment the police in your community have, or;
- Continue working on one of your assignments from another week (instructional slides or talking points or whatever)