

Week 7: State surveillance/law enforcement

Real time guest lecture: July 18, 8:30 am Pacific/11:30 am Eastern

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, 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

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

Discussion

- How have these new surveillance capabilities affected your communities?

Assignment

- Write one page 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 making the instructional slides you started last week