

Curatorial Statement — CG-IPTC Visualization Series No.

01 / 2025

I. From Colonial Policing to Domestic Counterinsurgency

The first figure, São Paulo (2016): Police Violence by Race and Gender, documents a grim asymmetry: Black Brazilians, who comprise roughly 37 percent of the population, account for over 65 percent of those killed by police. Disaggregating by gender reveals a further axis of asymmetry—men constitute nearly the totality of victims. This pattern recurs with mathematical regularity across national contexts, suggesting that what appears as local pathology is in fact structural. The pattern is not an aberration of Brazilian policing but the continuation of a doctrinal orientation born in colonial pacification campaigns, refined in twentieth-century counterinsurgency, and internalized into contemporary security infrastructures.

Police violence thus operates as a domestic extension of military rationality. The notion of an internal enemy—a figure to be monitored, pre-empted, or neutralized—anchors this orientation. The categories “Black” and “male” intersect here not merely as social descriptors but as operational variables. The military-age male, a central concept in Western rules of engagement, functions as a heuristic for threat perception: any male of fighting age within an enemy zone is presumed combatant unless proven otherwise. When transposed into domestic policing, this logic renders the racialized male perpetually suspect, a pre-legitimated target of force.

II. Cognition and the Intelligentization of Repression

The second figure, London (2020): GPS Tagging by Race and Gender, marks a transformation in the techniques of control. While the first visualization deals with lethal force, the second maps a subtler, digital architecture of containment: GPS monitoring, introduced under the rubric of “knife-crime prevention,” reveals that Black and Black-British individuals, especially men, are vastly overrepresented among those subjected to electronic tagging. This shift from kinetic to cognitive control exemplifies what the CG-IPTC terms the cognitization or intelligentization of warfare—the migration of military logics into algorithmic systems of prediction, surveillance, and population management.

GPS tagging, facial recognition, and predictive policing algorithms represent the algorithmic continuation of counterinsurgency by other means. The goal is no longer annihilation but continuous visibility—transforming life itself into an informational substrate for governance. Here, the enemy is not killed but computationally modeled; deviation is detected before transgression occurs. Yet the target remains consistent: the racialized male, rendered legible to the State through the apparatus of data. The very technologies developed for battlefields—geospatial mapping, biometric sensing, autonomous tracking—are repurposed for urban governance, reinscribing the distinction between the secure and the insurgent, the citizen and the threat.

III. The Androcentric Logic of Western Warmaking

Both visualizations expose the deep androcentricity of Western violence. The overwhelming male share of both victims and monitored subjects underscores how gender operates as a silent axis of militarization. The military-age male functions as the ontological anchor of threat in Western strategic thought. From colonial rebellions to contemporary counterterrorism, the presumption that the enemy is male, racialized, and of reproductive age structures doctrines of engagement and technologies of targeting alike.

This gendered logic is neither incidental nor merely descriptive. It encodes a worldview in which social order is maintained through the disciplined management of those deemed potentially insurgent. The Black male becomes a synecdoche for disorder, a living template upon which the rationalities of control are perfected. When lethal violence is no longer necessary, monitoring technologies extend this logic temporally—transforming the battlefield into a continuous theater of observation. The transition from the gun to the GPS does not mark a humanitarian advance but a reconfiguration of domination: from corporeal punishment to perpetual tracking.

IV. Descriptivism as Counter-Cartography

These visualizations are not neutral statistical illustrations; they are acts of counter-cartography. Each bar, ratio, and disparity invites philosophical reflection on how data can both conceal and reveal the moral architecture of power. By juxtaposing two distinct geographies—São Paulo and London—the exhibit situates these patterns within a transatlantic continuum of control. Despite differing legal frameworks and racial taxonomies, the same demographic—Black, male, economically marginalized—is differentially targeted, confirming the global circulation of counter-insurgent rationalities across the policing and military spheres.

Within the CG-IPTC's broader research trajectory, this series aims to render visible the epistemic continuity between empire and algorithm, between colonial reconnaissance and predictive analytics. The Institute's commitment to visual philosophy—using data visualization as a mode of critique—seeks to collapse the false division between empirical observation and conceptual analysis. In this sense, the visual is not supplementary but constitutive: it materializes the abstract structures of violence that otherwise remain diffuse and invisible.

V. Toward a New Philosophy of AI

The broader aim of this series is to advance a new philosophy of AI—one that countenances the militaristic genealogy of artificial intelligence, the patterns of targeting it now augments, and the necro-tragic consequences of this imposition of death in our algorithmic age. Artificial intelligence is not a neutral technological evolution but the latest articulation of the counter-insurgent paradigm. The same epistemic apparatus that once governed colonial mapping and military reconnaissance now informs predictive policing, drone warfare, and digital risk assessment. The intelligence once used to classify territories and populations has

become an intelligence that classifies lives themselves, rendering them calculable, expendable, and optimizable.

This new philosophy of AI must confront the fact that algorithmic systems do not merely reflect existing biases but operationalize a metaphysics of targeting. They inherit from the military the conviction that social order depends upon anticipatory control—that freedom is secured through surveillance, and peace through preemption. The necro-political consequence of this logic is a world in which the management of life is inseparable from the administration of death.

By revisiting the figures of the slain and the tagged—those rendered legible through force and code—this exhibit insists that the question of AI is inseparable from the question of who is rendered killable, traceable, or permanently watched. To think AI philosophically, therefore, is to think through the militarized architectures that made it possible and to reckon with the tragic continuity between the battlefield and the database.

Through this lens, Visualization Series No. 01 / 2025 inaugurates the CG-IPTC's effort to rethink AI as a technology of domination and to open a critical, decolonial discourse on intelligence—one that resists the logics of control and affirms the possibility of thought beyond targeting.