

Maaz Saad

Dr. Theresa Miedema

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Major Case Study – Case Summary

For my case study, I have decided to “Analyze the legal and ethical dimensions of algorithmic policing in Canada.” I have reviewed the four topics that we were presented with, and it was clear from the beginning that I would be interested in algorithmic policing, as this topic is immensely interesting and has been in the back of my mind for several years now.

There is an American television show, *Person of Interest*. And the entire synopsis of the show revolves around algorithmic policing. The hero policeman teams up with a software engineer who has developed an algorithm that predicts when and where a crime will take place. Additionally, over the summer, I watched this documentary, *Coded Bias*. And I vividly remember that the narrator walked us through some real-time AI-enabled policing taking place in the UK and its repercussions. Therefore, I have a fair bit of prior knowledge of this topic.

Through my research over the next few months, I wish to study what kinds of ethical notions rise when we look deeper into the concept and ideology of algorithmic policing. I believe that principles of autonomy will likely be of interest to me. How does a person feel safe taking any action in their daily life knowing that they might be arrested because an algorithm predicted that action to be a precursor to committing a crime? Would people feel differently if there was more transparency about what metrics were being used to build these models? Another ethical principle can be trust. How can a person trust the government when they know that the government doesn't trust them?

If we consider the law, the ramifications of algorithmic policing get even more dire. How can a person be considered a criminal in the eyes of the law if they have yet to commit a crime? Can the results of an AI system claiming that a person is likely to commit a crime be held up in a court of law? Furthermore, what would be the implications of making the wrong arrest? I understand that I might not be able to answer all of this, but these are my areas of interest.

All of this is assuming that our AI system is performing to the very best of its abilities. However, AI systems are not without their kinks. There can be any number of biases built into these models that can lead to false positives. These models examine a person's private and confidential data. So, it is imperative to have a conversation regarding the ethics of using personal data. We need to factor in a person's right to privacy while determining how much personal data can be used as a data point. It would be remiss if a person were to be detained because of algorithmic bias, and I want to look for examples of when it did happen.

For my case study, I would like to conduct a thorough analysis of the ethical and legal implications of algorithmic policing in Canada. I would like to study how ethical principles such as autonomy, transparency, and trust play a role in building policing models. Moreover, I will cover how Canadian law encompasses arrests made with the help of artificially intelligent systems. It remains to be seen just how many of these areas of interest I will be able to actually cover in my paper based on what my research turns up.