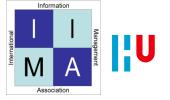


**IIMA 2023 Lunch Keynote** 

**Anand Sheombar** 

email: anand.sheombar@hu.nl

HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, The Netherlands



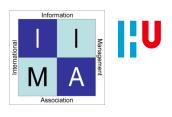
IIMA 2023 Conference
Information Security, Business
Intelligence, and Technology
Innovations: Advancing with
confidence towards a sustainable
technology-driven world
October 23 – 25, 2023 Las Vegas



# Keynote abstract

Lunch – Keynote 23 October

Tensions between a sustainable technology-driven world and today's digital dystopia...



The keynote addresses the tensions we face in today's digital world where dis/misinformation, aka 'fake news' and cyber-surveillance, are present.

Drawing from examples of research projects on online hate speech in Europe and globally, and the impact on digital rights for African citizens by the digital surveillance capabilities of some African governments, Anand Sheombar will discuss the implications this has on Information Technology and Information Management research.

How can we address these challenges?

Are we even aware of them as researchers?

Can we ensure that a sustainable technology-driven world is also a just world?

Some digital trends and technologies in development sector/humanitarian aid



We piloted a chatbot with Facebook to improve communication with refugees - here's what happened (what and didn't):

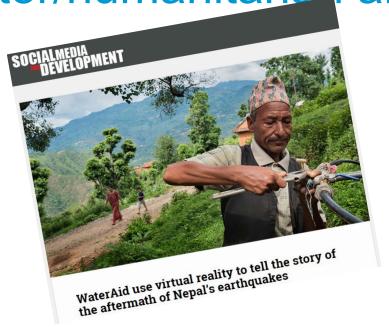


UNHCR.ORG

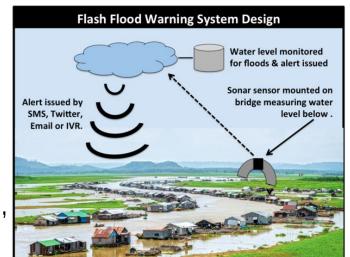
Chatbots in humanitarian settings: revolutionary, a fad or something in-between? - UNHCR Innovation



Drone/satellite images analyzed by artificial intelligence to 'harvest' statistical data from pictures

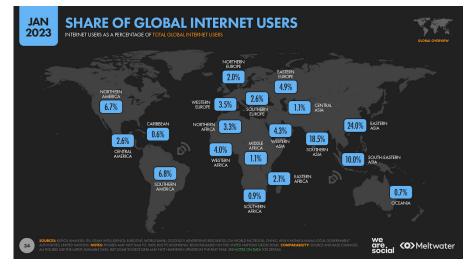


Internet of things (IOT)





Drones



## Technology for good?, ehh....



A.I. tools fueled a 34% spike in Microsoft's water consumption, and one city with its data centers is concerned about the effect on residential supply

BY MATT O'BRIEN, HANNAH FINGERHUT AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
September 9, 2023 at 5:01 PM GMT+2







central park will be shrouded in a flock of luminous drones by DRIFT this weekend

TECHBY VICE

#### Honolulu Police Used a Robot Dog to Patrol a Homeless Encampment

Local police used \$150,000 in COVID relief funds to purchase Boston Dynamics' four-legged robot, Spot.



By Todd Feathers

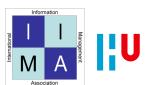
June 14, 2021, 6:00am



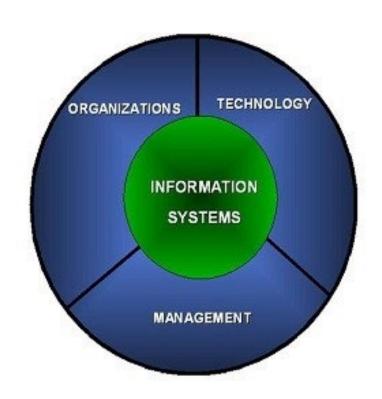




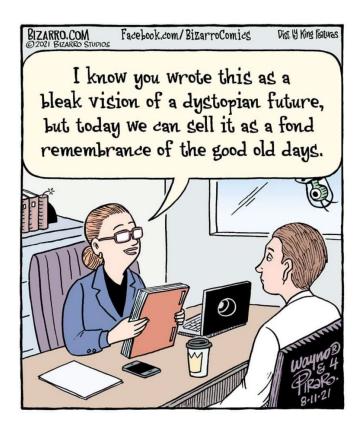




# Information Systems, Sustainability, Technology and Digital Dystopian Present?

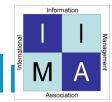






# Part 1: Challenges And Threats Posed By Dis/Misinformation And Online Hate Speech I Today's Digital World

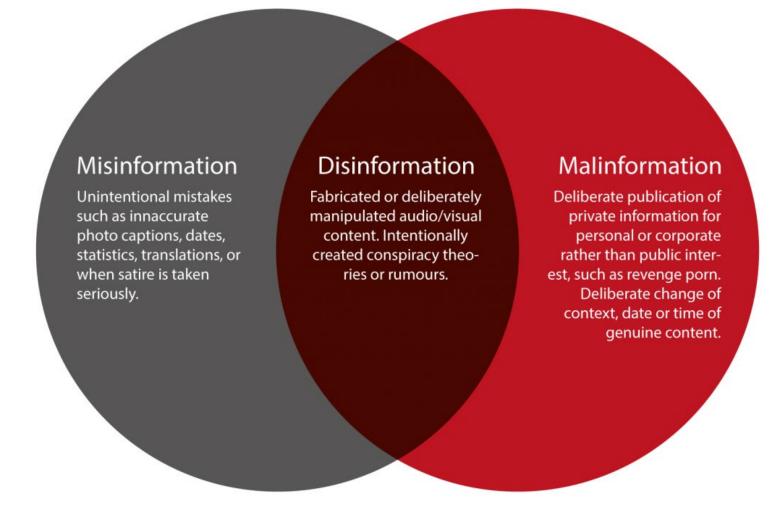
FALSENESS





INTENT TO HARM

Information disorder is an umbrella term for the various types of false, misleading, manipulated, or deceptive information(Wardle C., 2019).



#### **ESSENTIAL DIGITAL HEADLINES**

OVERVIEW OF THE ADOPTION AND USE OF CONNECTED DEVICES AND SERVICES



TOTAL POPULATION



UNIQUE MOBILE PHONE USERS



INTERNET USERS



**(0)** 

ACTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA USERS



8.01
BILLION

**URBANISATION** 

57.2%

**5.44** BILLION

vs. POPULATION

68.0%

**5.16** BILLION

vs. POPULATION

64.4%

**4.76**BILLION

vs. POPULATION

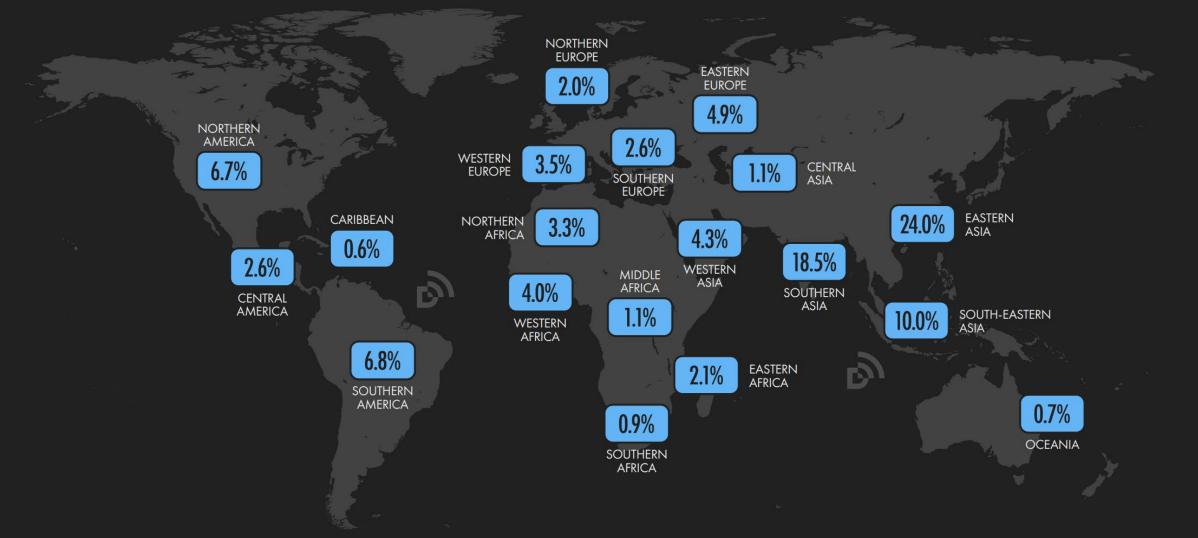
59.4%



#### **SHARE OF GLOBAL INTERNET USERS**

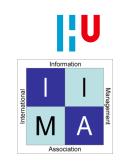
INTERNET USERS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GLOBAL INTERNET USERS

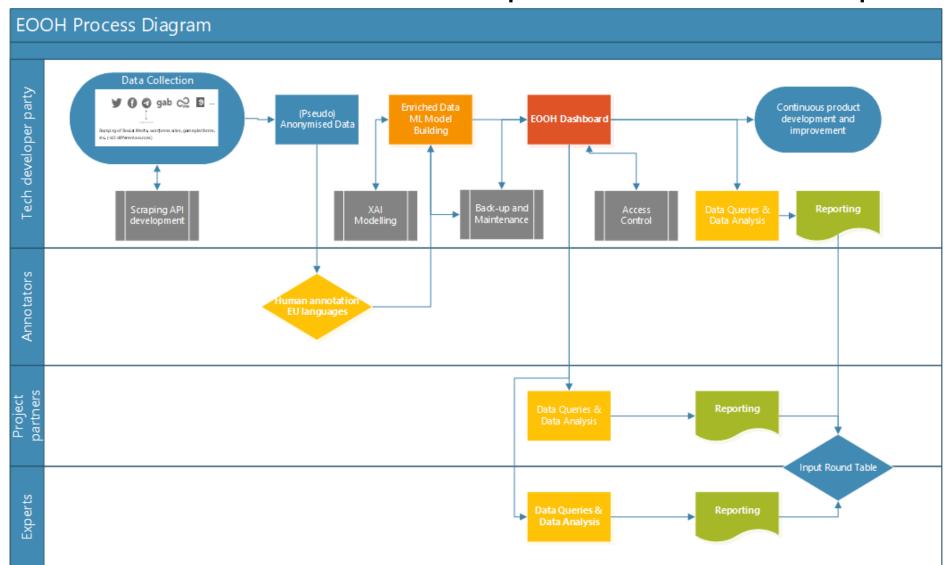




#### **EOOH** project

Visualisation of online hate speech collection and processing.



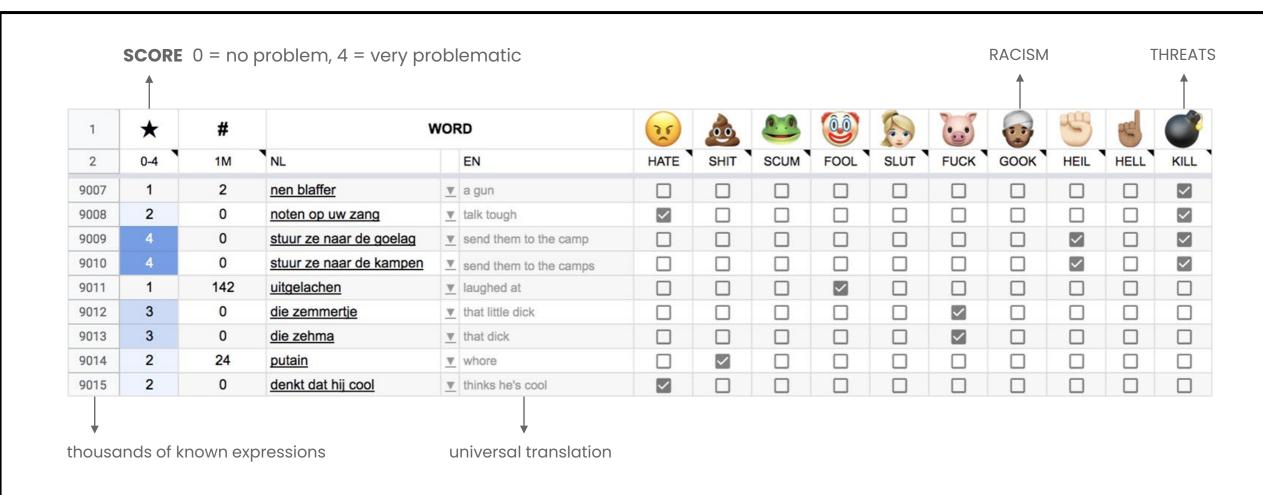




Project website EOOH.eu



#### EOOH project: Annotation Process - ongoing - categorising toxic language



### Online Gender-Based Violence

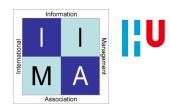
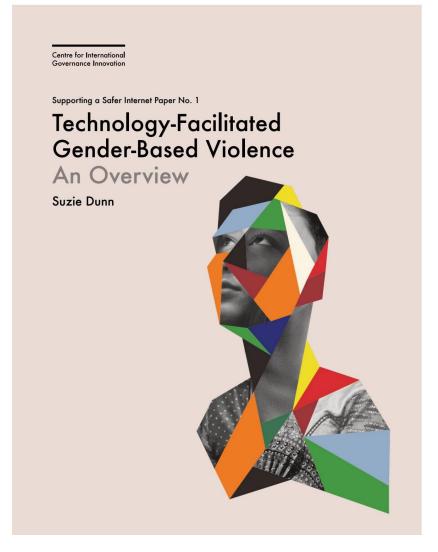




Image source: UNESCO



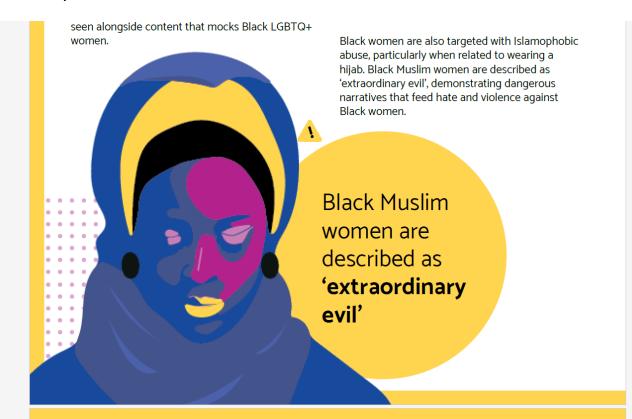
# Human in the loop...for Al-based hate special classification...annotation bias



- Annotators label sexism as less toxic than other forms of hate speech
- Annotators do not agree on sexism being hate speech in the first place
- Annotators seem to be biased against sexism
- Sexism seems to be one of the most normalized/accepted forms of hate speech

Source: misogyny online study from EOOH project

"Tech companies need to include expertise from a **variety of lived experiences** in Al annotation, implementation and interpretation." Glitch – Digital Misogynoi Report

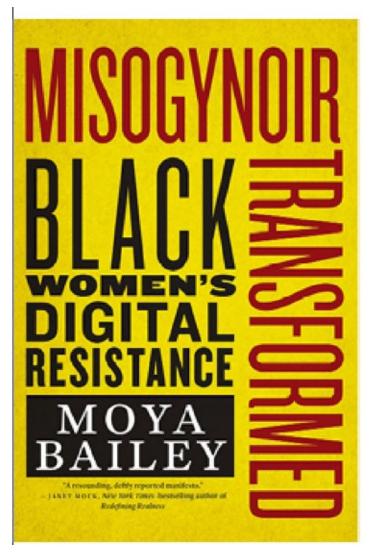


IIMA2023, keynote Oct 23

T

# Examples: Misogynoir & and Anti-Palestinian Racism are not well detected or toxicity levels too low (bias)

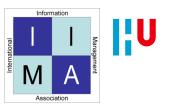






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### Al and Data Collection



When developing system that collects social media data for analysis using artificial intelligence, **ethical considerations** need to be taken into account (Kiritchenko and Nejadgholi, 2020)

- Mitigation of unintended biases
  - What constitutes hate speech
  - Sampling/topic bias
  - Annotator bias
- Transparency and explainability

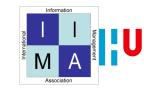
#### Hate speech



- The concept of (online) hate speech has arbitrary definitions.
- European Union's definition (EC, 2022): "hate speech is defined in EU law as the public incitement to violence or hatred on the basis of certain characteristics, including race, colour, religion, descent and national or ethnic origin."

IIMA2022, session 9, paper 1888

# Part 1B: ChatGPT, LLMs and other generative AI tools...and AI bias





#### Systemic bias in data models is a human rights issue

The tech industry must engage with those affected by data errors and embedded discrimination to avoid systemic bias in data models.

By: Isabel Laura Ebert & Thorsten Busch

Español Français



Al was asked to create images of Black African docs treating white kids. How'd it go?

October 6, 2023 · 7:44 AM ET By Carmen Drahl



A researcher typed sentences like "Black African doctors provising care for white suffering children" into an artificial intelligence program designed to generate photo-the images. The goal was to flip the steredype of the "white savior" aiding African children. Despite the specifications, the AI program always depicted the children as Black. And in 22 of over 350 images, the doctors were white.

\*\*Microwren For Weisen 5.1 American by IMFR.\*\*

#### ChatGPT proves that AI still has a racism problem

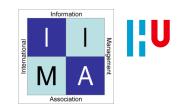
Even the most advanced artificial intelligence is hindered by the inherently racist data it's trained on.



https://restofworld.org/2023/ai-image-stereotypes/

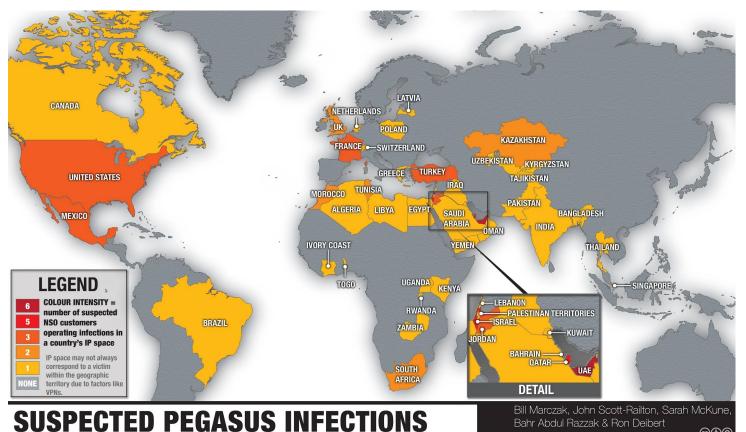


# Part 2: Challenges And Threats Posed By Cyber-surveillance And Digital Rights Violations In Today's Digital World



CITIZEN LAB 2018





A GLOBAL MAP MADE WITH DNS CACHE PROBING

# Al Surveillance vs Human Rights



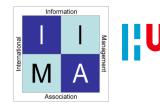


"Although the boundaries between AI as a model of the mind and AI as surveillance tools are blurry, a tool for "profit maximization" captures current AI" (associate professor Abeba Birhane in 2020)

Al-based biometric technologies are particularly prone to "function creep " and perpetuate discrimination (Access Now report 2023)



## African Digital Rights Network Sousveillance Research Question:



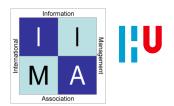
Who is supplying what technologies to whom with what effect on citizen's digital rights?

#### Five categories of surveillance technologies:

- 1. Internet interception intercepting private Internet communications
- 2. Mobile interception intercepting private mobile phone communications
- 3. Social Media Monitoring surveillance of social media interactions
- 4. Safe City / Smart City including CCTV and remote sensing surveillance.
- 5. Biometric-ID including facial recognition, iris scanning and fingerprint scanning.

These are categories of technologies that are well-researched and documented in the UK/USA/Europe but have yet to be well-documented in Africa.

## Examples of Suppliers & donor countries



Huawei launched a US\$1.5 billion fund to support the development of smart cities across Africa; for example, setting up digital infrastructure in Zambia where the WSJ reported it helped authorities intercept encrypted communications and use mobile data to track political opponents.



#### Huawei Technicians Helped African Governments Spy on Political Opponents

Employees embedded with cybersecurity forces in Uganda and Zambia intercepted encrypted communications and used cell data to track opponents, according to a Wall Street Journal investigation

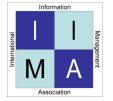


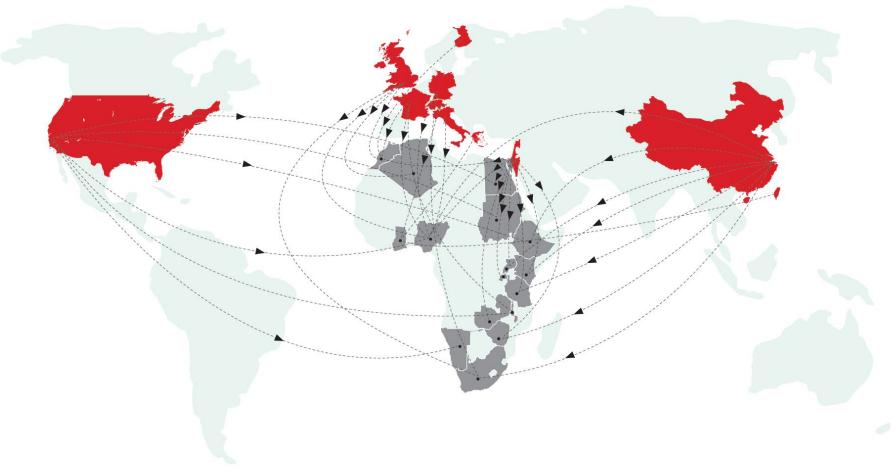


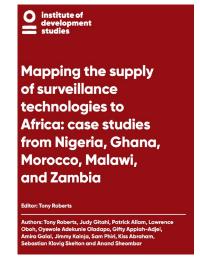
EU institutions, Frontex and the EEAS being investigated by the European Ombudsman over failures to conduct human rights assessments of their surveillance technology transfers to non-EU countries.



# Surveillance Supply Lines – ADRN project







Call for Chapter Abstracts for a New Book: 'Internet Shutdowns in Africa: digital rights, repression, and resistance.'

9 October 202

Call for Chapter Abstracts for a New Book:
'Internet Shutdowns in Africa: digital rights, repression, and
resistance'

Edited by Felicia Anthonio and Tony Roberts A collected edition to be published by Zed Books in 2025

Call for abstract

We invite abstract submissions for chapters to be included in a collected edition book on the implementation of internet shutdowns and chief responses.

SOURCE COUNTRIES

DESTINATION COUNTRIES

Source Roberts at al. (2033) or <a href="https://www.africandigitalrightsnetwork.org/our-publications">https://www.africandigitalrightsnetwork.org/our-publications</a>

Supplier country: China					
Technology	Supplier	Government	Examples		
Mobile interception	ZTE	Zambia	Via subsidiaries in Ghana, Nigeria, and Zambia – and also Côte d'Ivoire. Construction of a rural telephone service in Nigeria.		
Internet interception					
Social media monitoring	9				
Smart cities	Huawei	Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, and Zambia. Also Côte d'Ivoire.	Huawei launched a US\$1.5bn fund to support the development of smart cities across Africa; e.g. setting up digital infrastructure in Zambia where <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> reported it helped authorities intercept encrypted communications and use mobile data to track political opponents.		
Biometric ID	Huawei and ZTE	Ghana	Ghana received a US\$129m loan from China Exim Bank for extension of dedicated information infrastructure, including implementation of intelligent video surveillance by Huawei and ZTE.		

Source: Authors' own. Created using data from Takouleu (2018); Ofori-Atta and Kan-Dapaah (2019); Parkinson et al. (2019a,b); Huawei (2020, 2021, 2022); ZTE (2021); Burkitt-Gray (2022); Abdulaziz (2023).

#### Supplier country: EU and member states France (F), Germany (DE), and Italy (IT)

EU institutions, Frontex, and the EEAS are being investigated by the European Ombudsman over failures to conduct human rights assessments of their surveillance technology transfers to non-EU countries

Technology	Supplier	Government	Examples
Mobile intercep	tion		
	Altrnativ (F)	Côte d'Ivoire	Deal worth €13.8m for radio surveillance equipment and intelligence training
	Nexa Technologies (F)	Egypt	Surveillance software CEREBRO, which provides real-time surveillance of the mobile phones of targeted citizens and the collection of personal data and metadata
	Finfisher (DE)	South Africa	FinFisher Command and Control servers in South Africa
	Hacking Team, now active under the name Memento Labs (IT)	Morocco	Moroccan intelligence services used spyware Remote Control System and spent more than €3m on Hacking Team equipment
Internet interce	ption		
	Trovicor (DE)	Ethiopia	Communications surveillance equipment to the Ethiopian government
Social media m	onitoring		
	Altrnativ (F)	Multiple countries	Tailor-made search engine Targets, to retrieve publicly available data to analyse and identify connections between places, people, and organisations
Smart cities			
Biometric ID	EUTFA (EU)	Ghana	€5m project for 'Strengthening border security in Ghana' to enhance border checking and surveillance capacities of the Ghana Immigration Service
	EUTFA (EU)	Morocco	A €44m 'Support for integrated border and migration management in Morocco' project in 2018, including the acquisition of surveillance equipment for sea and land borders, as well as improving data use and cooperation with EU authorities

Source: Authors' own. Created using data from Marczak et al. (2014); Privacy International (2015a,b); Singh (2015); EUTF (2017); EC (2019); Canet et al. (2021); Mada Masr (2021); Braun (2022); Coluccini (2023); EUTF (2023).

To also also me	Committee	C	Formulas	
Technology	Supplier	Government	Examples	
Mobile intercept	tion			
	Circles	Morocco, Nigeria, and Zambia		
		Also Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, and Zimbabwe		Su
	NSO Group	Morocco, Nigeria, and Zambia	Developers of the	16
		Also Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, South	Pegasus spyware	int
		Africa, Togo, and Uganda		Int
	Team Jorge	Nigeria	Hacked into the phones of opposition leaders during the 2015 Nigerian election	So

	nation	Inform			
Management	1	1	Isnoiti		
gement	Α	М	Isnoitsmetni		
	iation	Assoc			

Technology	Supplier	Government	Examples	
Mobile interception	Israeli branch of US- based Verint Systems	South Sudan	Surveillance equipment to intercept communication	
Internet intercep	otion			
Social media	Dataminr	Nigeria	Monitoring student	
monitoring		Also Kenya and South Africa	demonstrations in Cape Town, South Africa	
Smart cities	Honeywell	Egypt	Surveillance systems for large smart city projects	
Biometric ID	Palantir	UN World Food Programme	International aid funds are used for digital surveillance of migrants and refugees	

#### **Biometric ID**

**Smart cities** 

Social media monitoring

Briefcam

Source: Authors' own. Created using data from Kwet (2019); Mwesigwa (2019); Marczak et al. (2020); Murray (2022).

South Africa

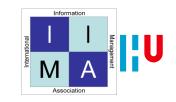
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'Video synopsis technology'

incorporated in smart city surveillance networks

in suburban areas.

Supplier countr	y: Russia		
Technology	Supplier	Government	Examples
Mobile intercep	tion		
Internet interce	ption		
Social media m	onitoring		
Smart cities			
Biometric ID	Rosoboronexport	17 sub-Saharan African countries, including Nigeria	Signed contracts worth US\$1.7bn



Source: Authors' own. Created using data from Hedenskog (2018); Ojoye (2021); Rosoboronexport (2021b).

Supplier country: UK					
Technology	Supplier	Government	Examples		
Mobile interception Internet interception	ETI (purchased by BAE)	Morocco, also Algeria, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE	Mobile and internet interception system called Evident		
Social media monitori	ng				
Smart cities					
Biometric ID		Ghana and Nigeria, also Côte d'Ivoire	Border and coastal surveillance		

Source: Authors' own. Created using data from BBC (2017).

## Motives for State Surveillance (Research-in-Progress)



Six motives for state surveillance identified including the suppliers' perspective:

- 1) Surveillance as legitimacy for state security,
- 2) Surveillance for political gain,
- 3) Surveillance as diplomacy,
- 4) Surveillance as a tool for development,
- 5) Surveillance as neocolonialism, and
- 6) Surveillance as business opportunity.

(source: Sheombar and Klovig Skelton 2023)

# Part 3: Implications And Recommendations For International Technology And Information Management Research.

How can we protect citizens, organisations and society from the dystopian effects of technological advances harming the individual citizen's freedom as well as the right of expression of groups and organisations as stipulated within the frameworks of human and international rights?

## Call to Action? More questions than Answers? | | | | | |



26

- How can we address these challenges?
- Are we even aware of them as researchers?
- Can we ensure that a sustainable technology-driven world is also a

Here are our calls to action for four groups of actors:

- 1. Tech companies
- 2. Governments and intergovernmental organisations (INGOs)
- 3. Research and civil society organisations
- 4. Online communities & digital citizens
- No one has the 'right answer', unless we intensify collaboration across disciplines and geographies?
- Multi-disciplinary research (for example, ICT & legislation) or collaboration with human rights organisations for scrutinising for harmful (un)intended consequences that deteriorate freedom and democracy?

# Thank you for your attention! Questions?

