



The politics of data-driven governance

Lina Dencik @LinaDencik

Data Justice Lab @DataJusticeLab

Cardiff University, UK

Structure

1. **Data Justice Lab**
2. **The Snowden moment**
3. **Beyond privacy**
4. **Situating data in practice (a case study)**
5. **Politics of data**
6. **Social justice response?**

Data Justice Lab

Exploring social justice
in an age of datafication



Lina Dencik



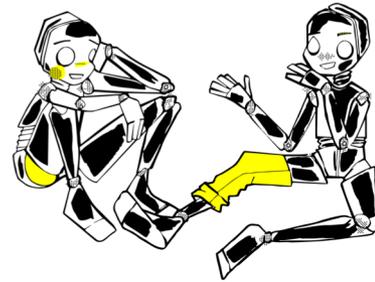
Arne Hintz



Joanna Redden



Emiliano Treré



Cate Hopkins



Jess Brand



Harry Warne



Isobel Rorison



Philippa Metcalfe



Fieke Jansen



Javier Sanchez

• • • • **Data**
• — • **Justice**
• • • • **Lab**

- Public launch: March 2017
- Situated within the School of Journalism, Media and Culture (JOMEC), Cardiff University, UK
- Expanding team (PhDs, post-docs, established scholars)

Projects:

- DATAJUSTICE (European Research Council, 2018-23)
- Data Scores: Investigating uses of citizen scoring in public services (Open Society Foundations, 2017-18)
- Data Policies: Regulatory Approaches for Data-Driven Platforms in the UK and EU (ITforChange/IDRC, 2017-18)
- Data Harms Record (ongoing)
- Big Data from the South (ongoing)
- Towards Democratic Auditing: Participation in the Scoring Society (Open Society Foundations, 2018-20)

Events/workshops:

- Data Justice Conference, 21/22 May 2018, Cardiff University
- Fact-finding and stakeholder workshops – practitioners and civil society
- Public events – policy-makers
- Critical data journalism / data justice journalism training

The Snowden moment



Digital Citizenship and
Surveillance Society: UK
State-Media-Citizen Relations
after the Snowden Leaks
(2014-2016)

Historical juncture

- Big data and surveillance capitalism as governance
- Normalisation of data collection and surveillance culture

Public and civil society response

- Digital resignation and surveillance realism
- Disconnect in understandings and concerns

The datafied society....



Refugee or Terrorist? IBM Thinks Its Software Has the Answer. *Defense One*



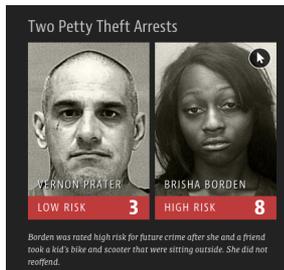
When your boss is an algorithm. *Financial Times*

Exclusive: Use of algorithms to identify families for attention raises stereotyping and privacy fears



▲ At least five councils have developed or implemented a predictive analytics system to safeguard children. Photograph: Alamy Stock Photo

Councils use 377,000 people's data in efforts to predict child abuse. *The Guardian*



Machine Bias: There's software used across the country to predict future criminals. *Propublica*

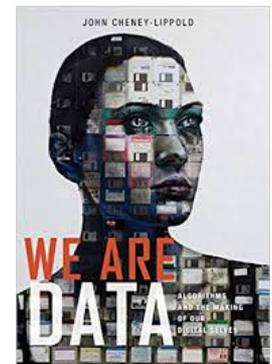
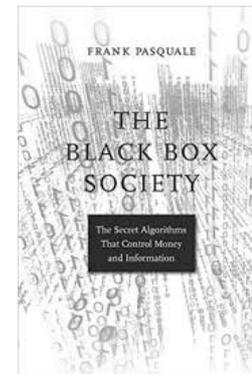
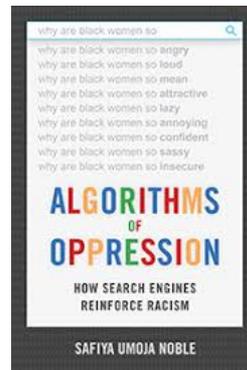
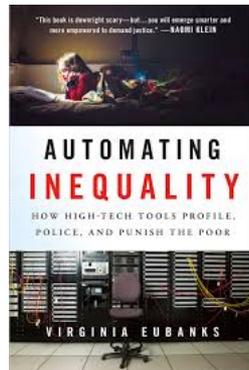
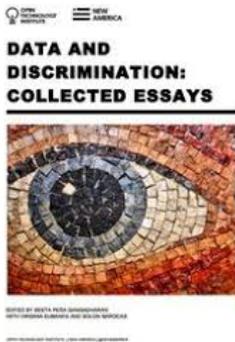


New Zealand experts warn Australia data-driven welfare 'abuses and brutalises'. *The Guardian*



What happens when an algorithm cuts your health care. *The Verge*

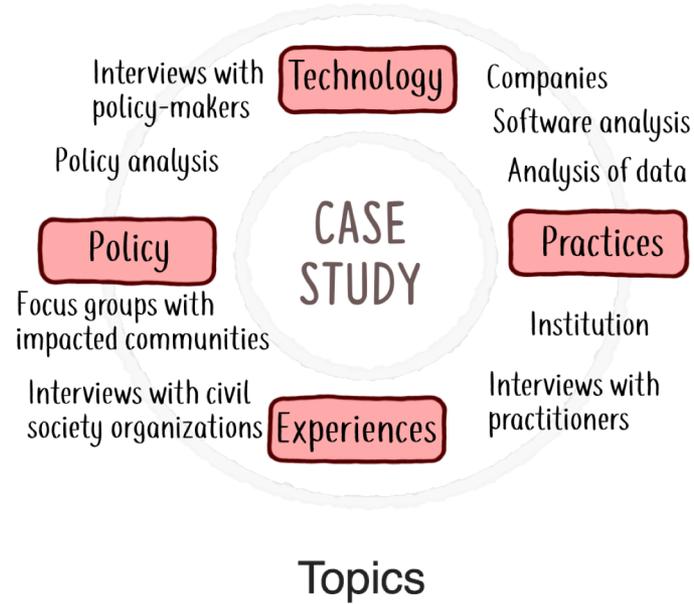
What is at stake? From privacy to fairness



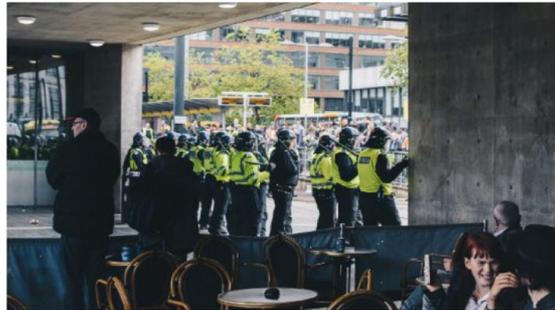
- Focus on 'data ethics'
 - Technological solution(ism) (e.g. 'debiasing' ML, fairness-by-design)
 - (Re)training engineers (e.g. ethics curricula)
 - Guidelines and principles (e.g. code of ethics, certification)

Neutralisation (depoliticisation) of challenges?

HOW? DATA JUSTICE



Border control and migration



Law enforcement and policing



Low-wage work

•••• Data
:—: Justice
:—: Lab
••••

“We are witnessing the gradual disappearance of the postwar British welfare state behind a webpage and an algorithm. In its place, a digital welfare state is emerging.”

Statement On Visit to the United Kingdom by Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, 16 November 2018

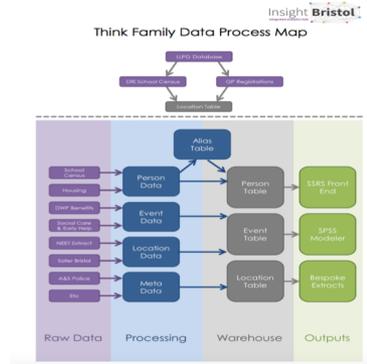
DATA SCORES AS GOVERNANCE: Investigating uses of citizen scoring in public services

- Comprehensive mapping and analysis of the use of data analytics by government and local authorities in the UK
- Desk research, automated searches (gov't and media), FoI requests
- Case studies: Interviews with public officials and civil society organizations
- Multistakeholder workshops
- Journalist training workshop



- 53 Councils
- 14 Police forces (Liberty report)
- Public-private partnerships (e.g. Capita, Xantura, CallCredit, Experian)
- Data warehouses and predictive analytics
- Prominent areas: benefit fraud, child welfare, policing
- Citizen scoring: identity verification, risk assessment, ranking

• <https://data-scores.org/overviews/predictive-analytics>



Code	Individual Name	Location	Category
10	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
15	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
18	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
19	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
20	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
21	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
22	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
23	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
24	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
25	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
26	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
27	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
28	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
29	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
30	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
31	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
32	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
33	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
34	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
35	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
36	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
37	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
38	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
39	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
40	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
41	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
42	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
43	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
44	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
45	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
46	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
47	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
48	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
49	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
50	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
51	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
52	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
53	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
54	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
55	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
56	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
57	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
58	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
59	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
60	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
61	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
62	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
63	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
64	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
65	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
66	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
67	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
68	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
69	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
70	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
71	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
72	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
73	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
74	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
75	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
76	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
77	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
78	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
79	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
80	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
81	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
82	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
83	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
84	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
85	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
86	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
87	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
88	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
89	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
90	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
91	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
92	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
93	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
94	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
95	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
96	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
97	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
98	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
99	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
100	Child / Adult perpetrator offence	ACC	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

The dashboard displays 'Offending History - A detailed view of previous offences'. It includes sections for:

- Offender Search:** LPA of offence, Management Programmes, Offender Managed by, Hate/CSE Tagged, Modern Slavery Flag, OIC Area (Wanted), OIC LPA (Wanted), Previous Burglar, Offending Date Period, Risk Ratings.
- Risk Category:** Breakdown of risk categories (High, Medium, Low).
- Offender Managed:** No (215701), Yes (15701).
- Escalating:** No (211402), Yes (15701).
- In Custody:** No (211402), Yes (15701).
- Individual Victims (Persons):** 210,324.
- Offending Trend:** Line chart showing Offences over time.
- Offence Group *:** Domestic Abuse Related (Yes: 22.8%, No: 81.1%), Domestic Abuse (181,875), Other Offences (63,975), Child Abuse (52,184), Child Abuse (126,117).
- Domestic Abuse Related:** Donut chart showing 22.8% Yes and 81.1% No.
- # of Occurrences by Post Code District:** Map of the UK showing crime density.
- Crime Detail:** Table of specific offences with columns for Occurrence Number, Link to Profile, Occurrence Created Date/Time, and Offence Type.

The dashboard displays 'Top Crime Victims, Offenders and Locations'. It includes sections for:

- Invalid visualization:** A placeholder for a broken chart.
- Bookmarked Date Ranges:** Last 7 days, Last 14 d., Last 28 d., All time.
- Crime Group:** OIC Area (Wanted), OIC LPA (Wanted), Previous Burglar, Offending Date Period, Risk Ratings.
- Offenders Linked to Crimes:** Horizontal bar chart showing counts for various offender categories.
- Victims Linked to Crimes:** Horizontal bar chart showing counts for various victim categories.
- Top Crime Locations:** Horizontal bar chart showing counts for various geographic locations.
- Organisations Linked to Crimes:** Horizontal bar chart showing counts for various organizations.
- Map:** A heatmap showing crime density across a geographic area.

Context of ‘citizen scoring’

Public sector workers

- Interpretive and regulatory vacuum
(heterogeneity of data practices)
- Austerity context
- ‘Golden view’
- Challenges seen as cultural and technical
- Lack of impact assessment

Civil Society

- Extent of data collection and sharing
- Bias and discrimination
- Targeting, stigma and stereotyping
- Lack of agency (professionals and service-users)
- Politics, not technology

Politics of data: Transformations in governance?

- **Expertise transferred to (commercial) calculative devices**
- **Citizens positioned as (potential) risk**
- **Rationalisation of lived experiences**
- **Individualisation of social problems**
- **Pre-emption over prevention**

•••• Data
•—• Justice
•••• Lab

Data justice – data as part of integrated social justice agenda





The politics of data-driven governance

Lina Dencik @LinaDencik

Data Justice Lab @DataJusticeLab

Cardiff University, UK