

Facial recognition

Surveillance

CCTV

Ø CCTV – Closed-circuit Television

a television system in which video signals are transmitted from one or more cameras by cable to a set of monitors, used especially for security purposes.



- The surveillance society
- A Big Brother society (1984)

- In *1984*, Orwell depicts a dystopian society under totalitarian rule, where truth is manipulated, individuality suppressed, and surveillance pervasive.



- ***dystopia***

an imagined world or society in which people lead wretched, dehumanized, fearful lives

an imagined state or society in which there is great suffering or injustice, typically one that is totalitarian or post apocalyptic.

Police use of facial recognition in Britain is spreading

The riots have given the technology a boost. Regulation is not keeping up
The Economist, Sep 3rd 2024

Britons spend large chunks of their lives on camera. The country has up to 6m closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras—one for every 11 people in the country, the third-highest penetration rate in the world after America and China. To help identify rioters in the wake of violent protests that swept parts of the country in early August, police officers are collecting footage from mosques and shops that were vandalised. Some are releasing CCTV footage to the public to identify suspects. Others are using another technology to get the job done—facial recognition.

Facial-recognition systems use artificial intelligence (AI) to match images to identities. Retrospective facial recognition of the sort being used to pursue rioters compares CCTV footage with suspects; real-time use involves live images being compared with the faces of people who have been placed on “watch lists”. The technology was used during King Charles’s coronation in 2023. Last year the South Wales Police scanned the faces of more than 819,000 people. In Haringey in north London, around 133 facial scans are performed every minute.

Surveys suggest that Britons accept the arguments for facial recognition. A poll taken in March by the Centre for Emerging Technology and Security and the Alan Turing Institute found that 60% of Britons are comfortable with the police’s use of the technology in real time to identify criminals in a crowd. That share is likely to have risen as a result of the riots. Sir Keir Starmer, the prime minister, has pledged to increase use of the technology in response to the disorder this summer.

That adds urgency to questions about how it is regulated.

Karen Yeung, a professor of law at Birmingham University, points out that there is no legislation specifically covering facial recognition.

There is, for example, no clear criterion determining when facial recognition can be deployed; instead decisions are left to the discretion of each police force.

There is no central register of AI technologies in Britain, either. Public bodies and all 43 police forces in England and Wales are free to employ any AI tools they like, making it impossible to know where and how they are being used. Critics argue that this lack of transparency could lead, among other things, to discrimination—some systems are better at recognising white faces, which may mean more false identifications of non-white individuals.

Fraser Sampson, the last surveillance-camera commissioner, argues that the lack of regulation could lead to a backlash against the technology. The survey in March also found that only 19% of Britons trust police forces to use biometric tools “responsibly”. A clearer regulatory framework would probably help build confidence. ■

DOC 2: Facial recognition technology could soon be everywhere – here's how to make it safer

The Conversation, July 4 2023

The recent coronation of King Charles III was a high-profile example of when facial recognition technology has been used to monitor a crowd, but there are plenty of others. The technology is used by law enforcement all over the UK and other countries.

It's now common in US airports. It's being used to monitor refugees and identify dead bodies in Ukraine. Even Beyoncé fans have been subjected to it.

And there's more to come. The UK government is reportedly planning to add facial recognition to the police's body-worn devices, drones and numberplate cameras. It may soon be very difficult to leave your house without having your face scanned.

There are serious questions about whether the benefits of this technology outweigh such concerns.

Why should this be of concern to law-abiding citizens? Civil liberties groups argue facial recognition use in public places affects our privacy and freedom, particularly in terms of its ability to track individuals at mass gatherings and to potentially engage in racial profiling.

Security cameras have long captured us as we went about our daily lives. However, authorities easily being able to put a name to a face in the video footage is something we're not so used to.

The technology creates a situation where many more people could get caught in the sights of the authorities than before. A person's casual indiscretions or errors of judgement can now be easily tracked and linked to a name and address.

Those with a criminal record could be targeted in public based on their past, regardless of whether they intend to carry out any illegal activity. The technology could provide new opportunities for racial profiling, where authorities track or suspect people based on their background, rather than because of specific information about them.

Facial recognition could also be used against people with no criminal past or plans to commit a crime but who the police simply want to stop, such as protesters.

It's also important to recognise facial recognition technology still suffers from inaccuracies, which can result in false positive matches where an innocent person is mistaken for a known criminal.

With facial recognition posing such perceived threats, it could have a chilling effect on free speech and demonstrations

It is the responsibility of the state to ensure the privacy and security of its citizens in order to foster a healthy society. But if facial recognition is implemented in a way that a significant proportion of citizens feel infringes their rights, it could create a culture of suspicion and a society where few people feel safe expressing themselves publicly.

The Economist	The Conversation		
<p>CCTV is everywhere in the UK</p> <p>Riots in the UK (2024) : police are using CCTV AND facial recognition to identify rioters</p> <p>→ compare live images with pictures of people that may be suspicious → fast and efficient</p> <p>The population tends to support the use of facial recognition (60%) K Starmer is planning to use it more and more</p> <p>BUT : questions about regulation</p> <p>-No legislation -When can it be used : unclear -What system are the police using? → could lead to racial discrimination or mistakes</p> <p>This could lead to more angry or negative reactions.</p> <p>So clear regulation is needed.</p>	<p>Facial recognition is gaining momentum</p> <p>Will keep growing in the years ahead</p> <p>→ citizens' faces may soon be scanned as soon as they go out.</p> <p>This raises questions</p> <p>- no problem for people who respect the law?</p> <p>-threat to privacy & freedom :</p> <p>Now, the police can match sb's face with their names & addresses (≠ what CCTV used to do)</p> <p>Everybody makes mistakes = can more easily be identified</p> <p>People with a record can be tracked even if they haven't done / aren't doing anything wrong</p> <p>Risk of more racial profiling</p> <p>Can be used to identify protesters → threat to free speech and the right to protest</p> <p>In Facial Recognition violated the rights of citizens, it will deter them from publicly speak their mind = dangerous.</p>		

PLAN

~~1 It has some good sides~~

~~a. First~~

~~b. Moreover~~

~~c. Finally~~

~~2 But it also has some bad sides~~

~~a. First~~

~~b. In addition~~

~~c. Furthermore~~

DS3 – 14 janvier 2026 (2h) ✍️

• AVANT LE DS

- Revoyez la fiche méthodologique
- Revoyez le corrigé de la synthèse sur “Overtoursim”
- Relisez les textes 1 et 2 et revoyez le cours du 07/01

-  **RAPPORTEZ LES DOCUMENTS 1 et 2** 

-  **RAPPORTEZ VOTRE TABLEAU** 

• PENDANT LE DS (2h)

- Lire les DOCS 3 & 4 (un article et un doc iconographique)
- Prendre des notes dans le tableau
- Trouver un plan et une problématique
- Rédiger une synthèse en 300 à 400 mots

Pour ce devoir, l'introduction devra comporter

- Une accroche
- La présentation des documents (natures, source, date)
- Une problématique

• A LA FIN DU DS

Rendre

- Votre tableau
- Votre plan détaillé
- Votre synthèse