

Coded Bias?

an annotated reading list on facial recognition

Curated by Yue Zhao, March 2021

if you have 10 minutes, read this:

What is at stake here? In a nuclear metaphor, Luke Stark explains the “toxic” nature of facial recognition.

Stark, Luke (2019). Facial recognition is the plutonium of AI. *XRDS: Crossroads, The ACM Magazine for Students*, 25(3), 50–55. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3313129>

if you have 2 hours, read these:

How layers of social and technical infrastructures make facial recognition systems possible – and also hard to contain.

Keyes, Os (2019). *The Bones We Leave Behind*. Real Life. <https://reallifemag.com/the-bones-we-leave-behind/>

The surveillance of black bodies in America has a past, and it goes back to transatlantic slavery.

Browne, Simone (2015). B@nding Blackness. In *Dark Matters: On the Surveillance of Blackness*. Duke University Press, 89-129.

How portrait photography has been historically used as a means of social control.

Sekula, Allan (1986). The Body and the Archive. *October*, 39, 3–64.

What the future might look like? In this podcast episode, host Jennifer Strong dives inside the discussion around the regulation of facial detection.

Who Owns Your Face? (2020, August 12). In *Machines We Trust*. MIT Technology Review.

Spaces of resistance in the eyes of two artists:

To protect individual privacy, Zach Blas explores ways of “black-boxing the self” by morphing the face into something unrecognizable by machines.

Zach Blas: *Facial Weaponization Suite* (2011-2014)

Paolo Cirio reverses surveillance and questions the asymmetrical power relationship between the state and its citizens.

Paolo Cirio: *Capture* (2020)

if you want to dig deeper, read these:

After 9/11, the US government institutionalized facial recognition to monitor its people. Kelly Gates on how we became “biometric citizens” in the name of national security.

Gates, Kelly. (2011). *Our Biometric Future: Facial Recognition Technology and the Culture of Surveillance*. NYU Press.

What happens when facial recognition systems fail – and what those failures tell us.

Magnet, Shoshana (2011). *When Biometrics Fail: Gender, Race, and the Technology of Identity*. Duke University Press.

Racialized norms were built into automated facial recognition systems in the 1960s, and they persist until today.

Dick, Stephanie. (2019, September 30). “*The Standard Head*.”

Beyond public surveillance, commercialized use of facial detection shapes how we see ourselves.

Fan, Jiayang. (2017, December). China’s Selfie Obsession. *The New Yorker*.

In a science fiction story, Ted Chiang reflects on how visual technology might disrupt or reproduce gender and racial ideologies.

Chiang, Ted. (2010). Liking What You See: A Documentary. In *Stories of Your Life and Others*. Knopf.

It’s not just humans – animals are also being “watched.”

LaPenne, A (Director). (2020). Surveillance (season 1, ep. 1). In *Connected: The Hidden Science of Everything*. Netflix.

The efforts and challenges of governing biometric systems from a global perspective.

Kak, Amba (ed.) (2020). *Regulating Biometrics: Global Approaches and Urgent Questions*. AI Now Institute.

**Digital
Due
Process**

The **Digital Due Process Clinic** is a research program at Cornell University, where faculty and students work together on behalf of people struggling with automated scoring systems.

Contact: dueprocess@cornell.edu | **Web:** <https://dueprocess.sts.cornell.edu>