"Data-driven policing: unboxing the contested social practice of predictive policing as a form of power"

THE DIGITAL CONDITION AND HUMANITIES KNOWLEDGE, 22-24 SEPT 2022, MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART, ATHENS, GREECE

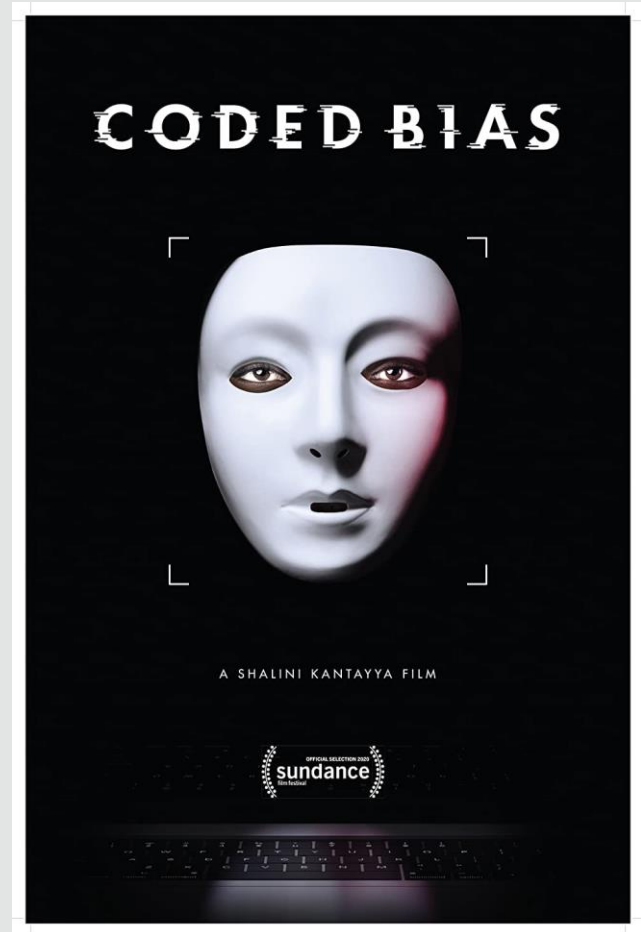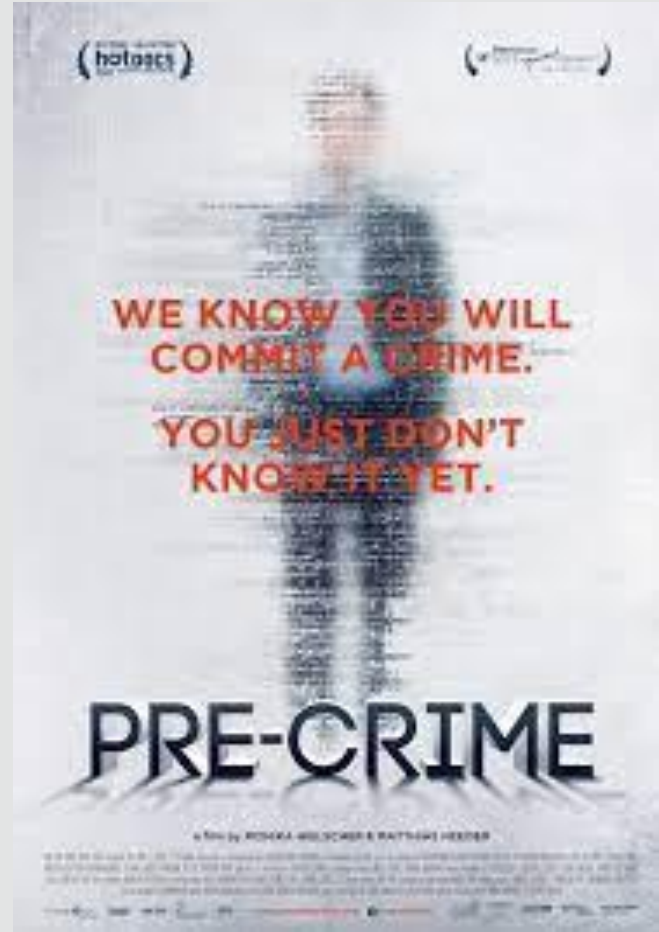Giorgos Mattes & Vasilis Galis
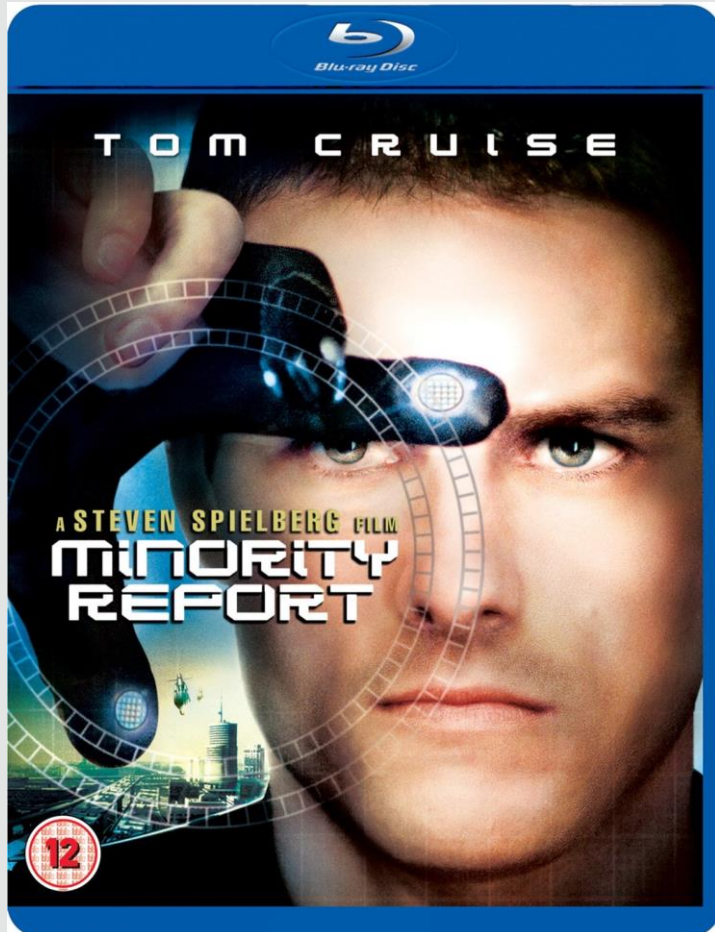
https://cuppresearch.info

CUPP
Critical Understanding
of Predictive Policing

IT University
of Copenhagen

SCIENCE FICTION OR REALITY?

CUPP project

CUPP

Critical Understanding
of Predictive Policing

2021-2023

NordForsk

OVERARCHING RESEARCH QUESTIONS

❏ What does **digitalised law enforcement** mean and how is it practiced in Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Norway, Sweden and the UK?

❏ How is effective upholding of **human rights, transparency, and public participation** ensured in the development, implementation and use of digital policing technologies?

❏ What **values, politics and affordances** are embedded in digital policing technologies, and how are these negotiated and transformed before and after implementation?

Conceptual Considerations

- [Police] have never been non-technological [modern]: technology and materiality shapes/performs policing into a specific assemblage (Latour, 1993; Deleuze & Guattari, 1987; Stevnsborg, 2010; Foucault, 2020; Volquartzen 2013)

- Diversity in practices and sociotechnical imaginaries. What is generated, institutionally stabilized and performed by shared understandings of forms of crime and social order (i.e Jasanoff, 2015)?

- How is ideology (Althusser, 2020) on crime, policing and security translated in and out of sociomaterial systems?

- How is data fed into POL-INTEL, how is it processed, what is its output and what kind of social relations, public policy, legal frameworks and police practices do they perform? (Kaufmann, 2018; Kaufmann & Leese, 2021)

Case studies of digital and datafied law enforcement tools

DENMARK	General crime	❏ POL-INTEL - Intelligence-led policing platform
NORWAY	Youth crime/gangs	❏ Risk assessment tools
LATVIA	Road traffic safety	❏ Future Intelligent Transport Systems ❏ Unmarked police bus with a 360-degree camera, drones ❏ Police body-worn cameras ❏ Smartphone apps allowing citizens to report crimes and incidents
ESTONIA	Data instead of humans on the move	❏ Genetic engineering (CRISPR-Cas9) ❏ E-residency and digital migration ❏ Border control & smart city
SWEDEN	General crime Enhanced policing power for security guards	❏ Status ❏ Gothenburg's Brunnsparken
UK	Urban public space policing	❏ London's St Pancras

Methods: recent historiography + ethnographic investigation + interventionist analysis

The liberal state paradox

SOME CROSS-CUTTING ELEMENTS

I.   Diversity of agents and objects of surveillance

II. Demarcation of spaces of surveillance

III. (Co)production of knowledge

IV. (Re)definition of public and private space

V.   Shifting human and non-human agency and patterns of authority

VI. Diversity of agentive experiences and responses to surveillance

(I) Diversity of agents and objects of surveillance

Agents

- ❏ Police officers
- ❏ Civilians (citizen-led/-assisted policing)
- ❏ Developers
- ❏ Policy makers

Objects

- ❏ Place/location
- ❏ Property
- ❏ Technology

Hybridity of agents/objects

- ❏ Self-surveillance
- ❏ Counter-surveillance/sousveillance

(II) Demarcation of spaces of surveillance

- Public squares
- Road infrastructure
- National border
- Risk areas/neighbourhoods/ghettos
- Digital space: e.g., Social media

- Hot-spots
- Exceptional spaces
- Legal geographies
- Creation of visible and invisible borders in public spaces
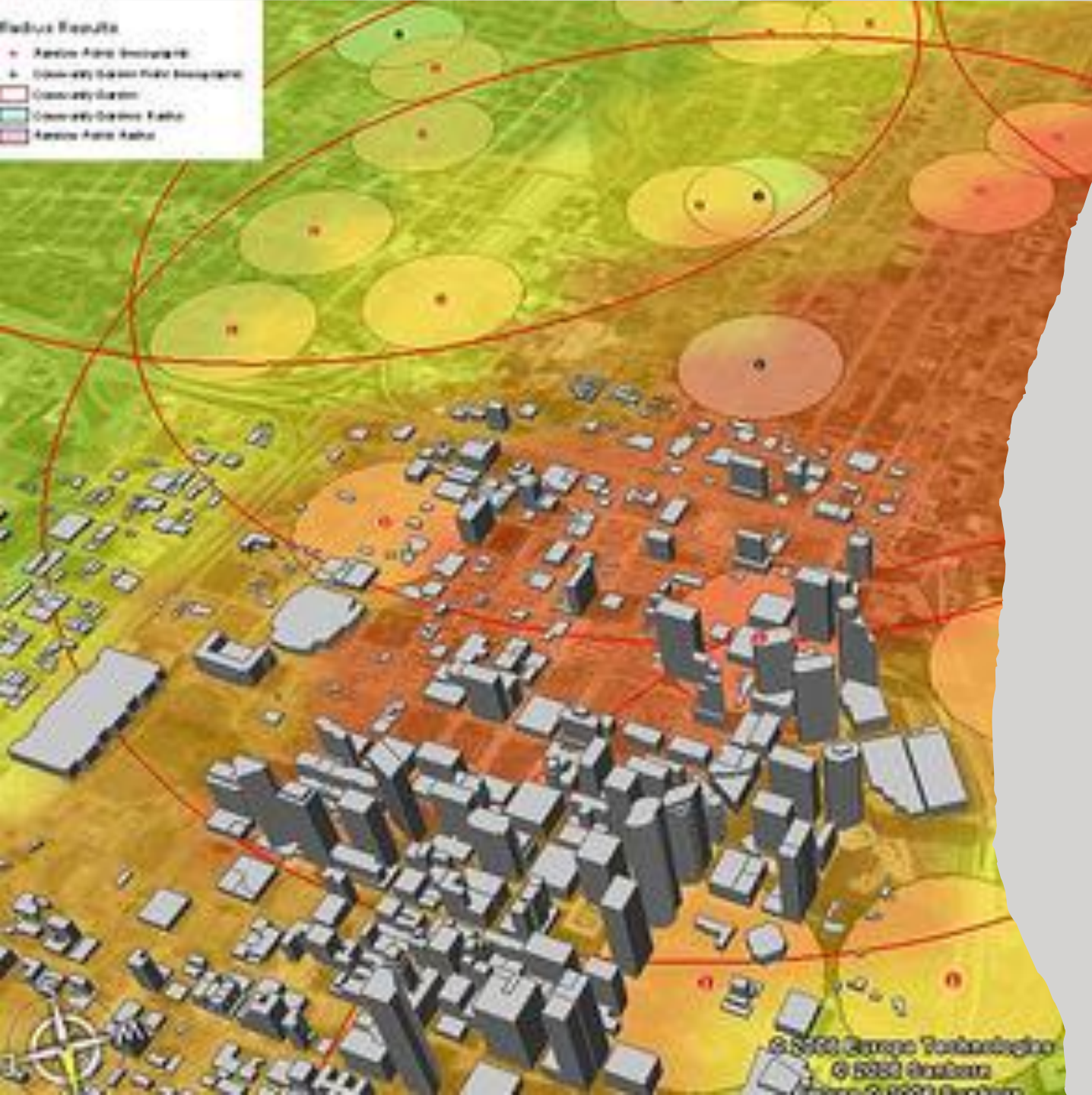
(III) (Co)production of knowledge

- Co-production of crime and criminals

- Impact of input data on prediction outcomes

- Elimination of human bias vs. reproduction of prejudice

- Social biases (race/class/age/gender and beyond)

  - Stigmatisation

  - Discriminatory profiling

  - Automating inequality

- Automation of human diversity

(IV) (Re)definition of public and private space

- Changing nature of publicness and public space

- Public security / privacy

- Hybridisation of law enforcement and private security industry

- Autonomy / sovereignty vs. global governance of data technologies

- Data glocalisation vs. cosmopolitan localism

(V) Shifting human and non-human agency and patterns of authority

- Digital tools and physical artefacts
- Distributed agencies of human and material elements
- From human-to-human to human-to-computer and computer-to-human interactions
- Automated decision-making
- Performativity of the algorithm

(VI) Diversity of agentive experiences and responses to surveillance

- Public understanding of policing
- User acceptance / negotiation / rejection
- Individual and collective forms of response and/or resistance
- Changing ways in which people experience public space

All Conclusions Are Beautiful

- The image of digital policing as a systematic, objective, scientific endeavour is challenged. Althusserian *ideology* reloaded.

- The boundaries between Big Data policing, Intelligence-Led Policing, predictive policing, etc. are artificial.

- Digital policing, a boundary object.

- Digital policing, a new digital expression of the state monopoly of violence.

- Bias in, bias out. Another story of class, gender, race and ethnicity

Sweden - The case of STATUS

Research questions:

➢ HISTORICAL/TECHNICAL TRACES (EVOLUTION)

➢ ETHNOGRAPHIC INVESTIGATION (IMPLEMENTATION)

➢ INTERVENTIONIST ANALYSIS (IMPACT)

Historical/technical traces of STATUS/Qlik (evolution)

Strong bond between state and field of computer science

- '40s-'70s: Operations Research Program for military purposes

- '70s-'80s: Future Studies Program with applications on Public Services and Industry

- 1993: Est. Qlik in Lund (Skåne)

- 1993: RAR Criminal Statistics System, by Qlik

- 2007: COPS System of Measurement and Follow up, by Qlik

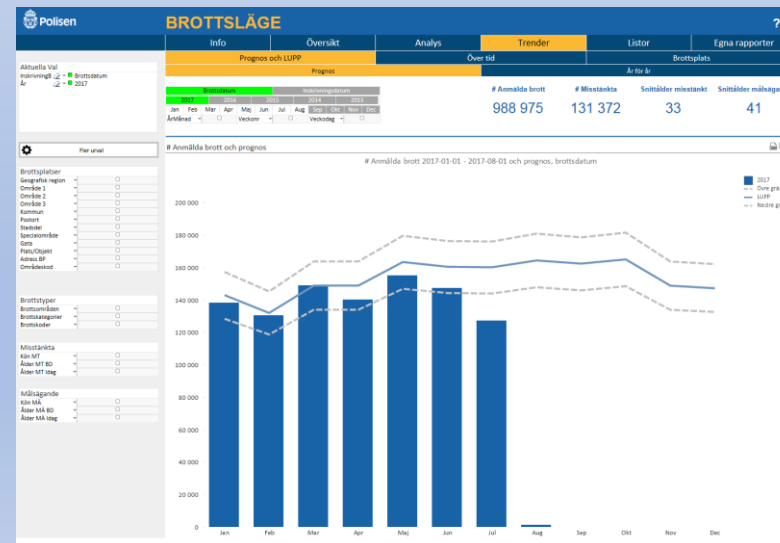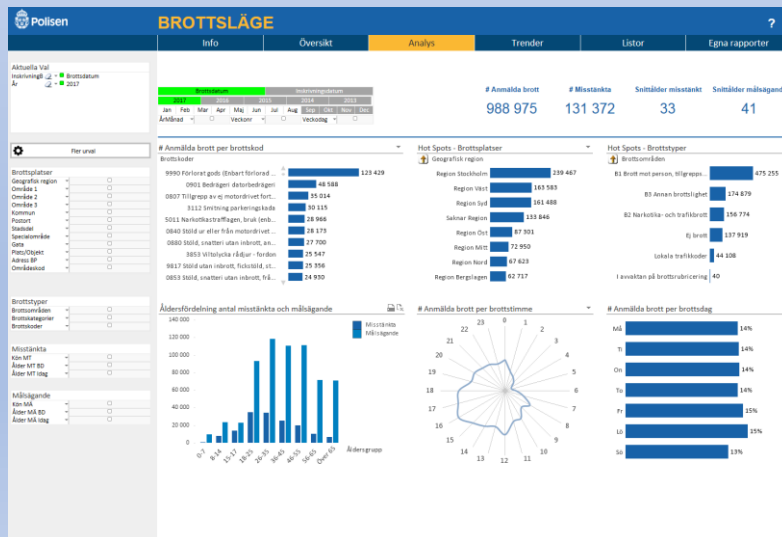- 2011: STATUS System, integrated COPS, RAR, DUR, STORM, AGRESSO systems

STATUS System of unified "Polisen"

Supports:

- **Operational** - Daily employee level decisions

- **Tactical** - Managerial level decisions

- **Strategic** - Senior executives level decisions

Bottom - Up

Qlikview screenshots 2017
(Personal archive)

Thank you!

gmattes@phs.uoa.gr

vgal@itu.dk