

Participatory victimization? Tensions in security technologies directed to citizens

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Security technologies in Sweden: two cases

- Societal shifts involve new focus, actors, responsibilities:
 - Sweden becoming "the best in the world" at digitalisation
 - Welfare state → Security state → Security → Insecurity
 - Police, new actors/responsibilities: New law (2023:196), new private and administrative actors, new users, new market
 - Plural (Loader, 2000), abstract (Tersptra et al, 2019), even benevolent (?) policing → prevention
- Prioritizations and knowledge in digital crime prevention (2022-2023)
 - Digital system aiming to respond to the new demands, municipal actors and their work and expectations
- Promises and consequences in security technology (2024-2025)
 - Apps directed to the public (at least initially)



Approach and where are we now?

STS & Sociology producer/user relations, public participation/ coproduction, responsabilisation (Garland, 1995; Wood, Ross, & Johns, 2022) for understanding establishment:

1. What apps are available in the field, and how are the purposes, functions, users, and use formulated for different initiatives?
 - Hybrid coalitions, e.g. influencers/startups, adm./academic/private
 - Common features of apps for “ordinary citizens”:
 - Building communities for prevention and safety
 - Alarm functions: to community, alarm central or private guards
 - Sharing data/joint heat maps with community/whoever uses the app
 - Communication within app
 - Reporting crime, and/or activities of in/securities on a map
 - **Narrow possibilities for participation**



Approach and where are we now?

2. How do producers motivate initiatives?

Interviews/observations companies, coalitions of actors

- Citizen app → redirected focus housing companies, municipalities
- Neighborhood cooperation → redirected focus to schools
- Third case?

3. How do users practice the apps?

- Publics in particular: elementary school and university staff using technology for PDV (ongoing deadly violence), key concept
- Public officials: political visions vs procurement of technologies

Tentative ideas from mapping and first interviews

4. What opportunities and tensions can be observed in relationships producers/users, e.g. existing/new actors/needs/initiatives

- Public disinterest in tech. \leftrightarrow producer disinterest in the public
 - Ordinary citizens after all not useful users?
 - At least not profitable users
 - Participation argument dissolves into new arguments on e.g. teachers
 - Initiatives strive for recognition at municipal or police level
 - “Ridicule risk”: no matter if apps are “basic” or even “dead”, data still exist/is used. For what, by whom, and when?
 - An example \rightarrow



Thank you!

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