Neo-terrorism on the individual in a 21st century Western liberal democratic context: a practice-based PhD-level research proposal

secrecy.plus

nonconformist | secrecy +ve | totalsurveillance-compliant

author and presenter:
mil williams

founder: **secrecy plus**
positive@secrecy.plus

Neo-terrorism on the individual (NOI): what do we mean?

A proposed PhD-level investigation into the visual language and communication systems of a tech-driven gaslighting – what the author calls "neo-terrorism on the individual" – in the framework of:

❑   the picture superiority effect and

❑   nudge theory, and

the resulting weaponisation of a mental distress aimed at modifying democratic behaviours and discourse in Western liberal democracies and their citizens.

Introduction to this research proposal

My name is Mil Williams. In 1983, I graduated in Film & Literature at the University of Warwick, England. In 2002, I completed a University Master in Publishing from the University of Salamanca, Spain.

I have a recent MA in International Criminal Justice from Liverpool John Moores University, where I took a particular interest in UN law, crimes of the powerful, surveillance and sousveillance, and the re-purposing of mental health legislation for criminal justice ends.

My dissertation discussed the relationship between the modern British state and surveillance understood in its widest sense.
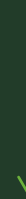
Legal reach

The PhD would focus in the first instance on ethnographic experiences in the EU.

The first experiment would aim to evidence the existence of covert communication systems used by networks to the detriment of ordinary experiences of Western liberal democratic citizens.

The second would involve the development of software, already conceptualised and with an existing roadmap to market of ten months in the first phase, which would serve to make it possible to evidence and validate intuitive perceptions and knowledge of victims of organised crime and neo-terrorism on the individual, to the necessary satisfaction of existing criminal justice systems.

Methodologies proposed

This author proposes building on the ethnography used in his MA dissertation on surveillance & sousveillance and the 21st century state.
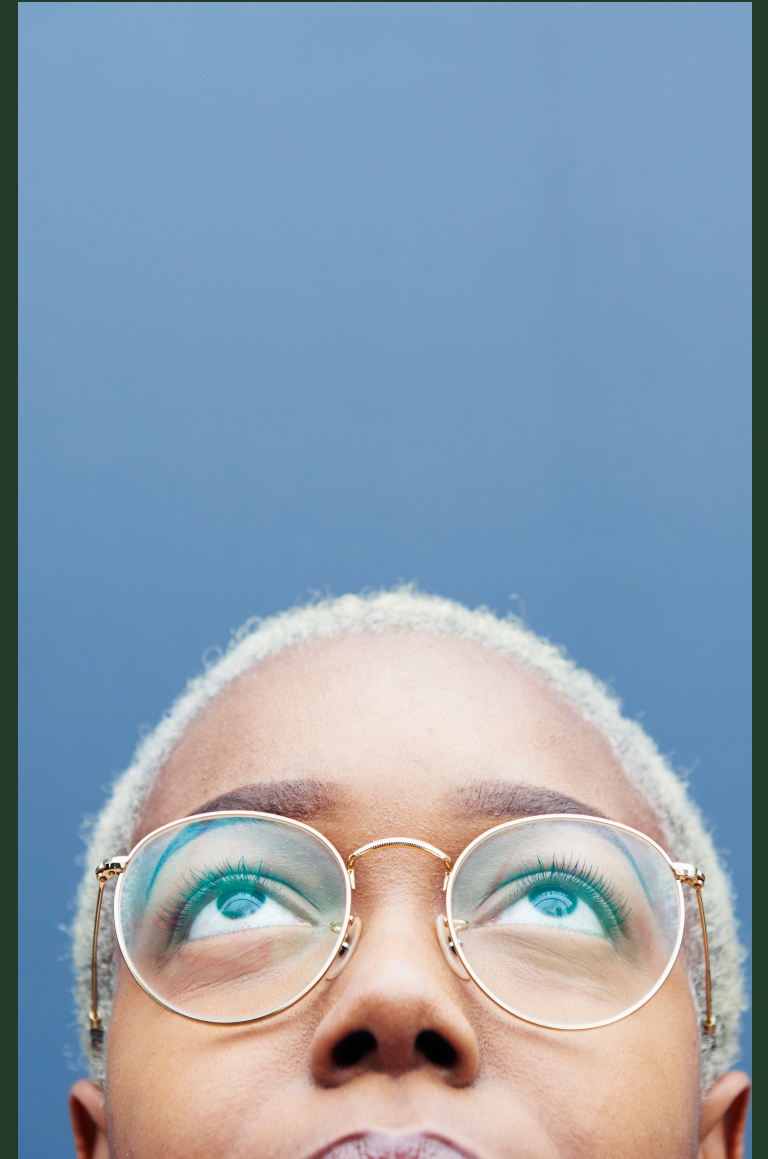
The second half of the proposed PhD's experimental procedures would use intuition capture, evidencing and validation tools and software platforms specifically developed to this end, whose outcomes would be validated using AI-like tools, also designed and developed to this same end.

Abstract

Terrorism aims to induce a very public fear into the masses via efficient and cost-effective acts of violent theatre. "Neo-terrorism on the individual" (NOI) (that is, a tech-driven longitudinal gaslighting conducted against massive numbers of targeted individuals) involves:

❑ terrorising concrete and discrete individuals over extended periods of time,

❑ via covert, stealthy and difficult-to-share life events,

❑ subliminally sensed experiences, and

❑ sociophysical relationships.

Such relationships and exchanges, couched in the main in visual communication systems and modes, are challenging to detect and therefore properly give credence to, even for the objects themselves of such acts of neo-terrorism; but are nevertheless impactful on the individuals they are aimed at, in both their ultimate life and professional trajectories.

Research reference- and starting-points

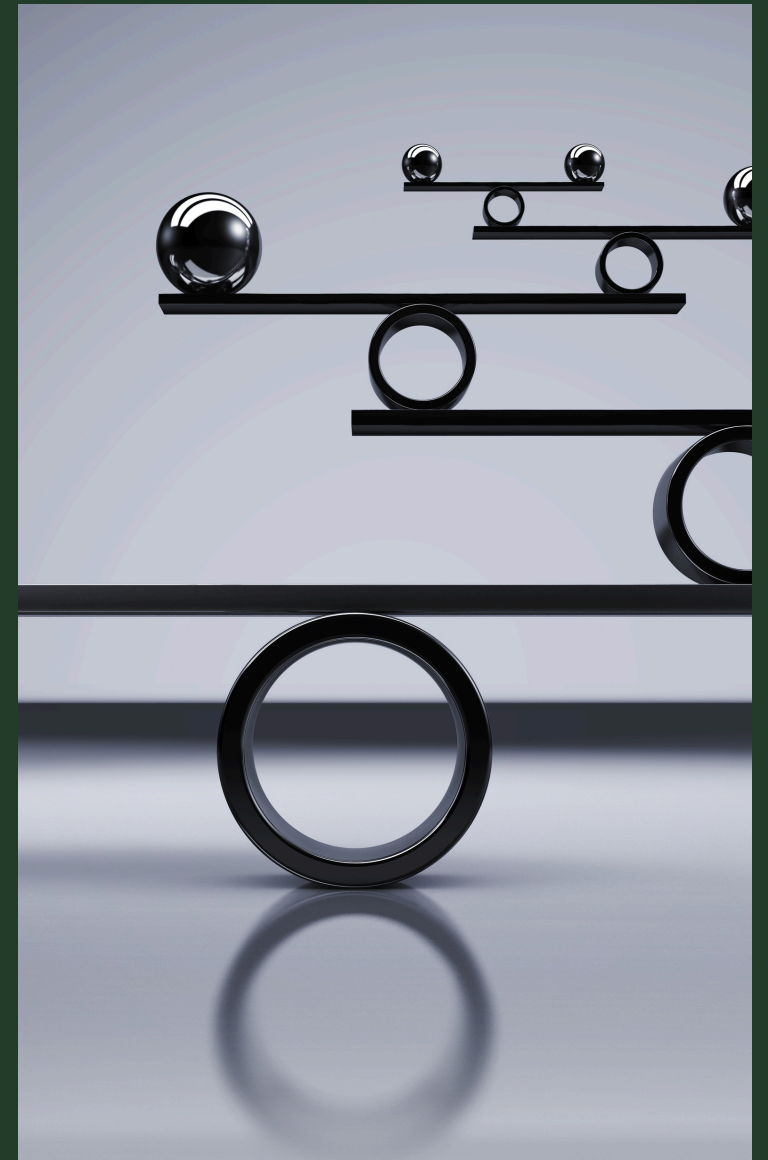Particular reference- and starting-points for the research will look to:

❑ Edward Snowden's 2013 paradigmatic revelations into total surveillance by the US National Security Agency , the UK Government Communications Headquarters , Western and other countries' tech companies, and other organisations both governmental and a-governmental, published by newspapers such as the UK Guardian;

❑ Oliver James' assertions on selfish capitalism and mental health in English-speaking countries compared to other cultures, from his book *The Selfish Capitalist – Origins of Affluenza* ;

❑ Emma Bell's writings on neoliberalism and the impact it has had on the criminal justice systems in Western liberal democracies in her publication *Criminal Justice and Neoliberalism* ;

❑ Colin Crouch's writings on neoliberalism's impact on Western liberal democracies and economies more generally, in his Fabian pamphlet *Coping with Post-Democracy* ; and

❑ Pablo Torija's econometric study on voting and representational patterns across the political spectrum in OECD countries since the 1970s, *Do Politicians Serve the One Percent? Evidence in OECD Countries* (2013).

The assumptions on which this PhD is grounded

In the light of the authorities and starting-points already quoted:

1. It is assumed that neoliberalism is a fact, and exists, and has since the 1970s impacted on living standards, government policy, criminal justice, mental health, education, and security.

2. It is assumed that neoliberalism does not need to be a *de facto* conspiracy for its impact on societies' structures to deliver the same effect as if conspiracy were the structure used to implement it.

3. It is assumed that left-wing actors in particular were brought up, after Marx and social democracy more generally, to believe in a slow but sure progression towards what they saw as a better world. History turned not so much on events and individuals as on movements.

4. It is assumed that far-right actors in particular have never forgotten the lessons of key individuals, their lives and deaths, and their speeches and concrete actions in the making of societies' dynamics.

5. It is assumed in all this, as a result, that it is more likely for neo-terrorism on the individual as defined above to be a tool for toxic impact on democratic societies, rather than for unpredictably benevolent effects. It would be appropriate to mention, in this respect, the recent data scandals with respect to Facebook, Cambridge Analytica, the Brexit Leave campaign, and the alleged Russian online intervention in free and democratic process in the US and elsewhere.

6. It is assumed that the most effective kind of mass terrorism combines technology with real-world effects. And similarly, it is therefore also assumed that neo-terrorism on the individual would act no differently.

The purpose of using academic diversity

The purpose of using authorities from such diverse disciplines – and authorial traditions – as starting-points for the investigation under discussion will be to lay the ground rules for a PhD that explicitly suggests it is possible to evidence in government, criminal, and corporate organisations in all sectors of Western societies, behaviours with the same overall impact as sophisticated conspiracies.

It is the starting hypothesis of this PhD proposal that the criminal actors alluded to use similar – and possibly shared with the former – cyber- and street-tools, with the objective of degrading residually – but sufficiently to impact – the socioeconomic and sociophysical experiences of Western, notably English-speaking, liberal democracies.

Snowden, Bell, and Torija help to deliver data which supports the assumptions as worthy of further study, in an academic framework.
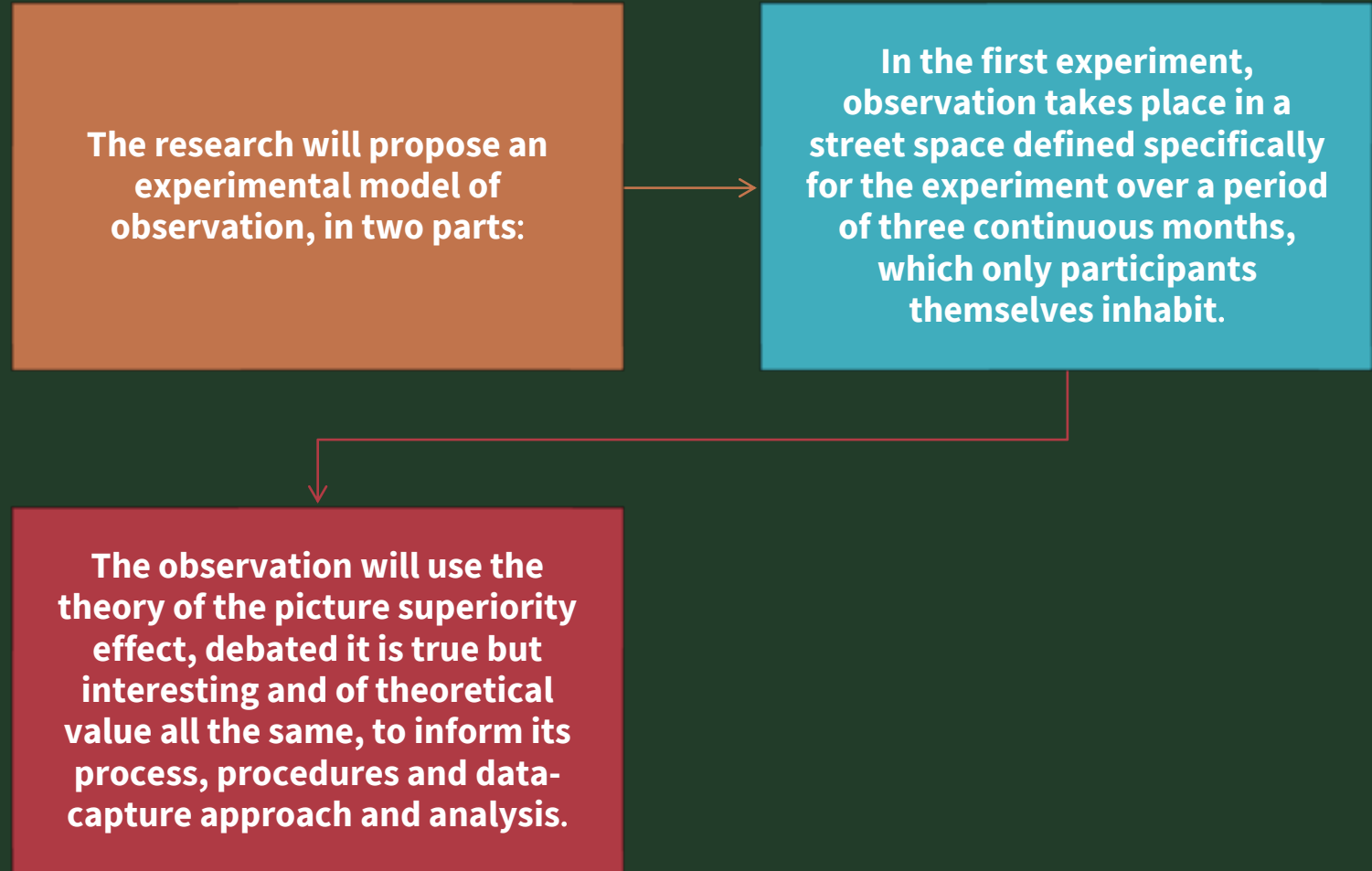
secrecy.plus

nonconformist | secrecy +ve | totalsurveillance-compliant

author and presenter:
mil williams

founder: **secrecy plus**

positive@secrecy.plus

Experiment 1, and the model of observation

The research will propose an experimental model of observation, in two parts:

In the first experiment, observation takes place in a street space defined specifically for the experiment over a period of three continuous months, which only participants themselves inhabit.

The observation will use the theory of the picture superiority effect, debated it is true but interesting and of theoretical value all the same, to inform its process, procedures and data-capture approach and analysis.
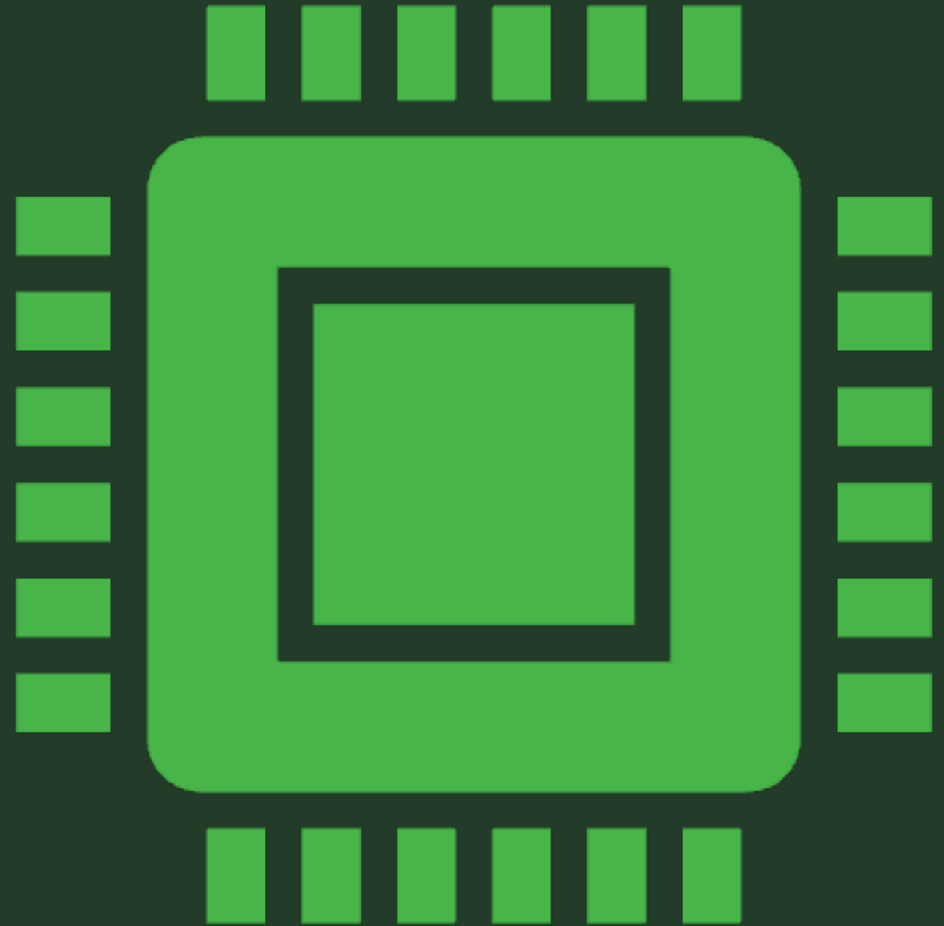
Background to Experiment 1's design

It is argued that with the onset of prolific online social media communication, and tools such as Google Street View and Earth, it has become possible to assess, profile, and control not only the behaviours, expectations and predictable responses of discrete individuals in society, in an individualised and targeted way which mass terrorism never implemented, but also to do so in highly public spaces:

❑ without taking ownership for the actions,

❑ without becoming visible for their delivery,

❑ and without having to resort to public discourse of an easily recordable nature in any way.

Background to Experiment 1's design

❑ **Such actors use cyber-tools which leak into and have a robust impact on the real-world environments which they not only both observe and track but also both modify and intervene in, using the online and street tools alluded to.**

Experiment 2, and the intuition capture, evidencing and validation software platform(s) proposed

Were the line of thought delineated above to be evidenced, in any way, by the research that is proposed be carried out, it would be suggested, in considerable detail, that citizen-empowering software tools – designed to visualise intuitive and arational thought patterns, in the line of theories such as the already mentioned picture superiority effect – might be created, in order that people who have suffered, and are still suffering, from this kind of aggressive mental distress should find it easier to begin to:

❏ read,

❏ filter, and

❏ share sufficiently comfortably with others

their experiences.

Background to Experiment 2's design

By promoting the practical application of intuition-capture, evidencing and validation tools, where these tools allow humans to communicate their own intuition and expertise more usefully from the inside out, rather than being intrusively engineered from the outside in, it is suggested that in situations and contexts of organised crime and neo-terrorism on the individual, it will be become:

❑ **practically easier and**

❑ **legally more admissible**

for victims to communicate their, to date, often intangible perceptions in concrete and validateable ways that speak the language of criminal justice systems everywhere.

Background to Experiment 2's design

This author therefore sees particular applications in the context of the policing of organised crime and gangs:

❑ wherever the victims of mafia-like behaviours – being behaviours designed specifically to silence – are

❑ victims who may find it more difficult to evidence and validate their own more intuitive perceptions.

Background to Experiment 2's design

The final, but primary, goal of this tool – to share intuitive and arational thought patterns captured *by and from* citizens, and *to* criminal and other systems in both inclusive and efficient ways – is that as a result of such evidencing and validation software processes & tools:

❑ courts, judges, lawmakers, and politicians, as well as decision- & policy-makers at wider levels of government, are able to:

    ❑ rationally – and evidentially – both give credence to and act democratically upon the same; and in so doing

    ❑ create a more humane, efficient, resourceful and constructively creative world.

Neo-terrorism on the individual in a 21st century Western liberal democratic context: *a practice-based PhD-level research proposal*

secrecy.plus

nonconformist | secrecy +ve | totalsurveillance-compliant

author and presenter:
mil williams

founder: **secrecy plus**
positive@secrecy.plus

secrecy.plus

nonconformist | secrecy +ve | totalsurveillance-compliant