Pervasive surveillance: A discourse analysis of changing legal and social controls through surveillance techniques

Surveillance Discourse Analysis

Introduction
This research explores discourse of surveillance from 1800 to 2019. Examining the evolution into a realm of digital surveillance, as a pervasive silent algorithmic machine. The review takes into account recent impacts of Covid-19 on advances in surveillance technologies.

Method
➤ 2,206 digital Google Books results and over 700,000 results from The British Newspaper Archives dated from 1800. A statistical analysis provided data on historically situated lexicons. 10% of books and random sample of 200 news articles examined in depth
➤ Social Psychological Discourse Analysis utilised to unveil the interpretative repertoires (Potter and Wetherell, 1894), illuminating the historically situated lexicons of common knowledge, demonstrating cultural ideas that form the foundations of conversations
➤ The written context surrounding surveillance was used to build a picture of ideological dilemmas (Billig et al., 1988), highlighting contradictory statements and inconsistencies within the use of the language and how the lived experience is justified
➤ Finally, critical discursive psychology unveils subject positions taken up by individuals who live within the norms of societal discourse

Conclusion
Surveillance has become an ingrained part of life, silent and pervasive. Evolving from domineering structures, to digital mass surveillance, as we sleepwalk into a new era of unlimited data amassing without fear or question, undermining long standing democratic processes

1900-1949

2000-2019

1800-1899
- Surveillance was primarily used for monitoring colonial stock, including compensating losses of slaves at sea
- Surveillance word interchangeable with supervision, used for monitoring convicts
- Colonial surveillance used to maintain order through monitoring and punishment
- Surveillance was mostly State-led
- Bentham's panopticon
- Surveillance ebbed into establishments to maintain order
- Churches used surveillance in hospitals, asylums and schools for control
- Disease containment also became a focus for surveillance methods

1900-1949
- Public health issues and the spread of disease leads to greater control and monitoring through surveillance
- Medical institutions begin to contain both disease and mental health issues
- Industry begins to use surveillance methods for regulations
- Railway's reshape workplace regulations with safety surveillance monitoring
- War time demands alter surveillance into implementing, testing and use of explosives and chemicals, with strict monitoring
- The use of spies during the World Wars brings about an intensification of surveillance techniques

1950-1999
- Organisational and environmental changes due to surveillance advances and safety regulations for workplace, institutions and home
- Cold War era intensifies the use of spies and surveillance within the general discourse, mass surveillance becomes perceived as a national security necessity
- Focus of surveillance alters with technology advances, drones are used to track threats
- Commercialisation of surveillance becomes prominent with CCTV and home security
- Discourse on surveillance alters in favour of commercial interests, surveillance security systems become normalised

2000-2019
- The impacts of 11/9/01 generates a heighted anxiety in discourse, surveillance becomes key to safety and security measures
- Social Media alters the way we engage with each other and with our social environment
- Big data surveillance becomes silent, covert and pervasive
- The prevalence of clicking accept alters access that to our data, providing a mass collation of data for targeted selling and profiling of customers
- AI profiling is used within political campaigns, delivering geodemographic psychological profiles, adverts tailored to influence voters

Covid-19
- **Surveillance Pandemic** - New surveillance methods used to track and trace Covid-19
- **Covid-19 and Privacy** - Media discourse has raised criticisms for the invasive impact on human rights, use of government controlled databases and data retention length
- **Covid-19 and China** - China drew criticism as GPS tracking used to identify individuals and the Alipay health app became mandatory for access to public spaces
- **Covid-19 and Poverty** - Discourse identified the disproportional impacts of the virus and restrictions
- **Covid-19 and Power** - Human rights organisations have criticised power grabs

Pre 1400's	1400 - 1800	1800-1899	1900 – 1949	1950 – 1999	2000 – 2019	2020 – 2021
Castles & Kings	Colonial Power	State & Panopticon	War & Organisations	Privatisation & CCTV	Big Data & IoT	Covid-19 Controls