



# FEEDING THE MACHINE: POLICING, CRIME DATA, & ALGORITHMS

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01

# ***INTRODUCTION***

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"Challenging the Neutrality of  
Big Data in Policing"

# ***Concerns Regarding Big Data Tools in Policing***

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- Increasing Use of Big Data in Policing
- Questions About Neutrality, Efficiency, and Quality
- Potential for Bias in Inputs
- Resource Constraints and Limitations

# *The Police's Role in Generating Inputs*

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- Police officers play a significant role in generating the information used by predictive policing programs, but they assume that they are just end users.
- Resource constraints can also limit police decision-making.
- The police's role in creating inputs is crucial in understanding the limitations of predictive policing programs and the filtered nature of crime data.

02

## ***THE DEBATE OVER BIG DATA POLICING***

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"Big Data Policing: Balancing  
Advantages and Criticisms"



Have you seen  
the truth?

# *Advantages of Big Data Policing*

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- Capable of processing vast amounts of information more quickly than individuals
- Potential to help police departments make predictions about where crimes might occur and who might commit them



# *Criticisms of Big Data Policing*

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- Algorithms may be flawed and reflect the biases of their creators
- Algorithms are subject to the "garbage in, garbage out" critique, meaning that their decisions are only as good as the data they rely on
- If the data used to make predictions contains racial bias, the algorithms will inevitably reflect that bias



# *Challenges in Big Data Policing*

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- Feedback loops need to be thoughtfully constructed to avoid perpetuating policing practices that are not sufficiently attuned to community needs
- Transparency and accountability are necessary on data input and processes
- Focus on eliminating data that could serve as proxies for race or poverty, and ensuring that bias is not replicated through these tools



# ***CRIME DATA AND ALGORITHMIC POLICING***

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Limitations of Crime Data  
and the Role of Policing in  
Algorithmic Policing

03

# ***Discretion and Bias in Policing***

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- Crime data is incomplete and influenced by social processes and institutions.
- Police discretion in deciding when to make an arrest and what to record as a crime can result in biased data.
- Discretion can be influenced by individual factors and departmental incentives and priorities.

# ***Impact of Algorithms on Discrimination***

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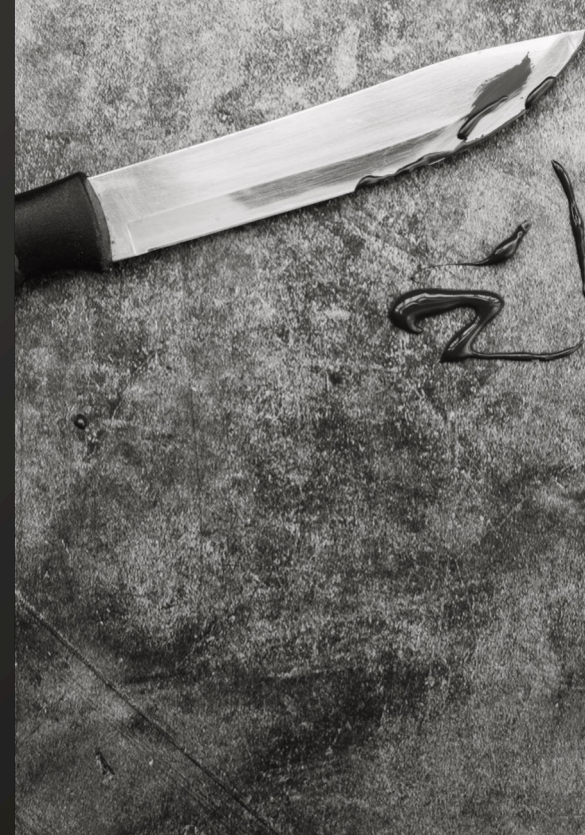
- Reporting of crimes can vary based on factors such as race, class, and ethnicity.
- Algorithms can make discrimination more efficient and sanitized.
- Positive impact of algorithms is increased profits for organizations able to avoid risk and costs.
- Negative impacts of algorithms are carried by all deemed by algorithms to be risky or less profitable.

# CONCLUSION

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The Risks and Benefits of Predictive Policing and Algorithmic Decision-Making in Law Enforcement

04



- Predictive policing is becoming increasingly popular in many police departments
- However, there are potential concerns associated with these algorithms
- The data used to feed these algorithms may contain biases and prejudices, which could perpetuate existing social issues and lead to unfair policing practices
- It is important to monitor the use of these algorithms to ensure they do not lead to further harm
- The use of algorithms in policing should support and enhance human decision-making and critical thinking, not replace it

05

# PERSONAL REFLECTION

"True peace is not merely the absence  
of tension: it is the presence of justice."  
- Martin Luther King Jr.





- Algorithms should not replace human decision-making, but support it.
- The use of algorithms must be monitored and audited to avoid causing harm or prolonging social issues.
- The accuracy of the data generated by algorithms depends on the quality of the data input.
- Our society is constantly changing, so maintaining accurate and current data is crucial.
- Balancing the benefits and risks of technology is necessary when using it in law enforcement and crime prevention.
- Technology integration in law enforcement must uphold the principles of justice and fairness.



***THANK YOU!***