UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Videosorveglianza, Datafication e Nuove Forme di Controllo

2526-2-F8803N012

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of video surveillance, datafication and control practices in contemporary society. Students will explore the sociological, ethical and legal implications of surveillance and how it affects power relations, privacy and security.

1. Knowledge and understanding
   Students will develop an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of surveillance, datafication, and control practices in contemporary society. They will be able to analyse sociological concepts and theories, critically assessing the ethical and legal implications of surveillance technologies.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding
   Students will be able to apply the acquired knowledge critically to the analysis of real-life surveillance scenarios, evaluating the technologies employed and their implications, including issues relating to algorithms and automated decision-making processes.

3. Making judgements
   Students will be able to formulate independent judgements on complex issues related to surveillance and control, taking into account ethical, social, and legal considerations, and integrating interdisciplinary perspectives into their evaluations.

4. Communication skills
   The course will enhance students' ability to articulate informed and critical positions in current debates on surveillance and control, while exploring potential alternatives to surveillance, using appropriate academic language and relevant conceptual references.

5. Learning skills
   Students will develop critical and methodological tools that support autonomous learning and ongoing reflection. They will be equipped to independently investigate the evolution of surveillance technologies and to assess their broader social and political implications.

Contents

The course will cover the following topics:
Theories of social control: from disciplinary society to biopolitics and the securitarian state;
Video surveillance between security and social control;
Resistance and alternatives to surveillance: opposition movements and evasion techniques;
Datafication and Big Data: definitions, concepts and social impacts;
Ethical and legal aspects of surveillance: privacy and data protection.

Detailed program

Module 1: From Social Control to the Disciplinary Society

- Classic theories of social control
- The city as a regulatory device
- The disciplinary society
- Biopolitics and the governance of life

References:
Foucault M. (1997) La verità e le forme giuridiche. In A. Dal Lago e A. Petrillo (a cura di), *Prigioni e intorni. Detti e scritti tratti dall'«Archivio Foucault»*. Milano: Feltrinelli, par. 4-5 (pp. 42-63).
Agamben G. (1998) *Homo Sacer. Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 126-135.
D. Melossi (2008) Democrazia e controllo sociale: ancora insieme? (All'indomani dell'emergere di un 'controllo automatico'), in *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, 132(3): 9-24.

Module 2: Surveillance and Video Surveillance

- Imaginaries and pratices of contemporary surveillance
- Urban video surveillance
- Video surveillance and prevention: evidence and limitations
- Mega-events and security dispositifs

References:
Lyon D. (2020) *La cultura della sorveglianza*. Roma: Luiss, cap. 1 e 3.
Zambelli F. (2015) Videosorveglianza e grandi eventi: Una questione di legacy, in *Sicurezza, Terrorismo e Società*, 1, pp. 191-212.
Fonio C. (2011) The silent growth of video surveillance in Italy, in *Information Polity*, 16, pp. 379-388.

Module 3: Datafication and Algorithmic Power

- Datafication and new forms of control
- Digital surveillance and data capitalism
- Public security and data policing
- Private surveillance and digital infrastructures

References:
Van Dijck J. (2014) Datafication, dataism and dataveillance: Big Data between scientific paradigm and ideology, in

Surveillance & Society, 12(2): 197-208.
Zuboff S. (2019) *Capitalismo della sorveglianza*. Roma: Luiss, cap 1 e 3.
Bryne S. (2017) Big Data Surveillance: The Case of Policing, in *American Sociological Review*, 82(5): 977-1008.
Selinger E. and Durant D. (2021) Amazon's Ring: Surveillance as a Slippery Slope Service, in *Science as Culture*, 31(4): 1-15.

Module 4: Ethical Issues and Resistance to Surveillance

- Algorithms, justice, and inequality
- Classification and governance through data
- Practices of resistance and counter-surveillance

References:
O' Neil C. (2017) *Armi di distruzione matematica. Come i Big Data aumentano la disuguaglianza e minacciano la democrazia*. Milano/Firenze: Bompiani, cap 5.
Fourcade M. and Healy K. (2017) Seeing like a market, in *Socio-Economic Review,* 15(1). 9-29.
Monahan T. (2015) The Right to Hide? Anti-Surveillance Camouflage and the Aestheticization of Resistance, in *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, 12(2): 159-178.

Prerequisites

no prerequisites

Teaching methods

The course consists of 56 hours, of which approximately 50% is delivered through lectures (face-to-face lessons with support tools) and 50% through interactive teaching (exercises, work in subgroups, presentation of case studies from which to develop individual and subgroup work, prepared and discussed during the course).

Assessment methods

There are two different ways of evaluating learning. The first consists of the presentation of a series of papers based on instructions that the teacher will provide in class. At the end of the course there will be a final discussion for an overall evaluation that also takes into account the intermediate evaluation provided by the papers.
The second option consists of an oral exam at the end of the course.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Foucault M. (1997) La verità e le forme giuridiche. In A. Dal Lago e A. Petrillo (a cura di), *Prigioni e intorni. Detti e scritti tratti dall'«Archivio Foucault»*. Milano: Feltrinelli, par. 4-5 (pp. 42-63).
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automatico'), in *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, 132(3): 9-24.
Lyon D. (2020) *La cultura della sorveglianza*. Roma: Luiss, cap. 1 e 3.
Zambelli F. (2015) Videosorveglianza e grandi eventi: Una questione di legacy, in *Sicurezza, Terrorismo e Società*, 1, pp. 191-212.
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Van Dijck J. (2014) Datafication, dataism and dataveillance: Big Data between scientific paradigm and ideology, in *Surveillance & Society*, 12(2): 197-208.
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Fourcade M. and Healy K. (2017) Seeing like a market, in *Socio-Economic Review,* 15(1). 9-29.
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Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS