INTRODUCTION: SURVEILLANCE, TECHNOPOLITICS AND TERRITORIES

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The 3rd International Symposium of the Latin American Network of Surveillance, Technology and Society Studies/LAVITS, which took place at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Casa da Ciência) and at the Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (IBICT) from May 13 to 15, 2015, paid attention to three main themes: surveillance, technopolitics and territories. This event is part of a series of conferences and symposiums organized by LAVITS in Brazil and Mexico with the aim of fostering the interchange between Latin American researchers, activists and artists interested in the relationships between surveillance, technology and society.

The modulations of surveillance are linked today to a very heterogeneous network of elements that act in multiple scales. Mass surveillance apparatuses, like those disclosed by Edward Snowden, put together nation-states and corporations; national security agencies and online personal data; espionage of heads of states and market interests; war on terror and Big Data companies.

This heterogeneous network and its consequences were analysed through two main domains. The first domain is related to the way the notion and the experience of the territory are affected by the pervasive nature of contemporary surveillance. Surveillance penetrates different domains of everyday life. It is embedded in banal actions like communication (cellphones, the Internet), transportation (transportation cards, tracking systems), orientation (GPS), consumption (loyalty cards, systems that track activities in online shopping websites), search for information (in search engines like Google), watching movies (Netflix), social and affective relationships (in social networking sites like Facebook), among many other examples of technologies of surveillance of public and private spaces, such as CCTV cameras, airport body scanners, biometric access systems, drones, etc.

Thus, this scenario made evident the importance of taking the territory into account. Thinking about the territory means thinking about the conditions for the existence of individuals, institutions, bodies and subjectivities. Digitized, urban, subjective territories, among others, are spaces that at the same time guarantee the existence of surveillance strategies but also allow the emergence of tactics of resistance.

Concurrently, technopolitical actions and reflections are also creating a fertile production of tactics that counter such strategies and that explore other ways of living and acting together in the contemporary sociotechnical networks. Thus, the second domain of explorations of the event is related to the implications of the current surveillance processes in technopolitical reflections and practices. These practices are understood here as both the tactical use of technological devices for collective organization, communication and actions, as well as in the investigations about the relationships between technology and politics in various different aspects.

Surveillance, Technopolitics and Territories form thus the triad of issues that the following articles investigate, question and debate. This triad is currently intensely affecting the city of Rio de Janeiro, in the interstices of a series of mega events that left as a legacy a significant and renewed range of security and surveillance technologies.

This city has been particularly affected by urban transformations, by technology, public policy and private investment involving a renewal of surveillance procedures in the lives of its citizens. In addition, Brazil and other Latin American countries have recently experienced a cycle of riots and protests in which the city and communication networks occupied a decisive

place, making fundamental the reflection on surveillance, technopolitics and territories on both a global and local scale.

The symposium program served as a space for the dialogue between scientific research in different fields of knowledge, artistic and technopolitical practices. This concern was reflected in the variety of communications and discussions between researchers, students, activists, artists, journalists and others interested in the demonstrations and territorial and political implications of the escalation of surveillance in Latin America. Speakers from Brazil and other Latin American countries, but also from Europe and Canada opened the three-day event with excellent speeches and debates. Parallel to the conference, the collectives Antena Mutante, from Colombia, and Rio 40Caos, from Rio de Janeiro held the video installation New Frontiers of Control. In addition, there were also three workshops open to the public by prior registration: Safe Alternatives to Android Applications: First Steps to SecureGen (GPOPAI); Draft Personal Data Protection Act: A Guide to the Public Consultation Debate (GPOPAI, GEPI/FGV-SP, InternetLab) and the Antisurveilance Workshop (AntiVigilância and MediaLab.UFRJ). On the last day of the event, an open seminar was held with the participation of researchers, activists, artists, collectives, journalists and civil society organizations. The intent of this seminar was to briefly introduce the public to LAVITS' main axes of research as well as to make a presentation round of all participants in order to foster channels for dialogue and future cooperation.

The presentations at the symposium, published in these proceedings, were organized around seminars which brought together works from different areas around common themes. We point out with joy that the work presented here contribute to the consolidation of LAVITS network and intensifies the collaboration between Latin American researchers and social and artistic movements. This collaboration includes the research and exploration of themes, methodologies and multidisciplinary strategies that problematize the processes and technologies of surveillance and control in our societies.

The ultimate purpose of the existence of LAVITS and this symposium is twofold: on one hand, it intends to share the knowledge produced at the university level with strategic sectors of society, like social movements, activists, media and networks communication, civil society organizations, cultural and artistic collectives etc.; on the other hand, it intends to invite researchers, activists, artists, journalists, hackers and groups who have a critical role of countering surveillance technologies to present and discuss their work, knowledge,

technologies, methodologies and experiences in the academic environment. These two movements aim not only to disseminate research carried out in these two fields, but intend to make them mutually permeable. It was with this purpose that we have developed, within LAVITS, and with support from the Ford Foundation, a project to expand the intersections between research, action and technology, of which this symposium is but a first result.

The works gathered in these proceedings were presented and discussed in thematic workshops distributed according to twelve axes, namely:

1. Privacy and regulation.

2. Technologies of (in)security in the cities.

3. Activism and networks.

4. Technopolitics and communication.

5. Connected space, controlled movements.

6. Resistance and aesthetics of surveillance.

7. Personal data: protection, prospection, controversies.

8. Mega Events.

9. Surveillance in Latin American contexts.

10. Affections and modulations: between surveillance and control.

11. Mass surveillance and big data.

12. Biovisibilities.

Readers will note in the articles included in these proceedings, that the desired diversity of perspectives was present in the thematic seminars, not only in terms of multidisciplinarity and plurality of approaches, but also because of the involvement of both young researchers and established scholars.

We thank all the authors for their valuable participation and the organizers[1] and supporters[2] of the symposium for making this event possible. We hope the knowledge produced in this symposium will reverberate in future dialogues and actions. We expect that these actions will serve to intensify the critical debate around the growing installation of surveillance and control devices in the various sectors of contemporary life.