

About us

This project is being run by:

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We are a group of 4 master students doing our first year of Design, use and interaction. We have different backgrounds with only one of us having a bachelor's degree from IFI while the other three have their degrees from Kristiania University College, OsloMet, and Høgskolen i Østfold.

Area of interest

We are interested in the field of Social Credit Systems (SCS), particularly the implementation of SCS by the Chinese government. It caught our attention due to interesting topics related to the ethics of AI-powered surveillance, government control, and automated decision-making. We see this system as one that is intrusive into the lives of Chinese citizens and there is a fear among us that this system could spread to other countries - including Norway - in the future. The goal of the Chinese SCS is to "foster pro-social behaviour" by guiding people to "behave in accordance with society's interests" (Langer, 2020, p. 164). The means by which this is accomplished revolve around "automated evaluation of individual behaviour and social interactions". As a result, it is clear that this is a process where the privacy of citizens is not the top priority. Facial recognition and automated data processing are two aspects of SCS where AI is involved and we would like to dig deeper into the field to find out more about these in particular.

We pose the following research questions:

RQ1: How is AI used in the Chinese Social Credit System?

RQ2: To what degree are the inhabitants willing to accept a Social Credit System in Norway?

Methods

In our project we would like to use multiple different ways of collecting data. We would like to conduct interviews, perform a document study and perhaps create a survey.

A document study should give us further insight into the use of AI in connection to the Social Credit System (SCS), as well as giving us more information on how the system works and its impact on Chinese society.

The interviews could for example be used to investigate some thoughts and opinions on the balance between public safety (potentially a driving force behind the SCS) vs. privacy as it concerns governmental surveillance and intervention.

A survey could also be useful to gauge the opinions on questions related to the safety vs. privacy issue, and perhaps similar topics we find interesting based on the document study. It also gives us a good back-up solution to strengthen or replace the interviews in case we go into another round of lockdown due to the pandemic.

References

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