EL PUEBLO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA LA REINA DE LOS ANGELES DEL RÍO DE PORCIÚNCULA WAS VIOLENTLY SETTLED ON PRE-EXISTING CIVILIZATIONS, COMMUNITIES OF THE TONGVA AND CHUMASH LANDS/TERRITORIES.

THE TONGVA AND CHUMASH PEOPLES ARE AND HAVE BEEN THE TRADITIONAL CARETAKERS OF THE LOS ANGELES BASIN, CHANNEL ISLANDS, AND NEARBY LANDS FOR OVER 7,000 YEARS AND COUNTING.

WE HONOR AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE ORIGINAL PEOPLES OF THE LOS ANGELES AREA FOR THEIR ONGOING RESISTANCE AND LEGACIES, FOR THEY ARE STILL HERE. WE RESPECT AND ARE IN ALLYSHIP THAT ONE DAY ALL STOLEN LANDS WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR RIGHTFUL CUSTODIANS.

#LandBack

For more information about land/territory acknowledgements, read SDSU’s “What is a Land Acknowledgement.”

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Water is life. #SetTheRiverFREE
“Exploring the racial processes that shape place and how place informs race.”

Laura Pulido

Los Angeles like all major cities has a history of colonialism and terror on communities. Every place – including where we live – has a history, a present, and a future. White settler colonialism extends from the physical to the digital spaces we inhabit as well.

“From Stolen Land To #StolenData:

The internet and contemporary technology has been designed to oppress & surveil – to consume the resources of the underclass & give wealth to the Jeff Bezos’ of the world.

“We need interdisciplinary research and scholarship in information studies and library and information science that intersects with gender and women’s studies, Black/African American studies, media studies, and communications to better describe and understand how algorithmically driven platforms are situated in intersectional sociohistorical contexts and embedded within social relations.”

Safiya Umoja Noble
WHO CREATED THIS ZINE?

this zine was created by eva rios-alvarado and ariel hahn at the end of our training with the Library Freedom Institute. we're both academic library workers living, working, and teaching in southern california.

WHY MAKE A ZINE ABOUT POWER?

power influences everything around us.
power shapes how we access information.
power decides who benefits from technology and who is destroyed by it.

understanding power, how it moves, and who has it can help us put systems of oppression into perspective.

it will also help us challenge those forces! by recognizing and mapping power, we can push for more liberatory future(s) where things like surveillance don't exist.

Students have POWER !!!

Communities have POWER !!!

Students have led some of the largest social movements in the world and in los angeles.

Communities, both large and small, make peoples' lives better by exercising their POWER. Higher education spaces do not have all the answers. Everyone educates and learns from each other in and out of the classroom.

"GAY POWER - BLACK POWER - WOMEN POWER - STUDENT POWER - ALL POWER to the PEOPLE," Gay Liberation Front member, New York University, NYC, Sept. 1970. Photo by Diana Davies. Found via LGBT History Archives – IG @lgbt_history.
**defining the world around us has POWER too!**

we offer this space to ground how YOU engage with privacy, surveillance, and power. use these pages to write out definitions for the following terms ...  

want to add more? check out the notes section at the end of this zine!

+++

**colonialism / colonization:**

+++

digital colonialism:

+++

Internet:

+++

**power:**

+++

privacy:

+++

resistance:

+++

security:

+++

southern california (* see land acknowledgement):

+++

surveillance:

+++

technology:

+++

techno-determinist:

+++

techno-utopian:

+++
WHO CREATED the INTERNET??

* A very brief look at the military origins of the Internet

1940s

In 1940, Vannevar Bush, an engineer and inventor, was appointed chairman of the National Defense Research committee by FDR. NDRC (1940-1947) conducted research to improve “mechanisms and devices of warfare.” Some of their earliest funding went to Robert Oppenheimer and helped develop the Atomic Bomb.

In 1945, Bush imagined a proto-hypertext system (Memex, or memory extension), which influenced the later creation and structure of the World Wide Web.

1950s - 1970s

Shortly after the launch of Sputnik in 1958, the Department of Defense (DoD) created ARPA, the Advanced Research Projects Agency. ARPA was later renamed DARPA, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, in 1972.

In 1969, ARPA funded the creation of ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network), the earliest predecessor of the Internet.
From the very beginning, there was civilian pushback against ARPANET. Critics argued that the tool could not only drive but link various government surveillance systems together in order to spy on dissenters (re: The Cambridge Project).

**DARPA** still exists today and is responsible for developing new technology for the US military—everything from satellite surveillance networks and media forensics to unmanned aerial vehicles and wearable computers to assist “warfighters!”

ARPANET facilitated communication between large computer nodes that were geographically dispersed. Institutions involved in ARPANET's development included Harvard, MIT, Stanford, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, and University of Utah. Foundational technologies like packet switching and TCP/IP (two Internet Communication protocols) used for ARPANET are still in use today.
1980's - 1990's

The evolution of the Internet and new forms of surveillance technology made intense strides in the 1980s and 1990s.

From 1982 to 1992, DoD spent an estimated 1.039 BILLION DOLLARS on the Defense Data Network - just one of their many Internet projects at the time. Originally called MILNET (Military Network), the Defense Data Network served as a worldwide set of military networks running at different security levels.

During this period, there was also the rise of the first dot-com boom, the early origins of Silicon Valley, and the creation of the World Wide Web by Tim Berners Lee and Robert Cailliau at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

The 1990s serve as the beginning of our current era of privately-owned technology companies investing in and revolutionizing for-profit surveillance on the Internet and beyond.
THE INTERNET IS STILL A SURVEILLANCE HUB FOR THE US MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES — IT MIGHT ALWAYS BE. So, how can we use the Internet in subversive ways that support OUR NEEDS and not the needs of a global surveillance machine?

ALSO, it’s important to note that all of the named individuals in the history above are white men.

IF we think about the impact that race and gender have on how power moves, can we change the tide of this techno-determinist sea we’re drowning in?

AS you use this workbook and ground yourself in the work of local activists organizing against oppressive technology, think about who we give power to and how that power influences the tools around us.

 pessoas interessadas em mais informações?

More background on the Internet can be found in . . . .

Imaginary Futures: From Thinking Machines to the Global Village by Richard Barbrook (2007)

The Imagineers of War: The Untold Story of DARPA, the Pentagon Agency That Changed the World by Sharon Weinberger (2018)
WHAT DOES A WORLD WITHOUT SURVEILLANCE LOOK LIKE?

There's always been resistance amidst legacies of surveillance and oppression – just look to Indigenous resistance, Black resistance, queer resistance, and more. There WILL always be resistance, too.

As we think about power, how we push back against surveillance, and start to organize, think about all the people who've come before you!

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SURVEILLED ACTIVIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PAST – AND CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE PRESENT!

Look at history of the BLACK PANTHERS, including the foundational chapters in Oakland & Los Angeles!

The Black Panther Party was violently surveilled by the FBI's COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program) throughout their existence.

The FBI’s Efforts to Disrupt and Neutralize the Black Panther Party.

Find more archival information on these FBI files:

NOW ... collectives like The STOP LAPD SPYING COALITION are working to end surveillance!

STOP LAPD SPYING is an alliance of different organizations (and, in our case, individuals), each with their own interests, mission and vision, that come together to collaborate and take collective action together toward a common goal(s).

They reject all forms of police oppression and any policy that make us all suspects in the eyes of the State. Their vision is the dismantling of government-sanctioned spying and intelligence gathering, in all its multiple forms.

As Black Lives Matter protests continue nationwide, militarized police forces like the LAPD respond with more and newer forms of surveillance. Just as this zine was being completed at the end of October 2020, the LAPD got approval to use aerial surveillance on all future protests and store that video footage indefinitely (!!!) We want a future where oppressive power grabs like this aren’t possible!

What does surveillance look like in your neighborhood? Who’s getting surveilled?

This machine – outfitted with numerous cameras – is in the parking lot of a grocery store in a South Central neighborhood off Vermont.

Find more information on surveillance by the LAPD: 

POWER:

“The right, ability, or authority to perform an act. An ability to generate a change in a particular legal relationship by doing or not doing a certain act.”
(West's Encyclopedia of American Law)

(noun) “The ability of an individual, group, or institution to influence or exercise control over other people and achieve their goals despite possible opposition or resistance.”
(Open Education Sociology Dictionary)

MAPPING:

“The most important analytical tool of the geographer. A map illustrates some characteristic or set of characteristics of a specified space”
(Encyclopedia of Geography Terms, Themes, and Concepts)

“Maps define ‘The Power of Where.”
Shimonti Paul

POWER MAPPING:

Power mapping is a visual tool used by _______ to identify _______ to target, promote _______. The role of relationships and networks is very important when advocates seek change in a social justice issue.
(Wikipedia)

WHY?

This activity is designed to help you map power.

There are too many good examples of power related to technology, surveillance, etc. If you don’t like this example, no worries, we have a blank power map for you to make your own on!

Mapping power is a tool that can provide perspective and make relationships clear in diagram format. Power mapping is the initial step to action planning. Once you map, you want to act. You can take steps to think about power in a situation even if you don’t want to act. **BUT** power maps are meant to help you strategize action plans.

**HOWEVER** sometimes just making connections between relationships can be enough to help frame power in our lives. Later on we can work with others to dismantle unjust and oppressive power systems in the world.

For our example power map we will use the topic of:

**Building a student-run campaign on campus.**

Example topic goal:

**To build a student-run campaign on campus.**
**HOW?**

1. **Determine your goal:**
   What aspect of power do you want to map? This might be a person, entity, place, organization, topic, something or someone.

   **Friendly note:** Fill in the power map based on this goal. Before you start filling in your map think a little on what you want to accomplish.

2. **Map your stakeholders:**
   Now you should have figured out your goal. Start to jot down and identify people, things, etc. that are involved in or associated to this power dynamic.

   **Friendly note:** It’s okay to think outside of the box. You never know how what you write down can be related or unrelated until you write down and consider all relationships, sides, and perspectives. Examine decision makers, allies, opposition, neutral parties, supporters, etc.

3. **Make relational networks/connections/relationships:**
   Once you finish identifying stakeholders in relationship to your goal you can really play with how these relationships work and more importantly what you can do.

   **Friendly note:** Do you find that there are stakeholders that have obvious or not as obvious connections? Which of these stakeholders has power over your goal? If there are obvious relationships or connections to the “most influential” heading, this is a “node of power” or a relationship where there can be high levels of influence.

4. **Make sense of these networks/connections/relationships:**
   You can make these relationships more obvious by circling or marking which ones are connected. Determine and analyze how these stakeholders are connected. You can jot down notes and maybe even find evidence if that helps make these connections clearer.

   **Friendly note:** Some relationships might be complex or not as obvious, but still important. Try to focus on what your gut tells you. Listen to your body and instincts.

5. **Make a plan:**
   A power map alone is valuable information, but a power map with an action plan is a solid way to get your goal in action. Let the power map be the first step to informing your action plan.

   Only you (and possibly your community if you are a group working on this power map exercise) can decide if you want to take and make further plans.

   #PowerToThePeople
   #PowerToThePeople
   #PowerToThePeople
NOW WHAT?

If you have a plan, implement it!

You may need help, more information, or nothing at all. Don’t forget that your public and academic library can help you with the information finding part.

Asking librarians to help you find answers to research questions is easy – you just need to take the first step and ask your question(s). Librarians can help you track down the information, but you are the designer and orchestrator of your plan!

RESOURCES

Freedom of Information Act Requests: https://www.foia.gov/

Lil Sis: https://littlesis.org/

Lucy Parsons Lab: https://lucyparsonslabs.com/

This is a blank power map for you to fill-in with your own ideas and planning. As you start filling-in your power map THINK about what your overall goal is.

If this map does not fit what you need it to do, make your own!

My overall goal is (is to): ____________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

My stakeholders are (might be): _______________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

My next steps are (or could be): _______________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
A BLANK MAP for YOUR GOALS

This is a blank power map for you to fill-in with your own ideas and planning. As you start filling-in your power map THINK about what your overall goal is.

If this map does not fit what you need it to do, make your own!

My overall goal is (is to):
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
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My stakeholders are (might be):
____________________________________________________
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My next steps are (or could be):
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notes

use this space to write, draw, and dream up a different world in relation to power & technology.

“To refuse to participate in shaping our future is to give it up.”

Audre Lorde
RESOURCES & CREDITS

For WHO CREATED THE INTERNET:

In general, Wikipedia offers a great overview of the history of ARPANET, DARPA, the World Wide Web, CERN, and Vannevar Bush.

“How the Internet was invented” by Ben Tarnoff - Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jul/15/how-the-internet-was-invented-1976-arpa-kahn-cerf


For IMAGES:

The use of all images present in this zine are protected under FAIR USE as they’ve been used for educational purposes. Most are in the public domain. All others are either credited, considered found objects and have been remixed, or have been created by us.

SUMMARY

We hope that this brief workbook and zine will help you think about and navigate power in your everyday life – whether against technology or in favor of your own privacy, to fight for fair housing or against policing.

Knowing more about the past – and about who has power – can help us navigate our present in favor of a more equitable future!

We wouldn't be library workers if we didn't close this zine by providing additional resources! The following books offer more information on how to confront power, resist surveillance, ORGANIZE, and find inspiration as we build a new world – TOGETHER!