


A decorative graphic in the top-left corner consisting of a network of interconnected nodes and lines. The nodes are represented by circles of varying sizes and colors, including light gray, dark gray, and blue. Some nodes are highlighted with a blue outline. The lines connecting them are thin and light gray.

Carceral Pillar RJxTP Presentation 2022

As They Watch Us: The History of Surveilling
Black and Brown Bodies, The Future of Tech,
and the Continued Limitations of Freedoms

A decorative graphic in the bottom-right corner, mirroring the one in the top-left. It features a network of interconnected nodes and lines, with nodes in light gray, dark gray, and blue, and some nodes highlighted with a blue outline.

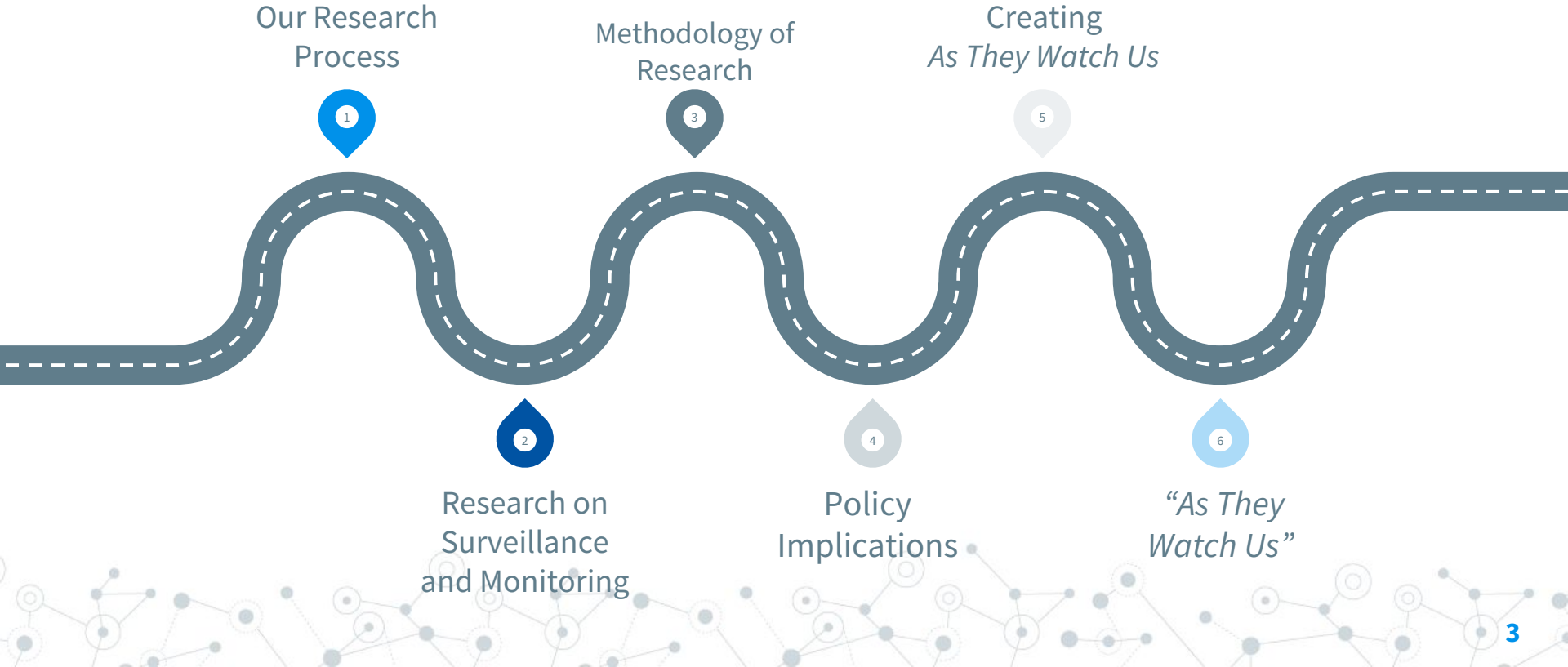
Hello!

Meet our Team!

Changing Policy One Game At A Time



Roadmap



1. Research Process

**Examine Inequities Within Technological
Advancements, Practices and Policies and
Their Impact on Surveillance From
Enslavement to Modern Day**



Developing Our Research Process: Trip to Alabama

- **Circle discussions about**

- School to Prison pipeline
- Enslavement
- Healthy coping mechanisms
- Bring awareness to mental stability
- Needing more people who have been through the system have more of these conversation
- We went to MLK's church and talked to Rev. John Vaughn, as well as an elder within the church Gwendolyn Middlebrook who had a relationship with the MLK Jr and his family. Her strength and work gave motivation to us to reach that next generation.

- **We went to the Lynching Memorial**

- Irritated
- Educated; previously ignorant to knowledge that should've been known
- Angry
- Helpless
- Felt like an exhibit

- **We went to the EJI Museum**

- Lynching part
- Listening to prisoners stories
- Voting law questions early 1900's
- Discriminatory signs
- The films we saw at the Museum's theater
- Themes from "iRobot"
- Connections from slavery to modern day policing (i.e. police badges)

Developing Our Research: Choosing our Four Timelines

Showing the connection between Enslavement and Present day surveillance on Black and Brown people

- Still facing struggles of enslavement just under a different name
- Enslavement of black bodies is the roots of systemic racism on Black and Brown people in the US
- They transformed social norms into legal policy used against Black people during the Civil War
- Used telegraphs to monitor and control the underground railroad
- Advertised slave catchers and promoted certain ones
- Use modern methods to limit access to necessities (jobs, education, etc.)
- Hate groups are still around despite how much time has passed
- When Black people created groups it is seen as a gang VS when a white hate group is made it is not given that same light

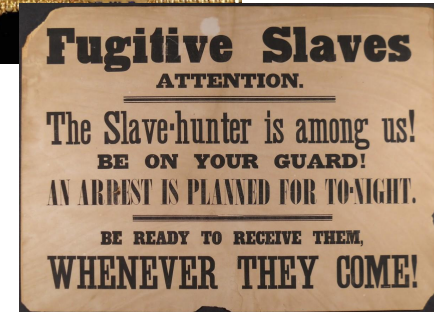
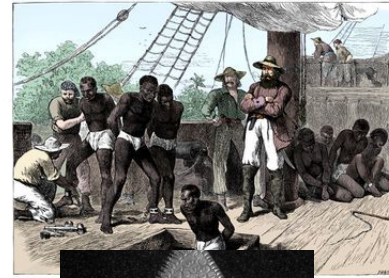


3. Research Findings

Our findings cover the following eras: Enslavement Era, Civil War, Civil Rights, and Present Day

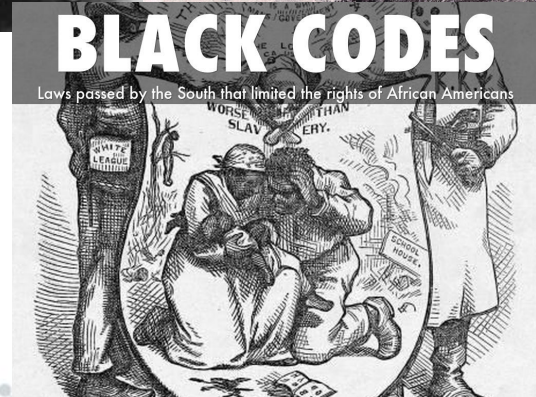
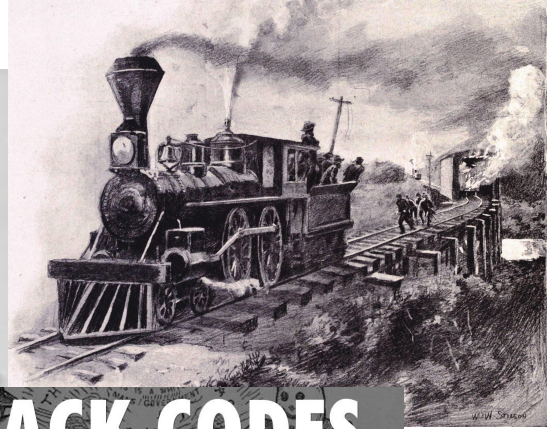
Enslavement Era: The Roots of Surveillance

- **1700**-Enslavement of black bodies were branded by owners to maintain control, making it easier to keep track of the few that got away
- **1704**- The first slave patrol was created in order to surveil for runaway slaves
 - The badge used in the current day deputy sheriff office is still identical to an image of hate and trauma to the black community
- **1850**- Fugitive slave act stated that if an enslaved black person got away and made it to a free state they must be returned to their plantation in the south



Civil War

- **Black Codes:** Were used to control, harm Black Americans and keep them monitored. These codes restricted Enslaved people's ability to move around and be financially independent. With these codes they were banned from owning weapons and from testifying against White people in court.
- During the Civil War there was not only mutual espionage between the armies of the south and north, but also the US government spied on and disrupted Black activists in the name of "national security" under this pretext as well the government spied on its citizens thus having control over them and being able to use their words against themselves.
- **General Henry B. Carrington** was an Army officer during the Civil War. He had an intelligence network in Indiana in which thousands of people provided him with information. Such as:
 - **Railroads conductors:** They were responsible for telling about who is traveling on the railroads spying mostly on African Americans.



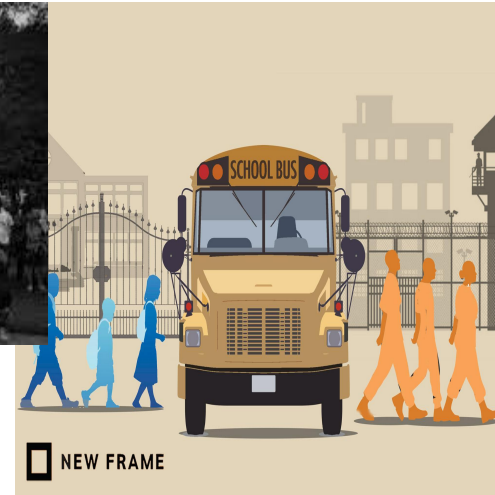
Civil Rights Era 1954-1968

- During the Civil Rights Movement, the government and white supremacist groups kept a very close eye on Black and Brown communities. While they were being watched, many of their mistakes/characteristics were noted.
- The FBI/NSA was one of the government groups that kept surveillance on the Black and Brown communities.
- The government didn't just stop at using their people to keep an eye on the Black and Brown communities but started to use people from within Black and Brown communities to continue that trauma & surveillance over the minorities of the world




Present Day

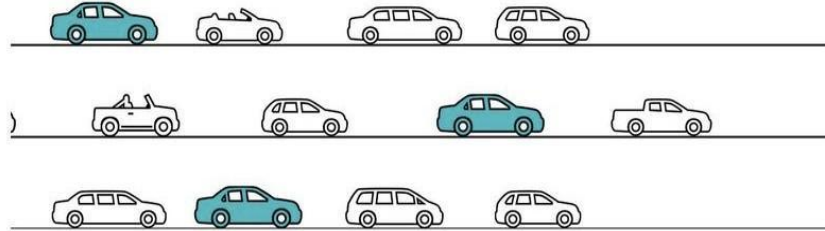
- Government could not criminalize being Black directly so they turned to societal perception of associations leading to mass incarceration
- The origins of the cradle-to prison pipeline can be directly traced to zero tolerance drug policies instituted in the 1980's by Reagan which allowed law enforcement to more aggressively surveil Black communities without probable cause
- The U.S. Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, which allocated \$1.7 billion to the War on Drugs and established a series of “mandatory minimum” prison sentences.



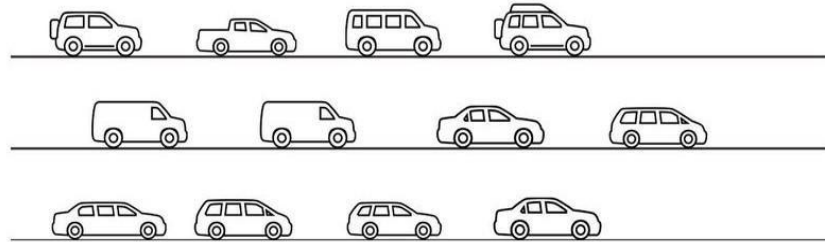
Present Day, Cont.


- The Emergence of Automated License Plate Readers in the 1990's that record time date and location when taking a picture of someone's license plate
- Use of facial recognition software that inaccurately identifies Black and Brown faces to match suspects.
 - Mugshot databases are rarely scrubbed of non-guilty verdicts or no-charge arrests meaning Black and Brown people are in mugshot databases for life
- Prisons are creating biometric databases that include voice recordings of people who are incarcerated through phone calls to create "voice prints" which are identifiable biometric signatures

2,313 stops  per 10,000 Black people



552 stops  per 10,000 Hispanic people



389 stops  per 10,000 white people



2. Methodology



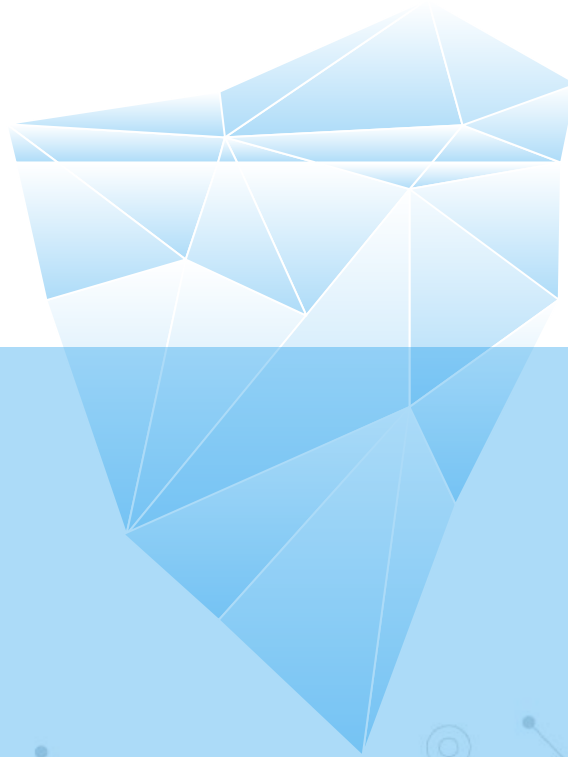
Purpose of Games in Social Science





6. Policy Implications

Intended Impacts of the Game

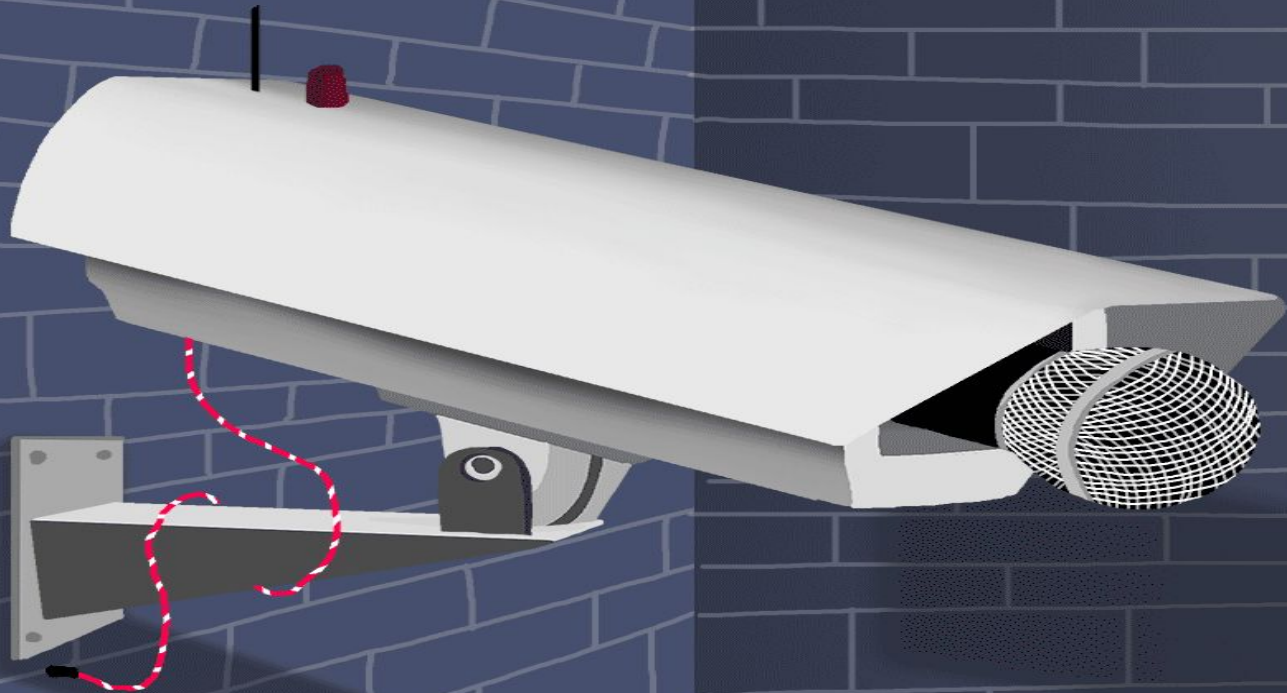


Policy Level

- Create policies that protect privacy of Black and Brown communities
- Amend policies that disproportionately harm Black and Brown communities

Community Level

- Educate younger generations on surveillance and inequities in technology
- Inspire younger generations to enter the technology workforce
- Teach youth how to protect themselves from algorithms and monitoring



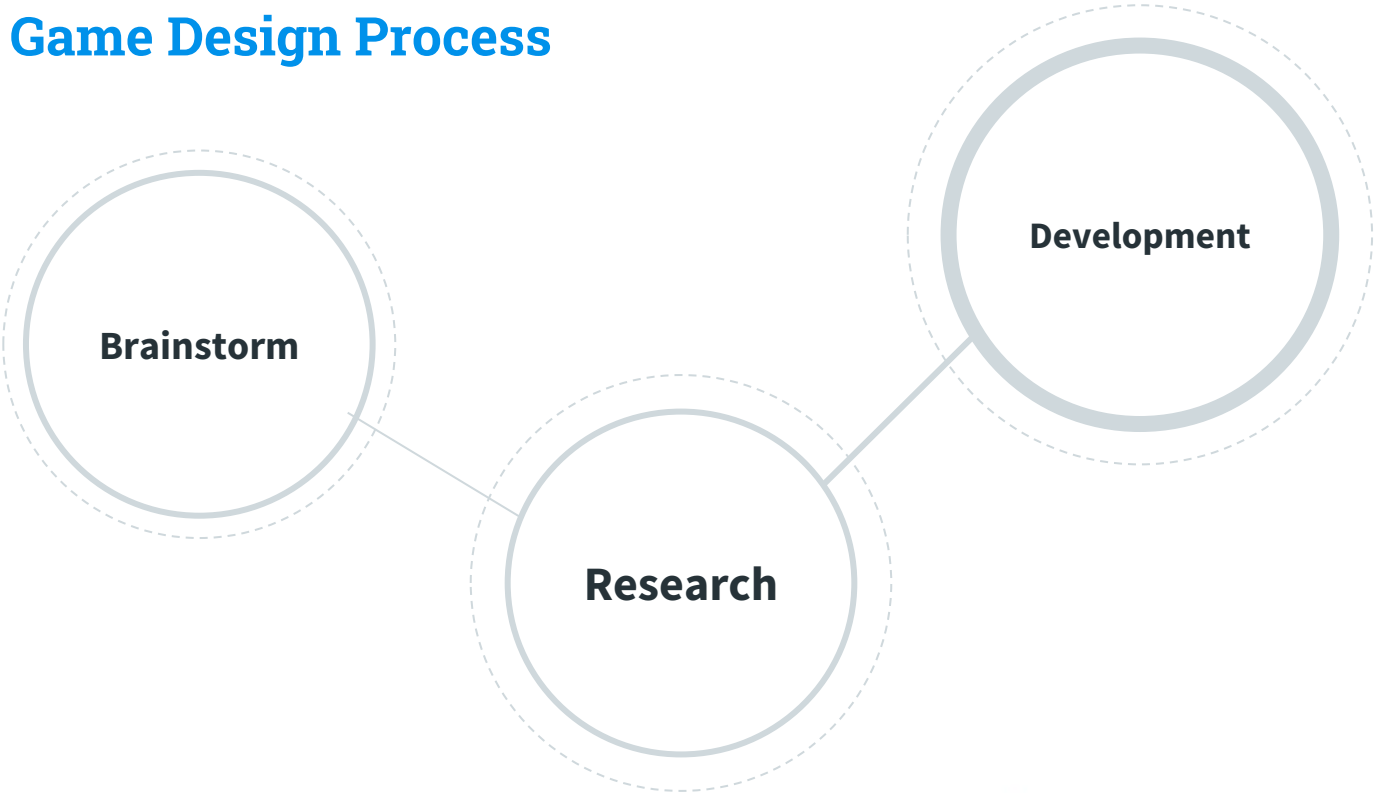
4. Creating *As They Watch Us*



Why a game?

- Meet youth at their learning levels
- Break the cycle in generations
- Allows people interact with this information in a different way (regardless of their prior knowledge)

Game Design Process





5. *As They Watch Us*



As They Watch Us



Who is watching?

Questions, Thoughts?

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