
Biometric Technology and Gender

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

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Project abstract:

Around the world, more than one billion people lack a form of recognized personhood, which impacts their abilities to access everything from banks to education, and thus are trapped in a position of powerlessness to break free from a cycle of poverty (Desai, et al., 2017). Over three-quarters of those without formal identification live in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, and few countries around the world disaggregate data on IDs by gender, which often leads to speculation over any challenges that disproportionately impact women and girls (Desai, et al., 2017). This has led to the adoption of SDG 16.9, where the UN seeks to “provide legal identity for all, including birth registration” by 2030 (UN Sustainable Development Goals, 2019) Because the impacts of biometric technology for women and girls have not been extensively considered or studied, this dissertation will seek to answer the question: “to what extent have women and girls been considered in the deployment of biometric technology for refugee and stateless persons?” and “to what extent are the impacts of this technology felt uniquely by women and girl users?”

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Biometric Technology and Gender

Dissertation title and abstract

Gender Considerations in Digital Biometric Technology

- International Development

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Tim Dyson

This is a desk-based research project that seeks to answer “to what extent have women and girls been considered in the deployment of biometric technology for refugee and stateless persons?” and “to what extent are the impacts of this technology felt uniquely by women and girl users?”

Data collection

The dissertation conducted for this dissertation will primarily be desk-based, theoretical analysis of gender and power in the humanitarian and technological context. Because biometric technologies have only been applied in the humanitarian sphere in recent years, this dissertation will take a more theoretical approach to anticipating the potential unintended consequences of such rapid deployment. In doing so, I will apply critical theory to consider further the unequal power hierarchies and the way that bias can be amplified in the deployment of technological solutions to humanitarian crises. I will explore biometric technology using the concept of biopower, where technologies can be used as tools of control and subjugation of people. These programs were chosen because they represent the broad implications for biometric technologies in the humanitarian sphere. This paper will take a phenomenological approach to desk-based research in order to construct an in-depth analysis of women’s lived experiences with technology and will include a theoretical framework influenced by both Foucauldian and feminist discourse on power.

Informed consent and anonymisation of primary research data

N.A

NA

Research ethics

- Yes

Storage and back-up

Data will be stored on my computer and saved daily to drop box to ensure that data is backed up relatively frequently (will also utilise university H-space)