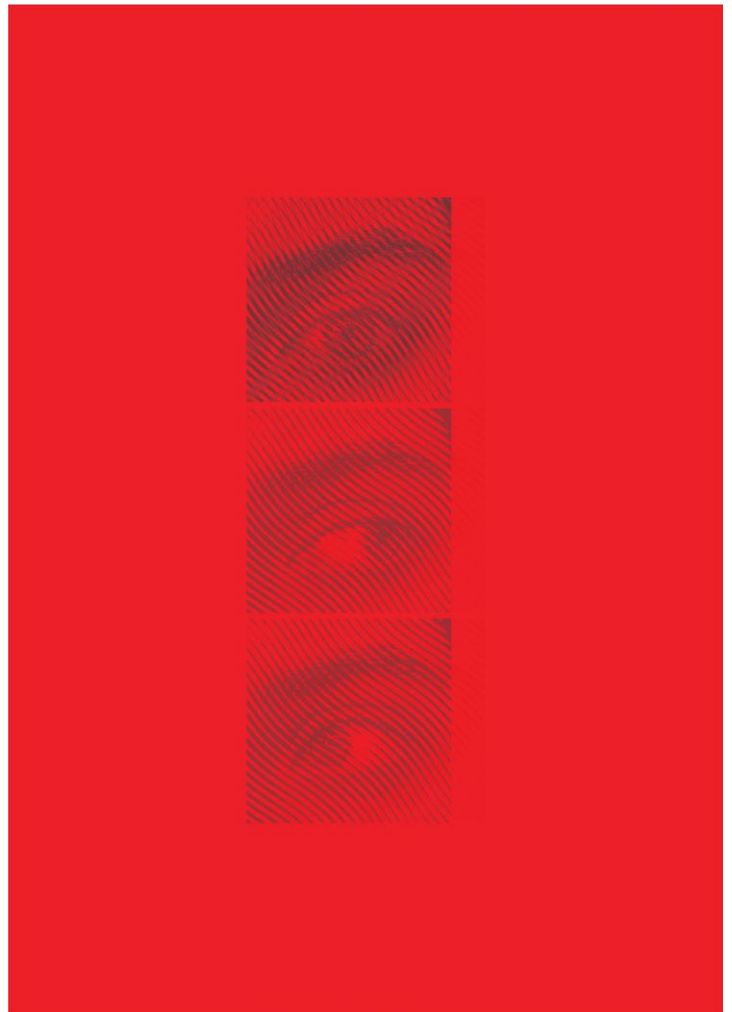
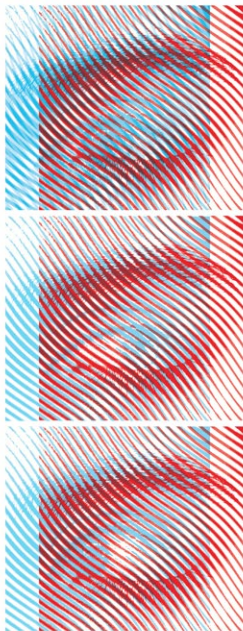


SURVEILLANCE CULTURE

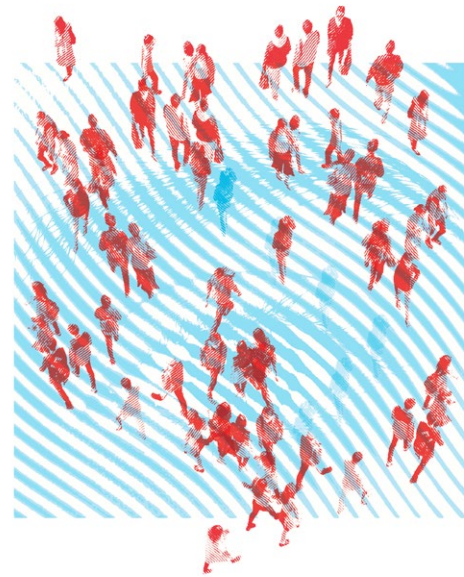
= A culture where surveillance is integrated into everyday environment. Daily use of surveillance technologies and practices in modern society.

We as ordinary citizens constantly and routinely make sense of / respond to / initiate surveillance through technologies. That can lead an individual to a suspicion, fear of control, it can affect a sense of belonging, security and safety. (Lyon D., Surveillance Society: Monitoring Everyday Life, 2007)



PART 1: REFERENCES

The topic of surveillance is very complex and touches political, cultural, and social implications of surveillance technologies and practices. For my inquiry, I wanted to focus on the social implications and the concept of living as an individual in a surveillance culture. In Unit 2: Methods Of Iterating, I tried to use my established visual direction and create designs that communicate the life in the surveillance culture in which we engage in our everyday life, being a part of a surveillance society and how that can affect individualism. I was exploring the ways to use design to draw attention to something that is present in our daily lives, yet it is not always visible at first or we don't think about it. Throughout the process, I came across a number of useful references that helped to shape my enquiry and gave me ideas for future development.



2/6 READING LIST

(1) Beneficence and Contemporary Art: When Aesthetic Judgment Meets Ethical Judgment Barbara Bolt

The book discusses the intersection of aesthetics and ethics in contemporary art, arguing that contemporary art can contribute to ethical concerns by offering alternative perspectives and raising questions about the presented topic.

The topic of Surveillance in society and its implications on an individual is already sensitive and can offer a lot of ethical concerns and questions regarding mental health, but also monitoring and controlling touching political spheres. Using contemporary design to present the topic of a Surveillance society and individualism in such a society, brings a lot of questions about which methods and visual communication to use to stay relevant, informative, educative yet stay sensitive and ethical. The book challenges me as a designer, to represent the topic through contemporary art and design, carefully choose imagery and visuals and keep in mind its ethical implications.

Bolt, B (2015). 'Beneficence and contemporary art: when aesthetic judgment meets ethical judgment'. Visual Methodologies, 3(2), pp. 53-66

(2) Graphesis: Visual Forms of Knowledge Production Johanna Drucker

In the book, Drucker explores the intersection of graphic design and knowledge production. The author emphasizes the focus on the value of visual literacy and critical thinking in the design process and provides techniques for creating effective and engaging visual representations of complex ideas. According to the author, a successful graphic interpretation requires an understanding of the context and audience for the information, as well as balancing the need for accuracy and clarity with the desire for creativity and innovation.

In my project, I am exploring the social implications of living in a surveillance culture, which can be a complex topic. It is vital for me to be aware of potential biases and limitations of my skills but also the design tools I am using, considering how they may shape or constrain the message I want to communicate to the audience. By applying Drucker's principles of intentional design, my graphic design work can effectively communicate my ideas and challenge viewers to rethink their assumptions about surveillance culture.

Drucker, J. (2014). Designing graphic interpretation, in Graphesis: Visual forms of knowledge production. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University

4/6 OUTSIDE RESOURCES

(3) Surveillance Society: Monitoring Everyday Life David Lyon

Lyon has been a useful resource on the topic of Surveillance and provided me with a theoretical framework. His research has analysed the social, cultural, and political implications of surveillance technology and practices. The book also explores how surveillance affects people's social interactions and privacy. What helped to shape my enquiry is Lyon's major contributions to the field. The concept of the "surveillance society," which he defines as a society in which surveillance has become a pervasive and normalised aspect of everyday life.

Lyon's book "Surveillance Society: Monitoring Everyday Life" is particularly relevant to my project, as it examines the impact of surveillance on individuals and society as a whole, which is something I am interested in exploring through graphic design. In this book, Lyon argues that surveillance technologies and practices have created a culture of suspicion and mistrust, which can undermine individual autonomy and freedom.

Lyon, D. (2001). Surveillance Society: Monitoring Everyday Life. Open University Press.

(4) Black Transparency: The Right to Know in the Age of Mass Surveillance Metahaven

The Black Transparency book inspired me and my position on the topic as a graphic designer and visual communicator. The book examines how technologies of transparency such as social media platforms, government databases, and corporate data mining, have led to the emergence of a new form of power that operates through the constant monitoring and manipulation of information. The part that inspired me and my project, is the discussion on how artists and designers can use their skills to challenge and disrupt these technologies of power. It encourages artists to create works that raise awareness of the ways in which surveillance and other forms of monitoring are used to control and regulate people's lives.

Visually, the book challenges me and my design practice to explore new visual strategies and direction as Metahaven's design often use collage-like approach in a combination with images, text and Graphic elements. For the future work on the project, I will be aiming to combine different aspects of graphic design to provide the audience with complex experience. The book challenges my designer practice to think critically about my role in addressing Surveillance and society issues and to experiment with new visual strategies that can effectively communicate my message.

Metahaven. (2015). Black transparency: The Right to Know in the Age of Mass Surveillance. Sternberg Press.



6/6 PRACTICES, PROJECTS

(5) Think Privacy Adam Harvey

Think Privacy is an ongoing campaign that aims to raise awareness about privacy and surveillance issues and to empower people to take control of their digital lives. I found this project when thinking about how to visually present the topic, but also when considering the future development of the project. What inspires me is that through simple designs and posters, the project offers partly provocative, partly educative work, that is clear and easy to understand for the audience. The project explores the topic of data collection and living in a digital and monitored society. It uses simple graphics and phrases, layouts, as an easy-to-understand way to share and explore such complex topics. In my opinion, finding simple ways to present complex topics can be a challenge sometimes and this is one of the projects that proves it is possible to do.

Harvey, A. (2016). Think Privacy. (Interactive workshop series). Available at: <https://adam.harvey.studio/think-privacy>



(6) Tracking Transience Hasan Elahi

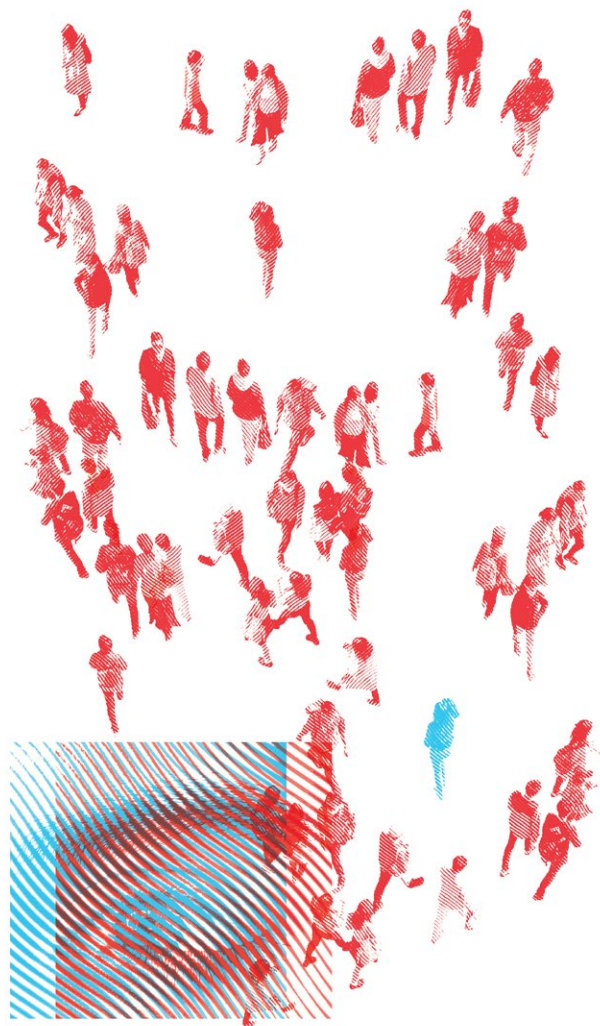
Elahi's project started as a response after he was mistakenly accused of being a terrorist in 2002. After that, he created a set of works accessible online sharing everyday aspects of his life including his current location, photos of his food, activities and parts of his daily living. The project is deeply personal and gives me insights into his own anxieties about living in a society where our every move is tracked and monitored. In his work, he also explores how living in a surveillance society affects our sense of identity and belonging in society. What is inspiring about his work is the use of photography of everyday objects, making the topic approachable and relatable to the audience.

Sharing his own experience is reflected in his work gave me an idea of where to take my project further through exploring the ways to approach people, listen to and gather their experience/knowledge of living in a surveillance society and share that through my designs to give them extra value and relatability.

Elahi, H. (ongoing). Tracking Transience. (Online multimedia project). Available at: <http://trackingtransience.net/>

PART 2: PROJECT ENQUIRY

Exploring the use of graphic design tools to understand the role of identity in modern society. Exploring the social and emotional implications of living as an individual in a technology and surveillance culture, drawing attention to the presence of surveillance in everyday life, challenging viewers to rethink their assumptions and attitudes towards surveillance culture and rethink their role in this society. The focus is put on the social and emotional impact of living in such a society, exploring individual's experience and the way it affects their everyday lives and minds.



LIVING IN A SURVEILLANCE SOCIETY