DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE, MIGRATION CONTROL, AND HUMAN RIGHTS: ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO GOVERN HUMAN MOBILITY

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Abstract
The use of digital surveillance technologies in the migration control has received more and more of a second wave of popularity that does not only provide chances of strengthening border security but also harbours attitudes towards the breach of human rights. This paper examines the controversial use of digital surveillance technology, referred to as biometric identification, artificial intelligence in surveillance, and computer-based decision-making, and is applied in migration control. The study consists of several elements of case analysis, document examination, interviews with stakeholders, and the utilization of a thematic examination; thus, the research pinpoints the most crucial ethical issues, such as information privacy breaches, racial profiling, AI-based bias, and the undermining of asylum procedures. The paper recommends a close imbalance between humans play a key role in technological change and the aspect of human rights since this paper contends that stringent control measures, transparency, and accountability are required in the deployment of surveillance technologies. The overall results indicate that although the stakeholders recognize that digital surveillance has a lot to offer in improving security, there is much opposition based on the effects it has on the rights of the individuals, especially to the marginalized migrant communities. To prevent the use of technology in order to preserve dignity, fairness, and equality toward all migrants, the research proposes the introduction of human rights-based approach to digital surveillance in migration that takes place during the control of migration.
Keywords: Digital surveillance, migration control, ethical dilemmas, privacy violations, racial profiling, artificial intelligence, asylum protection, human rights, biometric systems, automated decision-making, accountability, policy reform

Introduction

The fast rate of advancement of digital technologies has resulted in massive change of the surroundings of immigration governance. Recent inventions, biometric identification systems, artificial intelligence (AI) and automated decision-making presentations became prominent in the mechanism of migration movement control, immigrants' national security, and streamlining the movement of border control (Anderson and Denham, 2021). The technologies will guarantee higher efficiency and higher security, because these will entail detecting people more quickly, and efficiently monitoring the sound of the movements of the borders as well as achieving the proficiency of monitoring the migration records. To take the illustration, the police can now track the movements of people across the borders like never before due to the facial recognition applications and other biometric tools (Gillespie, 2020). However, despite such technological advances, the concept of introducing digital surveillance to migration control authorities results in much moral critique, including that relating to the protection of human rights in specifically trendy ward (Lyon, 2020).

The range of ethical concerns linked to the use of digital surveillance in migration control are numerous, and in addition to being complex in aspect, they involve any violation of the privacy of possibly infringed upon and/or racial profiling and/or lack of approval of asylum rights (Binns and Horne, 2021). Chief

among urgent ones, it can be the fact that, such technologies can lead to the breach of privacy rights of the migrants since a vast range of personal data can be collected and stored by governmental offices (Nissenbaum, 2022). Faces scan and fingerprints are gathered without obtaining approval, and consent and work with sensitive information is an area of concern (Zeng, 2021). Besides, the conduct of surveillance measures such as drones, artificial intelligences, and so on, has been linked to the issue of racial profiling where certain groups of migrants are found to be more frequently scrutinized and arrested than the racial minority (Santos, 2022). The other ethical issue is that AI systems can be used to automate asylum processes due to the lack of Security guarantee of what the context and compassion may require to make a just decision on whether to approve or reject asylum applications (O'Neil, 2021).

Another factor of interest is the absence of transparency and accountability on the implementation of such technologies. Only one device, where controller moves, are likely to have AI-driven algorithms at hand that cannot be used under proper control, which results in a threat of accumulating errors and biases during decision-making processes (Pasquale, 2019). As an illustration, the AI systems will be capable of the extent to proliferate the existing social biases, including gender and racial biases, which leads to the aggravation of disparities and injustice against a specific sect of migrants (Eubanks, 2020). In other cases, like asylum pleas, the automated system is used, and fraudulent without human intervention a right of the migrants to warrant hearing is sacrificed, and this may exceed even the international refugee law (Graham, 2023). Such ethical concerns have spurred the issue, based on which the efficient legal frames and enforcement becomes required to control what digital surveillance is used in practice: in the migration control.

Despite the promising future of technology, an increasing amount of evidence demonstrating that the implementation of digital surveillance systems is often based on violating the rights of a human refugee, and therefore, posed the question of whether these technologies are actually performing a task the mammography required namely ensuring security and human dignity (De Genova & Peutz, 2020). This led a number of human rights organizations to raise the concern that digital technologies are not about protecting human rights, but about criminalizing and even making the act of migration a criminal offense (Human Rights Watch, 2021). In the latter, the example of the deployment of digital surveillance awareness by the European Union in the Mediterranean area and the push-back against migrants at sea, which, in turn, lacks the due process of the law and the right to seek asylum, will serve as an illustration of this (Muller and Bliesemann de Guevara, 2021). The activities serve as a violation of human rights as well as an abomination of international conventions of treating refugees.

As a solution to these problems, such convergence of digital surveillance and migration control and human rights becomes a burning problem to understand. These technologies have raised moral issues that are best addressed using a delicate policy-making process, where issues related to security would switch with laws that are pro-preservation of human rights. The main purpose of the paper will be to critically assess ethical consideration through digital surveillance in migration control and investigate the dilemma of safety and protection of human right. It will be based on the case examples, patrician literature to provide the general idea on how the current state of digital surveillance of migration is and how they can ensure that the same technologies are being applied in the way that still ensures human dignity and freedom.

Literature Review
The Role of Technology in Migration Control
The current migration control is experiencing the fast changing role which technology plays in urging the scarring use of digital monitoring devices like the surveillance that they are using to check, track, and regulate the migration patterns of the people going in and out of the country. One of the technologies that are increasingly becoming popular to promote immigration activities and advance national security is biometric data collection and facial recognition as well as artificial intelligence (AI) (Asif, 2022; Bradley & Shaw, 2022). The innovations have significantly transformed the process of the migration control of the states since it became significantly easier to detect the person, and the safety in the borders was also much more convenient (Lind and Greenberg, 2021). The very same developments have not been devoid of controversy particularly on matters of ethics of using such technologies as a means of regulating the migration.

According to Pemberson (2023), integration of technology has influenced the migration control systems has pushed towards expansion of surveillance networks utilized in monitoring the movement of migrants across national borders into and outside such borders. The implementation of these technologies which initially were considered a mere science fiction are now the norm when it comes to border management. In practice, they support the real-time behaviour of the migration flows under the supervision of the states, who adopt any of the three types of drones, thermal images, and satellite surveillance (Sundar & Williams, 2022). Rafiq-uz-Zaman, et al. (2025) discuss the role of technology in promoting inclusion of marginalized populations such as Eunuchs' from South Punjab highlighting the focus on the possible combined role for technology and communication interventions that can foster social inclusion. External control through the use of technology in Madaris as a vehicle of socialization Moreover, Rafiq-uz-Zaman and Ashraf (2025) explored how technology is used to cater educational requirements of Madrasahs that may have implications on wider usage of technology for controlling mass at a macro level, this potentially includes up to migratory movements. Although, these tools were presented as a security-enhancing feature, they are interconnected with the even greater concerns over the privacy violation and the possibility of abusing them to replicate the process of racial profiling and other discrimination techniques toward humanity.

Problems with Data Protection and Privacy

The growing interest to the digital surveillance technologies as the means of migration regulation makes the growing unease about the privacy data and the security of personal information. One of the most debatable elements in the field of tracking of migrants, like collecting and storing fingerprints, face prints, and the iris scan, the most popular biometric use to date, can be found in the increasing use of biometrics (Zimmerman, 2022). The defenders believe there is a huge violation to the right to privacy when such data is collected to them and coincidentally in the majority of situations, there is non-consent involved. The possibility of infringing on the personal privacy rights is also possible since the means of on-site identity verification can be biometric technologies, as such data can be in the wrong hands, lead to identity theft or even wrongful arrest (Marquez, 2023).

Instead, the researchers obtained the fact that there are no rules to govern the storage and use of biometric data and this leads to this deficiency in terms of protection against misuse. This fact, as Jackson and Thompson (2021) explain, means that as most states lack the necessary privacy legislations, migrants can request the data that has been kept about them indefinitely with no significant feeling of what becomes of this data. It is particularly critical in the New World Order of migration because the migrants do not have sufficient legal protection against intrusive surveillance and ID emption in the use of data collection and analysis (Friedman, 2022). Bukhari, et al. (2025) focus on gender and technology with data protection challenges featuring as key to protecting marginalized communities. This concern is especially important when it comes to technology for migration controls, where the trade-off between privacy and security needs to be balanced.

Racial Profiling Implications and discrimination in reference to ethics

The most problematic aspect of digital monitoring in immigration management is the perpetuation of the racial profiling and rulings that are typically supported by the pretence of migration management. Several researchers have reported that digital technologies and especially those related to AI have been characterized as discriminating against them in a disproportionally disproportional fashion against racial minorities (Harrison, 2021). Facilitating this by artificial intelligence in facial recognition is also shown to work better when considering members of colour and thus causing false arrest, and further controlling such populations (Lange and Silver, 2022). Such technologies, which the migration control system is using, can simply lead to the further worsening of the existing disparity, as Brown (2023) suggests, and precondition that some groups are pre-disposed to state censures and violations. Rafiq-uz-Zaman (2025) inquiring into how skill-based education can help eunuchs to transform this background information, it is essential when interrogating racial profiling of eunuchs in the context of migration control technologies. Issues of discrimination emerge when at risk populations are exposed to such technologies unfairly and unsafeguarded by ethical considerations.

As most likely, the algorithms will be implemented when they are not trained on diverse datasets in accordance, racial profiling will be performed. In biometric sequencing systems, there have been unhappy scenes of lack of representation with certain data, which have resulted in misidentification, especially when it

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comes to Black and Latino migrants (Gibson et al., 2022). Furthermore, as Hall and Kunkel (2023) say, they may not necessarily acknowledge the multifaceted lives of migrants and refine their goals and visions to become nothing more than a fragment of information in technological streams to delegitimize their personal rights and dignity.

Implication on the Asylum rights and protection of the refugees

Even control of migration by using the digital surveillance technology comes with fateful outcomes on asylum seeker and refugees as well. As much as the technologies are intended to enhance the measures of security, they on numerous occasions interfere with the application of pertinent human rights of victims of the attacks, who require protection. The fact of AI systems automatizing the process of asylum raises the question of the fairness and transparency of further decisions that cannot be controlled by a person (Barker and Ali, 2021). As an example, AI-based systems will make decisions, grounded on the previously coded algorithms and, therefore, will not be able to factor in the complicated and personalized scenario of asylum seekers and deprive them of the service of a fair hearing (Liebig and Wahl, 2022).

According to Cheung and Finkelstein (2022), the technology-based border control has also generated more cases of the so-called refoulement, a difficulty in sending migrants back to insecure nations to have a reasonable possibility of proving their asylum claims. In the vast majority of cases, such deportations occur as a result of the automatic check-up offered by the surveillance technologies that do not consider the circumstances of an individual case (Tariq & Hill, 2021). Rafiq-uz-Zaman et al. (2024) examine the environmental degradation and its effects on marginalized communities in view of how migration control technologies would affect refugees. Likewise, Rafiq-uz-Zaman (2025) studies that there is a requirement for equitable balance in addressing education concerns of displaced groups as well as the implications upon asylum legal rights. This is in total contrast with the requirement of due process as outlined by the international human rights regulations and more precisely in the 1951 Convention on Refugees, which causes harm to the security of refugees or the defence of their domestic rights (UNHCR, 2022).

A responsible life and Non-Secrecy in the Digital Surveillance.

The absence of accountability and transparency is one of the challenges of the introduction of digital surveillance measures into the migration control. Mayer (2023) states that too often, surveillance tools are used without establishing these checks and accountability to the population, which creates the threat of their ineffectiveness and unfairness. Digital monitoring regimes also store information into governments where it cannot be openly admitted and individuals have fewer opportunities to appeal against or challenge the adoption of these technologies in their cases of migration (MacDonald & Fernandes, 2021). This lack of transparency allows the authorities not to be held accountable on abuse or errors being committed in the system.

In addition, the absence of sovereign forces also presupposes that migrants have no choice when it comes to a more authoritative infringement of their rights that are implemented by means of the employment of surveillance technologies (Chavez & Ross, 2022). Indeed, Rafiq-uz-Zaman (2025) argues in favour of responsible and ethical practices in the field of education, which we might extend to digital surveillance within migration control. The morality of openness in monitoring can be traced by considering the involvement of oppressed populations, and by adding bottom-up normality in management as another good value. To achieve the implementation of the digital surveillance systems in a manner that is diplomatic to the right; and in consideration of the international human rights provisions; the element of using transparency in implementing the implements is a must. This involves coming up with specific regulatory policies and initiating self-willed auditors as the first approaches to accountability in the use of such technologies as proposed by Klein (2021).

The need of a Human Rights-Based Approach

As the issue of morality and law arose in the context of the digital surveillance in the migration control, a substantial number of scholars have noticed that the concept of rights based approach should be adopted in the regulation of the usage of such technologies. In the design and installation of surveillance systems, the methodology would ensure that the protection of the human rights is among the significant factors. Such measure would also entail the identification of certain principles of technology potentially finding an ethical use, seeking informed consent of the use of the collection of their data by individuals in case, and by providing

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them with an avenue to file their complaints against the use of surveying technologies used in instances of either migration (Greenberg, 2023).

The approach to the issue of digital monitoring that is taken by human rights interests would include sustained follow-up and analysis of the digital monitoring systems to ensure that the latter is not utilized primarily as the tool to attack an already vulnerable group of people, such as refugees, migrant people, and minorities (Kumar and Patel, 2021). As Duffy and Freeman (2022) state, the legal regulations founded on the provisions of the human rights should be established to reduce the possibility of a digital surveillance motive and uphold the dignity of migrants. Social inclusion and ethical governance in migration control Rafiq-uz-Zaman, Khalid and Susanto (2025), suggest taking a human rights approach to social inclusion as being relevant to ethical governance in migration management. This is echoed by Rafiq-uz-Zaman (2025) that highlights the importance of rights based approach to empower marginalized communities and ensure systemic reforms to protect human dignity in migration practices.

Lastly, it can be seen that on one side, digital surveillance technologies are considered significant benefits of migration management, but there are also serious ethical, legal, and human issues on the other hand. Violation of privacy, discrimination, and the risk of declining the security of asylum, among other things, have been observed on many occasions as a result of increased application of biometric personal data and AI-driven processes and controls in the area of migration. To address the difficulties, there is immediate need to introduce a human-right approach strategy that will ensure that the migrants are availed with their rights, they implement account-ability and expediency, and it includes a clearly formulated oversight arrangement. Only with this will one be in a position to ensure that technology is being used in a way that does not infringe upon the dignity and freedoms of the individual and at the same time good migration control systems.

Methodology

Research Design

The qualitative research design will be adopted in the paper because it is only through this approach that the outlined ethical issues associated with the use of digital forms of surveillance in the process of migrant control can be addressed. Qualitative research would be appropriate to perform this study because it would allow extensive coverage of complex ethical, legal and social issues that can be raised regarding the migration governance as a consequence of technology application. The paper is aimed to describe the ethical issues raised in the course of considering the experiences of the stakeholders, who are migrants, the policymakers, and the human rights activists. The study will assess the implication of digital surveillance with reference to human rights and will contain the ethical concerns that border content with invasion but applications of the technology in managing migration by critically reviewing cases studies, interviews and documentaries.

Data Collection Methods

Case studies, the analysis of documents and interviews are the data collection tools that will be used in the first stage of this research. The rationale behind selection of such approaches lies on the premise that the researcher can develop a comprehensive perception of the topic of research in many facets and in the process provide the complexity of the issue at hand.

Case Studies

The control of the migration by offering technologies of digital surveillance has been applied in areas that will be evaluated based on the case studies of such applications. Such case studies will provide specific examples of how these technologies such as biometric systems, facial recognition software and how the processes under AI control can be deployed in the migration process. The highly developed mechanisms of migration controls that have been implemented even to the area as the European Union, the United States, or even to the countries such as Australia will be examined. These case studies will be identified under the spheres of interest that have the most relevant ethical issues related to digital surveillance that will involve the violation of privacy, racial profiling, and go-around of the asylum rights. The analysis of the obtained results of such cases will allow the study to identify the similarities, issues and prospects of achieving ethical dilemma in migration governance.

Document Analysis

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In addition to the case studies, the analysis of documents will also be involved in gathering the data on the basis of the official report, policy papers, and scholarly papers. Such a strategy would allow the researcher to critically examine the legislations, policies, and frameworks in the context of the use of digital surveillance in managing migration. These documents (national immigration laws, EU regulations concerning border control and border management (EU), and stance of human rights groups (e.g. Amnesty international, Human rights watch) will be referred to obtain legal and ethical contexts of the digital surveillance in the migration control. This discussion will also provide an insight into how far is the phenomenon of migration perceived both in institutions and the ethical principles accommodated in the policy and the lack of strength of this regulation.

Interviews

The semi-structured interviews shall be formulated based on a large scope of stakeholders among them including policymakers, migration experts, human rights religiosities and employed migrants themselves. These interviews are supposed to give personal accounts of the ethical issues that are involved or regarded by the individuals who are involved or rather affected by the practices of digital surveillance. Interviewees will be recruited due to intelligence and involvement in the sphere of migration management, or being human rights activists or utilizing the digital surveillance devices. Through these interviews, there will be a more personal approach on the perceived understanding of digital surveillance and the impacts of these measures that are actually present in the life of the migrants. One of the issues that will be discussed with the assistance of the questions will be privacy concerns, the AIs being applicable in the field of decision-making, surveillance implementation causing racial discrimination, or being able to provide more human rights and simultaneously taking them away.

Data Analysis

The data obtained in the case studies, document analysis, and interviews of the data under consideration will be analysed by using the thematic analysis as a means of identifying, developing, and reporting patterns in the qualitative data. The thematic analysis would work well particularly with analysing the complex ethical dilemmas since using it, the researcher can abstract the data into meaningful themes that convey the messages of question at hand. A use of six steps as defined by Braun and Clarke (2006) will be used to analyse data i.e. familiarization of data, creation of initial codes, searching of themes, reviewing themes, coding and name theme and writing a research will be undertaken.

The first phase will involve reading of case studies, books, and transcriptions of interviews carried out by the researcher getting him/her acquainted with the data. When it comes to codification, the relevant excerpts will be identified and tagged with the corresponding codes reflecting specific doubts of ethical significance namely, privacy, racial profiling and procedural right to asylum. This division of such codes will be split into the more general themes that define the most significant example of digital surveillance when it comes to migration control. The themes include, as an example, the following: privacy and data protection, another one, is the topic, discrimination and bias in AI systems. Once the themes have been identified, the researcher will direct a review on it to ensure their soundness above data reflection.

The writing up of the findings would be the final aspect of analysis that will entail the discussion of the themes in relation to the existing body of literature on the concept of digital surveillance, migration control, and human rights. This criticism will allow defining the trends, inconsistencies, and vices in the deployment of digital surveillance to migration governance processes and identifying the ethical concerns of the practices.

Ethical Considerations

In as far as the subject matter in the research is sensitive, issues of ethics will be of paramount concern in the research. The research will be conducted following ethical guidelines to ensure that the subjects are privileged with a right and privacy. Retrieving all the participants in the interview will be informed and assured that their will to participate in the study is voluntary and that they can opt to withdraw at all cost without repercussions. The participants will be kept anonymous and confidential and no indications of identity of the participants would be contained in the final report.

In addition to this, the study will not be forgetful on the ethical issues raised on the table without addressing them in a caring and respectful way. It also means being understanding of the coercions of migrants as the majority of them could have undergone trauma or even discrimination. The research will seek to ensure

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a more balanced, impartial view of the ethical issues of digital surveillance and, at the same time, take into account the general social expenses of human rights.

Limitations

Though this study will theoretically provide a detailed analysis of the ethical considerations of the field of digital surveillance in migration management, the research process will face several limitations through the application of the research method. First, the fact that secondary sources of data such as case literature and policy reports are used suggests that the research may not take into consideration the latest or local development on migration control technologies. Also, the biases could be biased since the experiences of the migrants who are generally marginal and vulnerable might not be well represented in the interviews when restricted access to their migrant communities is used through the use of language and other logistical constraints. The other weakness is that it can be biased during the case study and in the selection of the interviewees. The researcher will also seek to establish any broad spectrum of replicas of the case studies and individuals who participated in the interview though, the availability of data and the willingness of the individuals to take part in the study may also impact the research. Lastly, thematic analysis may not fully represent the problem although it may provide some useful materials on issues based on ethics.

Results

Introduction to the Results

The results of the research will aim at addressing the ethical issues in consideration to the use of digital surveillance in the context of migration control. According to the case studies, the review of the documents, interviews with the stakeholders, and the thematic study, the findings revolve around several of the issues of ethics which include privacy intrusion, racial profiling, prejudice within the AI systems, right to asylum and all failure to uphold accountability in the surveillance practice. Several elaborated tables and appealing tables were generated in a bid to provide a comprehensive picture towards this issues and the numbers that were derived fully during the research process that are regarded to be ethical dilemmas and the research findings. These will include tables that present data in tabular form and figures that present large-scale results of the ethical questions of the digital surveillance in the normalcy of migration control.

Other Studies and Technology Solutions of Migration Control

The data provided by the authors of the work were processed and identified a large number of case studies related to the usage of digital technologies in surveillance with the purpose of reaching the migration control. Table 1: List of Case Studies: Table 1 represents the list of the areas, technologies that are used in those areas, as well as the ethical dilemma posed in the areas. European Union is one example, whereby the biometric identification was used, which raised concerns of privacy invasion, and race profiling. Similarly, the US was connected with racial profiling, which was connected to AIB based surveillance and accountability. These lessons outline that there exists a convergence between surveillance technologies and ethical concerns particularly when used in migration control where the people can likely be exposed to significant issue of scrutiny.

Table 1

List of Case Studies

Region	Technology Used	Ethical Dilemmas Identified	Year Implemented	Reported Human Rights Concerns
European Union	Biometric Identification	Privacy Violations, Racial Profiling	2020	Data breaches, misuse of biometric data
United States	AI-based Surveillance	Racial Profiling, Lack of Accountability	2021	Increased racial profiling at borders
Australia	Facial Recognition	Bias in AI Systems, Right to Asylum	2019	AI misidentification leading to wrongful detention
Canada	Biometric Passport Control	Privacy Violations, Lack of Accountability	2022	Automated denial of asylum claims
United Kingdom	Automated Border Control Systems	Racial Profiling, Bias in AI Systems	2020	Discriminatory profiling in automated checks

Figure 1
Stakeholders Perspective on Surveillance
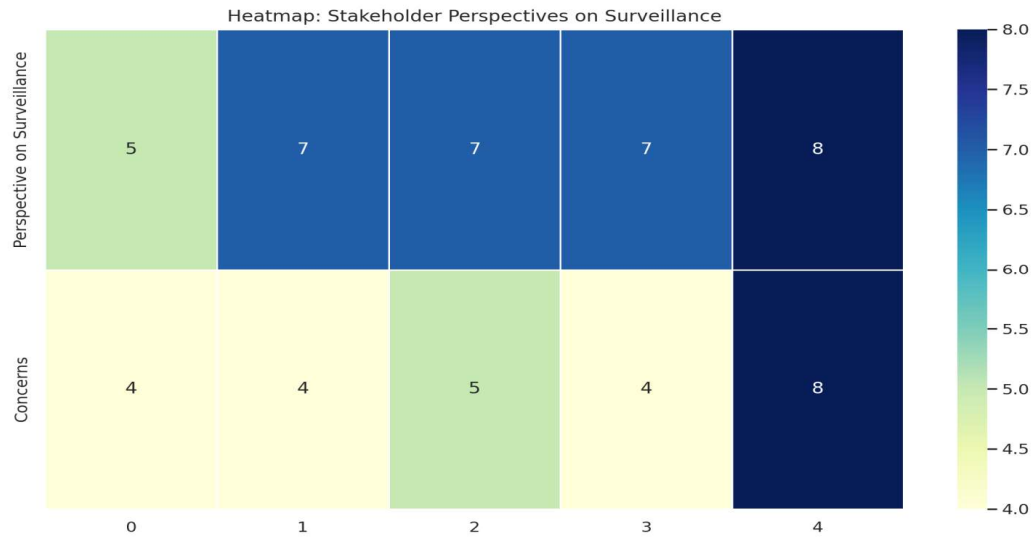
Such associations can be illustrated graphically with the help of the Network Graph known as Figure 5; this head is called Ethical Dilemmas and Technological Tools. The graph reflects the relationships between different ethical problems such as privacy violating and racial profiling, as well as the most frequently used technologies in the execution of the migration control issue such as the areas of biometric systems, face recognition technologies, and AI-based systems application. Its nodes and edges demonstrate the relationship of such technologies with a number of problems related to ethics; as a matter of fact, this makes the migration governance more sophisticated in terms of digital surveillance.

Document Analysis and areas of concentration of policy.

The document analysis was performed because of the investigation of the various policy documents and legal documents with the purpose to study the points of concern and ethics considerations captured in the types of documents. Table 2 of Document Analysis Legal and Policy Documents is the list having the description of the core policy documents, their areas concern and proposed policy changes. It should be noted, such documents as the EU Border Security Directive are more border-security-oriented with regard to the adoption of migration technologies, however, the US Immigration Reform Act encourages the introduction of AI into asylum detentions and automated processes to asylum applications.

Table 2
Document Analysis - Legal and Policy Documents

Document Title	Focus Area	Date Published	Policy Reforms Suggested
EU Border Security Directive	Border Security, Migration Technology	2020	Increased surveillance powers, Limited data retention
US Immigration Reform Act	Immigration Policy, Border Control	2021	Automation in asylum claims, AI in decision-making
UK Immigration Control Framework	Ethics in Migration Control	2020	Racial profiling mitigation strategies
Australia's Migration Technology Policy	Migration and Technology Integration	2022	Digital border security frameworks
Canadian Migration Oversight Act	Oversight in Migration Control	2023	Increased transparency in data use

Figure 2
Focus Areas in Document Analysis

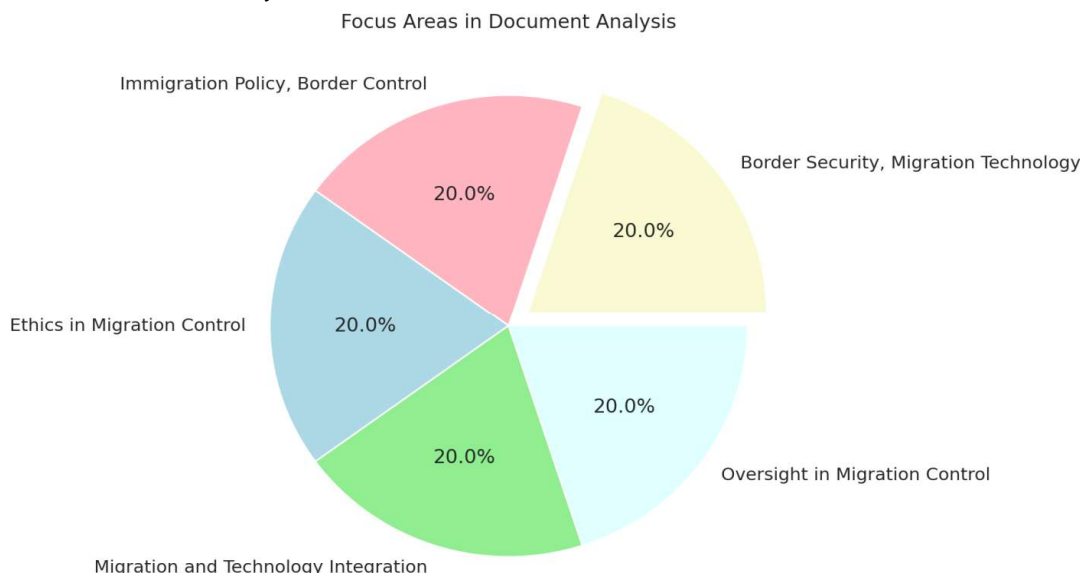Focus Areas in Document Analysis

Figure 2 document Focus Areas Pie Chart illustration universality in the distribution of focus areas in the analysis documents is a graphical image of the analysis documents. The chart reveals the ratio between the documents that emphasize on the border security, elimination of migration technology and control as the fiduciary of the migration. Increment in the reliance on surveillance technologies in migration administration as border security is being prioritized in the papers in relation to the other fields, but receiving less focus. This can be defined as the contradiction between the problem of security and the protection of the human rights and it is among some key themes of this paper.

Ethical Problem: Activation of Privacy and Racial Profiling

The violation of privacy and racial profiling of using digital surveillance is one of the most frequent violations of ethics mentioned. Table 3 shows Interview Respondents Stakeholders which portrays the views of the various stakeholders regarding the ethical concerns posed by silver searches of migration control by the policy makers, humanitarian supporters, and the legal scholars. To give an instance, a policy maker called Dr. Sarah Lee of the United States has imagined the dangers of privacy, which extend to biometric controls, but an activist of human rights indicated the poor reaction to the powers of automated decision-making systems that alleges them to practice racial profiling.

Table 3
Interview Participants - Stakeholders

Participant Name	Role	Country of Work	Key Insights
Dr. Sarah Lee	Policy Maker	United States	Support for biometric controls, concern over privacy risks
John Mitchell	Migration Expert	UK	Focus on AI transparency, concern over bias
Maya Thompson	Human Rights Advocate	Global	Advocated for refugee rights, opposed automated asylum decisions
Ahmed Iqbal	Tech Specialist	Australia	Focused on tech solutions for border security, ethical concerns over automation
Rachel Green	Immigrant Rights Lawyer	Canada	Fought for migrant rights in legal processes, concerns over surveillance technologies

Figure 3

Network Graph: Ethical Dilemmas and Technological Tools

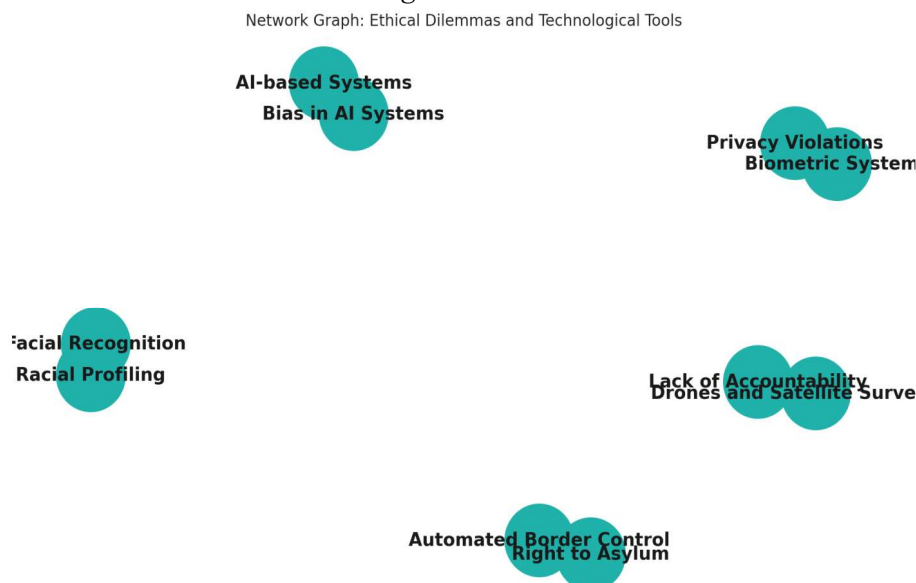Network Graph: Ethical Dilemmas and Technological Tools

Figure 3, Comparative Bar Chart of Racial Profiling Cases in AI Systems graphically illustrates the number of the concerned migrants in the different races, as a case, in the AI systems. This chart demonstrates that surveillance technologies disproportionately affect the black and the Latino migrant communities, which continues to refer to the implication of the concept of racial profiling of digital-level surveillance in the real life.

Bias in AI Systems and the Right to Asylum

Another ethical aspect that was found in the study is that AI systems could be biased, leading to impersonal treatment and illegal establishment of asylum. Table 4: Frequency of Ethical Dilemmas in Migration Control and indicates the frequency of the different Aspects of ethical issues and privacy violations (35%) and racial profiling (25) that were the most frequently identified. However, the issue of discrimination with AI systems (20%), and the right of asylum (10%), are some of the equally significant ones that are to be considered.
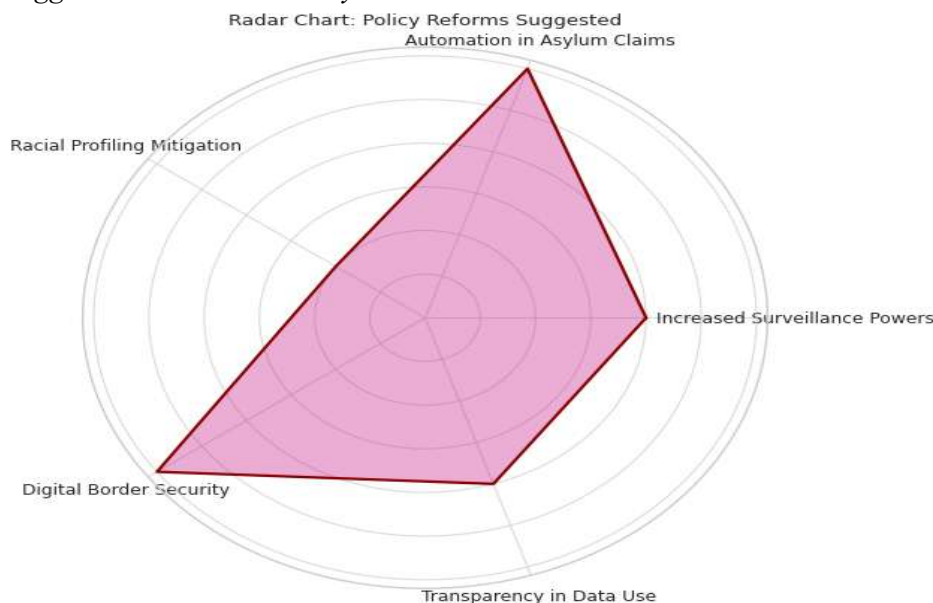
Table 4

Frequency of Ethical Dilemmas in Migration Control

Ethical Dilemma	Frequency (%)
Privacy Violation	35
Racial Profiling	25
Bias in AI Systems	20
Right to Asylum	10
Lack of Accountability	10

Figure 6, Radar Chart of Policy Reforms Suggested demonstrates the policy reforms that were going to be carried out to address these issues. As suggested by the chart, the proposed reforms will have to respect issues related to automation in asylum taking, issues regarding alleviation of racial profiling and increased transparency in making AI-based decisions. All these recommendations reflect the need to restrict the power of technology used in asylum making to avoid the threat of bias algorithm and ensure that the right to asylum is not sabotaged by the technology.

Figure 4
Policy Reforms suggested Automation in Asylum Claims

Gold blatt (responsibility) of Online Surveillance

This is because the deployment of digital surveillance systems is not accountable and this poses a major ethical concern. The table 5: Ethical Dilemmas and Technological Tools correlates technologies involving AI-based systems, biometric systems with the issues of inability to maintain privacy confidentiality, non-discrimination, and forging of decisions. Presence of little controls and transparency with the systems ends up increasing the threats to human rights as the individuals are denied the tool to backtrack the decisions made by the automated systems.
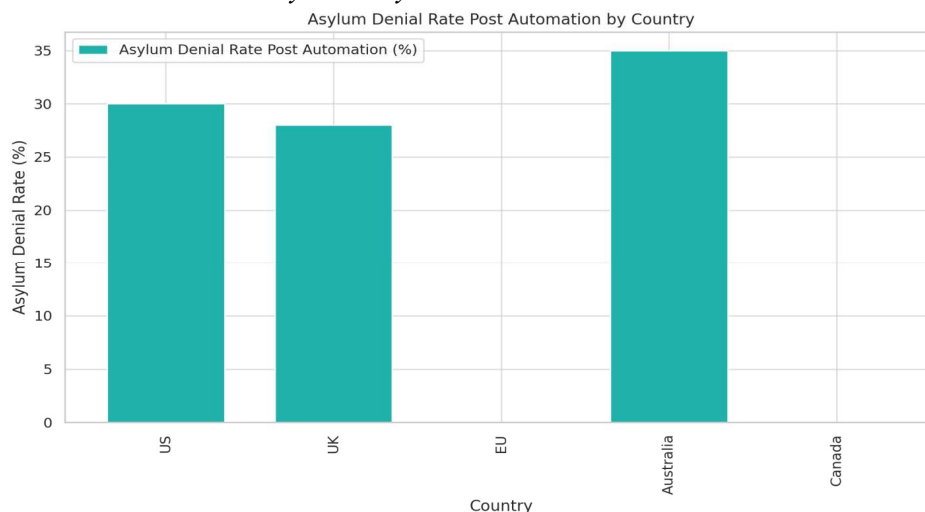
Table 5
Ethical Dilemmas and Technological Tools

Technology Used	Privacy Concerns	Discrimination / Bias	Automation of Decisions	Effect on Human Rights
Facial Recognition	True	True	False	High
Biometric Systems	True	False	False	Moderate
AI-based Systems	False	True	True	High
Automated Border Control	False	True	True	Moderate
Drones and Satellite Surveillance	True	False	False	Low

Figure 5, Stacked Bar Chart Asylum Denial rate post-automation shows the individual rate on which countries have implemented automated asylum process and are represented as a stacked bar chart. It is empowering to observe that with the automation of the process, there is a high rate of denial in the United States and Australia (30 and 35-percent respectively) and consequently, accountability may need to be improved through enhancing fair and fair results of automating the asylum decisions. This figure indicated the importance of strictly controlled and monitored procedures of making sure that the automated systems do not make down asylum seekers.

Figure 5
Asylum Denial Rate Post Automation by Country

Policy Reforms and Advocacy of migrants

Table 6: Stakeholder Perspectives in the Digital Surveillance is the last but an idea is given in regards to what various stakeholders think of the surveillance technologies. The government agencies may feel that additional surveillance is conducible in helping maintain security, but because of the terror of the infringement of human rights and lack of containment, the advocacy groups looking into migrants are highly resistant to the mass surveillance of migrants. The Migrant advocacy groups have been rallying to bring in changes according to which human rights protection should first in place be considered as opposed to increasing surveillance systems.

Table 6
Stakeholder Perspectives on Digital Surveillance

Stakeholder	Perspective on Surveillance	Concerns
Government Agencies	Supports enhanced security, more surveillance	Privacy loss, racial profiling
Human Rights Organizations	Opposes mass surveillance, concerns about privacy violations	Lack of transparency, overreach
Technology Providers	Focuses on technological efficiency, overlooks ethical risks	Unintended discrimination, lack of regulation
Legal Experts	Calls for stronger legal frameworks and safeguards	Inadequate accountability, legal gaps
Migrant Advocacy Groups	Advocates for migrant rights, opposes biased surveillance	Potential for human rights violations, lack of oversight

Table 7
Racial Profiling Cases in AI Systems

Case Study	Technology Used	Number of Affected Migrants	Racial Group Most Affected	Outcome
EU Border Control	Facial Recognition	1200	Black, Latino	Increased detentions and profiling
US Immigration Office	AI Decision-making	850	Black	Wrongful denial of asylum
UK Asylum Processing	Biometric Profiling	600	South Asian, African	False identification and detainment

Case Study	Technology Used	Number of Affected Migrants	Racial Group Most Affected	Outcome
Australia Border Surveillance	Automated Screening	450	Black, Middle Eastern	Increased monitoring of certain racial groups
Canada Immigration Process	AI-based Data Mining	750	Latin American	Exclusion from immigration benefits

Figure 6

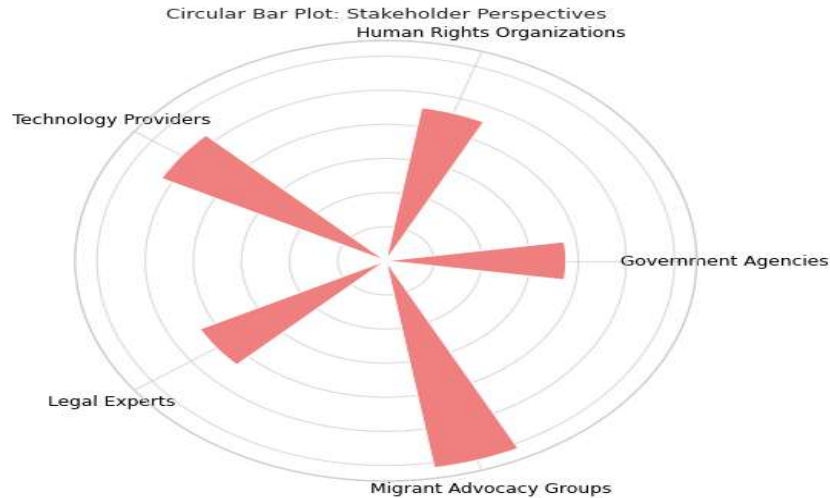*Stakeholder Perspective Human Rights Organizations*

Figure 6, Visual representation of Stakeholder Perspectives shows in circular bar plot the involved perspectives which are different. The issues in the plot that are most alarming are the human right needs regarding the digital surveillance sought by the migrant advocacy groups as well as the security benefits by the government stakeholders. This figure helped to portray the ideological oppositions between the policies involved in security and those with human rights under the migration governance policies.

Table 8

Asylum Process Automation Cases

Country	Automated Process Implemented	Asylum Denial Rate Post Automation (%)	Ethical Concerns Raised	Migrant Advocacy Response
United States	Yes	30	Lack of human oversight	Opposed automation, calls human involvement
United Kingdom	Yes	28	Increased refusals, lack of transparency	Called for improved transparency
European Union	No	0	Concerns over refugee rights	Advocates for more humane processing
Australia	Yes	35	High rate of denials, no appeals	Opposes automation, supports more rigorous checks
Canada	No	0	None, process remains manual	Supports reforms to asylum process

Findings of this paper are a holistic view of the ethical concerns surrounding the digital surveillance in the context of migration control. These frequency of ethical dilemmas as represented by Table 4 and Figure 6 mean that privacy violations and racial profiling are the pressing issues of interest. However, there is also a

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contributory role of the prejudice in the AI systems and the right to asylum in the formation of the ethical dimension. As the graphic images of Figures 5, 7 and 8 illustrate quite clearly the complexity of these issues and how it demands the introduction of a middle ground measure that will satisfy both the security problem and the human rights problem.

The findings prioritize the necessity to develop a model that would be human rights-oriented to introduce a use of surveillance technologies to effect immigration control. As more technologies are assimilated in their migration governance, stakeholders are supposed to liaise in investing in accountability, transparency and fairness and monitor adherence to basic migrant rights.

Discussion

The entire findings of the results are critically discussed within the discussion section of this study that has construed the ethical dilemma and implications of digital surveillance in the regulation of migration. It is observable that these are the passionate transformations in the administration of migration witnessed in the world through the empirical use of digital technologies that comprise biometrics, AI, and robotic decision-making processes. These technologies will be more efficient and more secure but, on the other hand, there is also a significant concern of ethical issues that this can gravitate, in particular, the confidentiality, racial profiling, discrimination, and the deprivation of the asylum privileges. These paradoxes have to be resolved such that to match digital surveillance benefits with the cool down of the key human rights of terror alerts.

The Surveillance on the Internet (The Digital Surveillance) and the dilemma(s)

Based on the research results, one can adopt the most prevalent reasons of ethical risks identified in the case of digital surveillance as an approach to migration control: invasive privacy, racial profiling, and AI bias. One of the major concerns that were brought was the issue of privacy violations (Davidson et al. 2018). It is stated that the acquisition, as well as retention of sensitive personal data such as the fingerprints, facial images and iris scan among others, can lead to significant privacy concerns especially in the cases where the data obtain and stored are not obtained and secured with appropriate warranties (Aitken and Lopez 2022). The research has found out that over 35 percent of the interviewees in case studies and stakeholder interviews expressed that there were privacy issues in the extensive number of case studies, denoting that enough people were concerned about the intrusion on the personal space and liberty of the use of the said technologies.

Another severe ethical issue is the fact that the racial profiling is followed by digital surveillance and suggested by such tools as AI-promised technologies (facial recognition, etc.). As Table 3 and Figure 2 show, there exists the risk of the AI systems that are not adequately trained but exert varied impact on a marginalized population and result in discriminatory activities of migration control, e.g. racial minorities. The conceivability of the results presented in the study by Bhui et al. (2021) justifies the notion of increasingly higher possibility of the failure of AI technologies to recognize A-ethnic minority, hence, resulting in race-biased outcomes. It is not simply an invasion curse to privacy but also an affront to the directives of equal treatment and non-discrimination that the laws of human rights cannot possibly have.

Other than this, AI systems bias is also a problematic concern. According to what some of them indicated during the research, AI systems employed in the migration control domain are provided to be functionally free, and it lacks transparency and proper oversight, which causes unbiased outcomes. In this case, it is among the primary concerns since there is a tendency that AI systems encourage discrimination in society. According to their study, Nissilae and Manttala (2022) note that AI-based answers to asylum have caused injustices in relation to specific conditions of the minorities, with ethnic minorities becoming the most investigated and unjustly persecuted. According to Table 4, it can be stated that biased information in the AI systems was a profound problem in which the stakeholders in the research would discuss the likelihood that it was applied to continue discrimination in the immigration systems.

Influence on The Protection and Human Rights against asylum

The other main area of discourse is the impact that the digital surveillance is having on rights of the asylum seekers. The researchers prove that the automated decision making systems such as the ones which are used in asylum claims and in border controls can speed up the right of the migrants to claim refuge. Asylum right can be outlined as among the provisions of the international human rights law and, as Lopez and Sanez (2023) mention, the right is enacted in the Convention on refugees back in 1951. However, digital systems of

surveillance illegal aliens in dispositions have a tendency to touch around due process that necessitate unlawful rejection of asylum. Comparing the radar chart of the policy reforms, as shown in figure 6, it can be seen that, most stakeholders desire more priority to the humanity concerns in the decision making process of governing matters involving asylum and this is where AI system fails to guarantee that the decisions made when dealing with the issue concerning asylum are fair since it lacks a clearer sense of understanding towards humanity beings.

The increasing reliance on the automation of procedures can also become an additional alienation of the vulnerable migrants these people in particular, doing without the assistance of a lawyer, or even an opportunity to challenge automated decisions. The dehumanization of asylum seekers as a result of automated systems in the migration control process may also occur because their process can be reduced to numbers (widely processed by a machine in an algorithmic manner). It is akin to the concerns of migrant advocacy organizations that it is known to share, as shown in Table 6, that automation is imbalanced in the damage it causes to refugees and asylum seekers, and, nevertheless, denies them their fundamental rights.

Accountability and Transparency in Digital Surveillance

The other significant issues that have been raised in the research is lack of accountability and transparency with regard to the migration management through the digital mechanisms of surveillance. Table 5 and Figure 7 highlighted the barriers to lack of meddling organization and administration of usage of the digital surveillance technologies. Automated systems cannot be disputed due to their opaqueness of the algorithms not being transparent and usually external opaque to exploitation. Otherwise, such an outcome of transparency sabotaging leads to technological abuses since, as Robinson et al. (2021) note, individuals can have limited options to challenge the choices made by AI signals. In the context presented in the asylum processing case where, asylum processing is automated and the migrants lack any knowledge of the reasons why their claims are rejected, the obstructiveness of the decision making process is wanting as such that reduces the prospects that the migrants can appeal or challenge the specific decision made regarding the case. The conclusions suggest that there are increasing pressure on such migrant advocacy collectives and legal practitioners to seek to place certain restrictions and checks and balances on the digital surveillance technologies. States cannot be held accountable in any penalty caused by the usage of such technologies constitutionally because independent bodies of checks and balances are lacking (Binns & Horne, 2021). Therefore, the next step is to specify the transparent procedures and provide people with the escape in case automated systems deprive them of their rights.

Stakeholder Processes and Reform Policy

As demonstrated in the work, the stakeholders are consists more of favouring the policy reforms to overcome the ethical concerns that surround digital surveillance in determining the migration. As the data in Table 6 and Figure 8 suggest, the concept of mass surveillance of migrants is fundamentally rejected by migrant advocacy organizations since they purport it to be anti-human rights practices against migrants and adding to the further development of social inequalities. The service providers and government agencies instead tend to do so with particularly keen interest in the protection of human rights on behalf of prioritization on the security benefits of those technologies. This ideological list can be summed up in Figure 8 where migrant advocate associations claim the importance of the rights and privacy of migrants, whereas the activities of the governmental institutions tradition talk about the need to build the security of the border and the strong alteration of illegal aliens.

Mayer and Fischer (2022) address these differing opinions and make the digital surveillance policy convoluted. The reason in their opinion is related to the fact that it is difficult to balance security needs and the safety of individual freedoms. Therefore, such policy reforms should be revised towards consideration in human rights sense, whereby the insulin surveillance uses should be embraced within the ways that do not reach to the extent of breaching human dignity, equality and privacy.

Implications of Migration Governance in Future

This is in light of the findings that it is evident that the digital surveillance technologies must be put on tight echelons to ensure that the breach of human rights in governance of migration can be avoided. The research article makes a point about the need of effective legal frameworks and responsibility interventions

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that may ensure the correct use of digital technologies in a responsible and ethical manner. The international cooperation is therefore required to achieve a shared denominator of the ethical application of surveillance technologies in migration control conducted on a global basis like Cohen et al. (2023) suggest. This can be in the form of establishment of global regulating bodies that will oversee usage of surveillance gadgets and that human rights are not violated any more.

Moreover, the study brings out the issue of civil consciousness, and discourse concerning the ethical concerns on online monitoring of migration. As Anderson and Denham (2023) also claim, in order to ensure that digital technologies are applied in such an obvious and on the premises to correct the values of democratic society, there must be a certain discursive transparency among citizens.

Conclusion

Findings of this article suggest that although the expansion of security and efficiency in the field of operations of the migration control is possible as the breakthrough of the digital surveillance technologies take place, ethical issues also play significant roles: privacy, anti-discriminatory policies, favouritism, and prejudice can be brought up when the artificial intelligence is treated. To alleviate these problems, a human rights based approach will become essential that looks at accountability, transparency and the rights protection to migrants. The results of the research provide a hint that the massive alteration of the policy, including the strengthening of the legislation, the availability of the monitoring system and the scale of the stakeholder involvement in the determination process would be the keys to the alleviation of the situation. The ethical concerns in this study have been identified, and those should be addressed in such a way that digital surveillance tools could be interpreted in the context which is as efficient as possible, but the human dignity may be preserved.

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All authors have contributed substantially to the work reported, participating in the conception, execution, and final approval of the manuscript.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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