**Title:** AI Surveillance and its Impact on Peace and Security: A Case Study of WeChat

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**Abstract:**

The metamorphosis of surveillance practices in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents a double-edged sword, with profound implications for both individual privacy and national security. This presentation centers on the rising capabilities of AI in surveillance, specifically analyzing the use of large language models (LLMs) for monitoring personal communications in the context of China. As our digital footprints expand through mundane online interactions, the Chinese government's reach through WeChat cements its omnipresence, turning every citizen into an involuntary contributor to the national security apparatus. The study contributes to understanding how AI-driven surveillance can alter human behavior, influence policy, and redefine the relationship between state and civil society.

WeChat's integration of messaging, social networking, and financial transactions for over a billion users has turned it into a potent tool for state surveillance. By employing AI, these capabilities are exponentially enhanced, allowing comprehensive monitoring without the need for human intervention. By examining WeChat's operational framework, this study not only draws from Foucault's original concept of the Panopticon but also proposes a fresh theoretical development, the 'AI Panopticon', which considers the ceaseless and automated nature of AI surveillance—morphing from Foucault's invisible observer to an omnipresent ‘Big Brother’.

The discussion will extend to 'surveillance by proxy', showcasing how individuals are unwittingly subjected to state scrutiny despite not engaging with digital platforms. This development raises profound ethical questions and beckons for an urgent discourse on international regulatory frameworks to manage the military and security implications of AI.

Employing a mixed-methods approach, the research combines qualitative analysis of public policy documents, legislative frameworks, and official pronouncements with quantitative simulations of AI's capabilities to predict and influence behavior. Legal case studies further elucidate the chilling effect on public discourse, substantiating the research with direct societal ramifications. This synthesis of AI's technical prowess and societal impact underlines the tension between the state's surveillance justifications and the erosion of civil liberties.

In summary, this research posits that while AI has the potential to bolster peace and stability through advanced threat detection, its misuse for surveillance purposes undercuts the very security it seeks to uphold and could leading to the emergence of AI ‘Big Brother’, making the need for comprehensive AI governance an urgent priority.

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