**Facial recognition : the sacrifice of our privacy for better security ?**

As facial recognition technology is spreading worldwide, it is raising ethical and privacy issues. This is what this dossier tackles : composed of three press articles from 2018 and 2019 published in *San Antonio Express*, *The Washington Post* and *Fortune*, as well as a drawing by Steve Greenberg showing a man surrounded by facial recognition devices, it weighs the pros and cons of this new technology and shows that though it could help for security, there are worries about potential abuses. Therefore, it leads us to wonder whether facial recognition is a boon or a bane for citizens’ well-being.

First, there is no denying that facial recognition allows more security. *San Antonio Express* mentions that it is not only used in airports, but also on a bridge at the Mexican border to make sure people respect their visas. As well, *The Washington Post* explains that the Californian police started using facial recognition body cameras which help to identify criminals. From shops to banks, all sectors have started using this technology, which is reflected in Greenberg’s drawing, where the main character is overwhelmed by all the cameras around him that deliver a personalized message after having recognized him from their database.

In fact, there is a risk that this technology could go too far. Mr. Brown, the character, does not look happy that he has been spotted by so many devices, and he feels harassed – especially since the system seems to have compromising information about him. People are indeed worried for their privacy : there is a lack of transparency of facial recognition companies about what they do with people’s data, which leads to fears of a biometric database according to *San Antonio Express*. *Fortune* also develops the risk that our data could be sold or used in a wrong way, facilitating identity theft for instance. Worries are all the more justified as the technology is not always reliable, and has sometimes mistakenly recognized people as criminals, as *The Washington Post* explains.

As a consequence, though some argue that the population will eventually get used to this technology and even like it, more regulation seems necessary : all three articles agree on the need of a real public discussion on the subject, and tech companies themselves have asked for laws to restrict facial recognition technology. Meanwhile, California has suspended its use by the police, for fear of breaking the trust between people and the government.

Eventually, as this new technlogy is booming, it will require more consideration by governments in order to be used only for the better.

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