

the transborder immigrant tool: an artistic response to a hurtful situation

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RESEARCH QUESTION

- What are some of the barriers imposed by the U.S government or agencies/media against the TBT due to the help that it provides to immigrants crossing the board?

BACKGROUND

- **The Transborder Immigrant Tool (TBT) is a software that provides geographical assistance for people crossing the U.S/Mexico border.**
- **This software guides individuals to water stations and assist them with a series of poems on-screen as motivation during the journey.**



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- The transborder Immigrant tool was under many investigations by congressmen, and right-wing media. News channels such as Fox News started to comment negatively against this software since it was created using public fundings.
- Eventually, **the EDT (Creators of the TBT) started to receive threats against its technology, and the members of the company.**
- **The FBI followed an investigation** against the Electronic Disturbance Theater (EDT) which is the company that created the TBT.

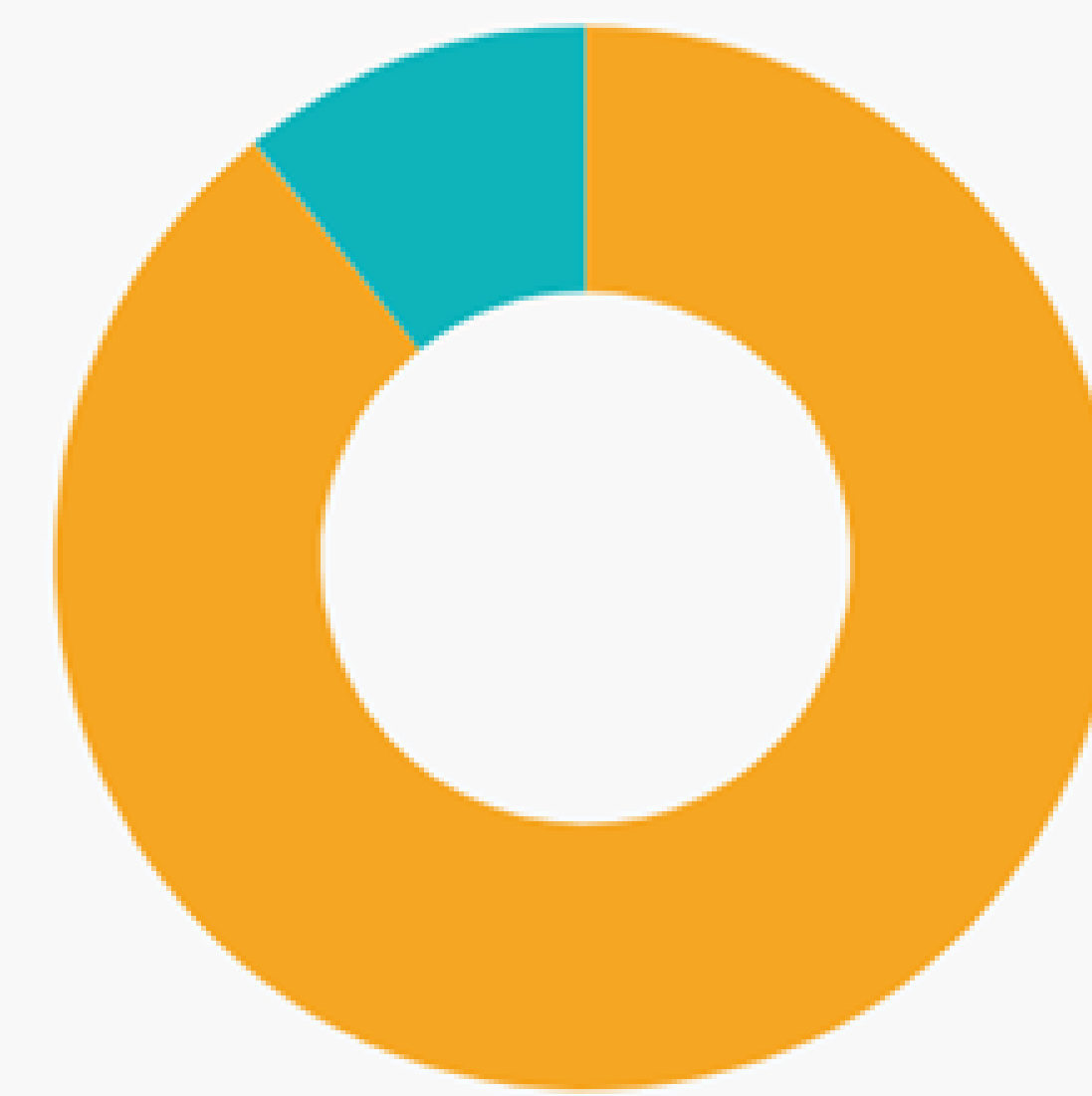
METHODS OF INQUIRY

- My research was conducted with many different sources of information, **including peer-reviewed academic journals, an artistic play elaborated by the EDT, a book written by Alejandro Duque, and a survey** conducted on my social media, specifically on Instagram.

RESULTS

- When speaking about barriers, it is important to mention the gaps and different opinions that we have in our society. This survey is a representation of the response that the TBT might have in 2020, **the numbers show a strong response from the Latino community in favor of this technology.**

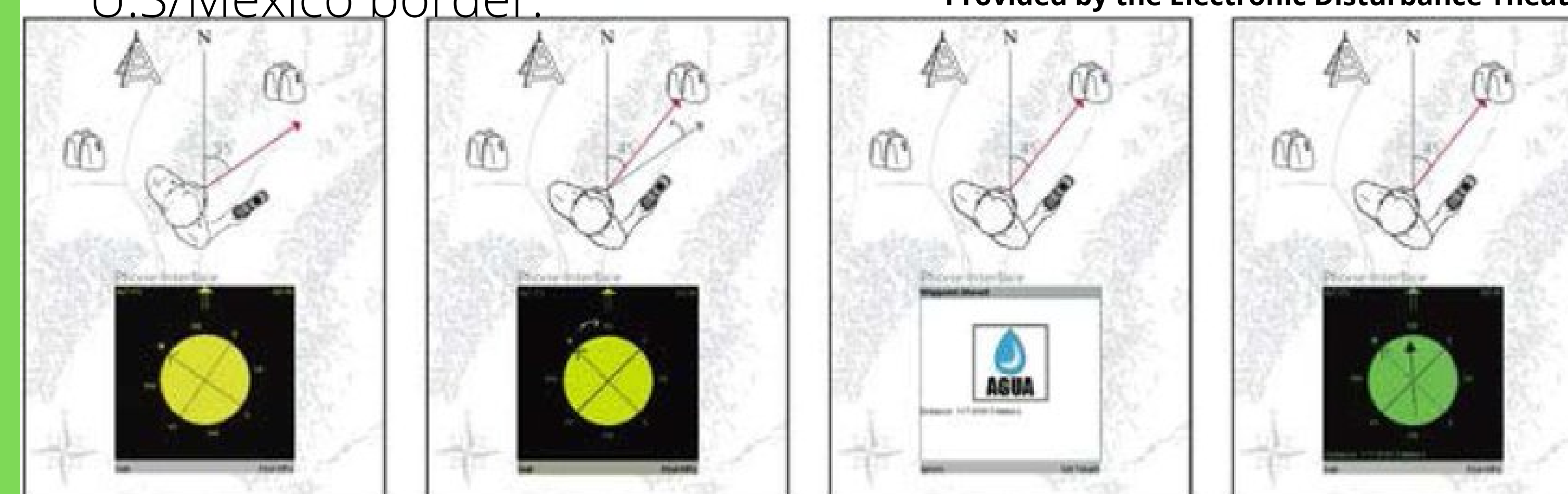
Would you support any kind of technology that can help immigrants crossing boards illegally?



Yes, I would (89.29%) No, I don't think so (10.71%)
The average age of the participants is 18-25 years old. Most of them are Latinos.

- The Transborder Immigrant tool became a fascinating topic for analysts, and scholars such as Alejandro Duque. **The TBT is an excellent example of globalization and the limitations that comes with it.**
- Most of the **investigations made by the government forced the creators to stop the project during its early stages.**
- The company founder of the **TBT decided to create a play explaining how the software functions** and the stories that it could potentially portrait for many immigrants crossing the U.S/Mexico border.

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- This is a visual representation of how the TBT functions on a cellphone screen (the square bellow the person)

CONCLUSION

- The Transborder Immigrant Tool is a software that has a lot of potential, it doesn't require an expensive device or smartphone since it can fully function with any device with GPS technology. It is a great tool that can save hundreds of lives, but unfortunately, it is being censored. The transborder Immigrant tool is a synonym of controversy, it was planned to help hundreds of immigrants and because of this exact reason, this technology was denominated by media and government agencies as a "cybercrime". Now, the transborder immigrant tool is recognized as a potential project that fell into the hands of media, causing the creators to leave it as a piece of art and an activist symbol, instead of the useful tool that it was during its early stages. For future research on this topic, I would like to look further into the EDT and their plans for future creations, as well as their current plans with the TBT in 2020.



Provided by the Electronic Disturbance Theater



Provided by The San Diego Union Tribune

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