

Juntos Tenemos Que Hacer Algo

Technology at US-Mexico Border & Detention Camps

Sabrina Stahlberger
LAS 1420
Hd6035@wayne.edu



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
Center for Latina/o and
Latin American Studies

Introduction

- Frontline technology includes; sensors, night vision goggles, radars (ranging from 120 ft), electro-optical cameras, imagers, X-rays, and chemical detectors
- Technological innovations allowed for extraneous measurements and the rapid advancement allowing ICE to "step up" their game, resulting in violation rates increasing
- Latino's inhumane treatment, and the public's obliviousness towards what's really going on at the borders, and how technology is really being used is a serious challenge
- Technology used has been an eminent tool for American's "safety" protocol; however, worker's conscious of events occurring, refrain from seeing it as inhumane

Research Question

How does technology used at the US-Mexico border and Immigration detention camps impact human rights?

Methods

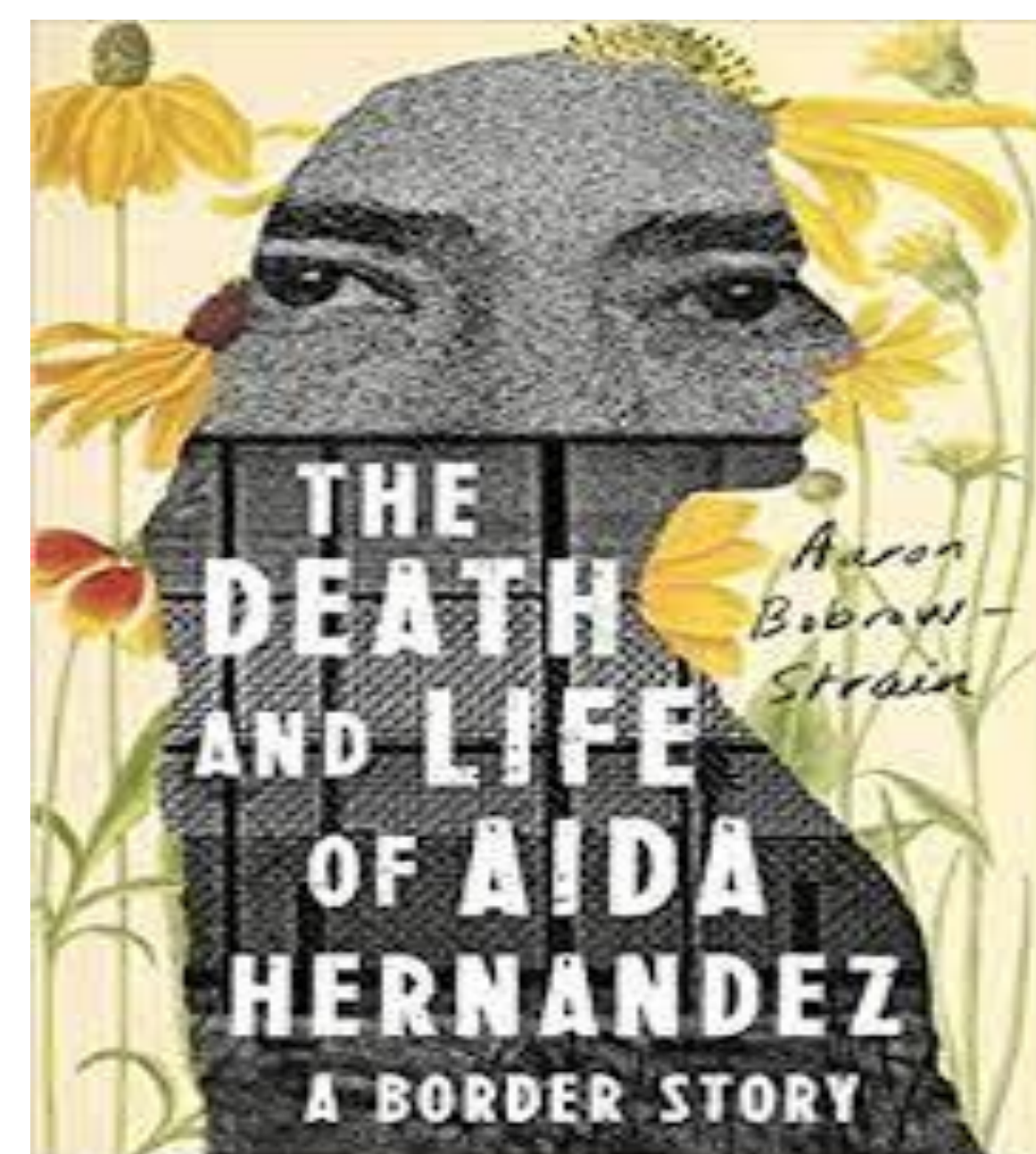
- Analyzed peer reviewed articles and academic books
- Conducted 2 Interviews with immigrants formally held in detention camps



Figures and Results



Various night vision goggles used on US-Mexico Borders



- The 2019 Best Selling memoir of Aida Hernandez: explains her life through a tough childhood; family separation; immigration detention; deportation; and entanglements with vast border security industrial complex and its technology.

"As a dad, being held at that camp [for 8 months] made me the most vulnerable I have ever been in my life. Knowing that I couldn't stop them from taking a part of me made me feel a way, I could never explain or allow for my kids to feel. They took apart of me I didn't know they were going to [do] here, my DNA."

Anonymous Interviewee #1: Male, father, early 50's, construction business owner, Country of Origin: Mexico

Conclusion

- The feelings of infringement of human rights is common among those who have been detained: **"The only thing that got me through [those 6 months] was knowing that once this was all over, I could hold my kids and feel their warmth again"** Anonymous Interviewee #2: Female, Mother, late 30's, Stay at home Parent, Country of Origin: Mexico
- Considering the extensive budget within Homeland Security for technology, I suggest we need to shift priorities to provide essentials such as health, housing, and education and stop social and cultural rights being taken from them
- Despite the excessive amount of surveillance on borders, the ongoing problem of lack of access to camps brings into question how can this process be more transparent to the whole country?

References

- Bassett, Lucy, et al. "Living in a tent camp on the US/Mexico border: The experience of women and children in Matamoros, Mexico" 2019, doi:10.14240/cmsesy080619.
- Blum, Eric. "Frontline June AZ Technology." *U.S. Customs and Border Protection*, www.cbp.gov/frontline/frontline-june-az-technology.
- Vallet, Elisabeth. "Part 3: Chapter 11-13." *Borders, Fences and Walls: State of Insecurity?*, by Elisabeth Vallet, Taylor and Francis, 2017, pp. 175-231.
- Bobrow-Strain, Aaron. *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: a Border Story*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020.
- Katz, Jonathan M. "Hay Que Llamar a Los Centros De Detención De Inmigrantes Como Lo Que Realmente Son: Campos De Concentración." *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles Times, 10 June 2019, www.latimes.com/espanol/eeuu/la-es-hay-que-llamar-a-los-centros-de-detencion-de-inmigrantes-como-lo-que-realmente-son-campos-de-concent-20190610-story.html.
- DeChalus, Camila. "High Tech at the Border Wall... and the Government Wants More." *Pulitzer Center*, 7 Oct. 2019, pulitzercenter.org/stories/high-tech-border-wall-and-government-wants-more#:~:text=Border%20Patrol%20agents%20say%20one,illegally%20scrambling%20across%20the%20border.
- Serwer, Adam. "A Crime by Any Name." *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 6 Nov. 2019, www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/07/border-facilities/593239/.
- Graves, Brad (10/07/2019). "Citadel Defense Sells Anti-Drone Tech to Border Agency: Electronics Force Quadcopters To Land; Deal Exceeds \$1M". *San Diego business journal* (8750-6890), 40 (40), p. 10.
- Joint Anonymous, . *Two Online LAS Interview via Zoom* . 21 Mar. 2021.