

ALGORITHMIC ECOLOGY



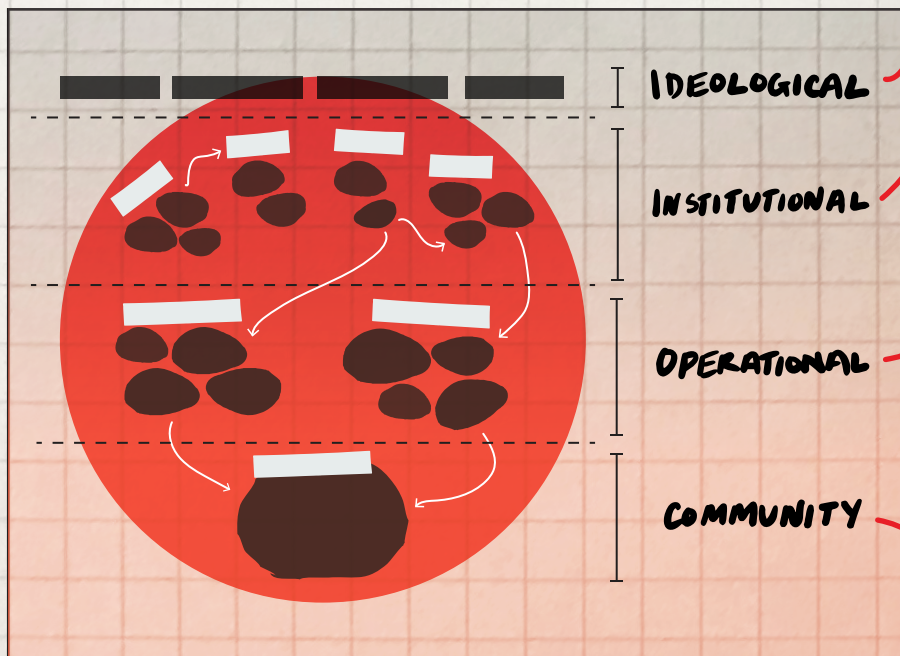
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The algorithmic ecology is a tool for community resistance developed by **Stop LAPD Spying** and **Free Radicals** that came out of work against the predictive policing system PredPol in Los Angeles' Skid Row. It visualizes how an algorithm is always much more than a string of variables and mathematical operations - its impact is always rooted in its context. Who created it? Who benefits from it? What ideologies does it uphold?

We've created this concept to help other communities map their fight and identify areas within their algorithmic ecologies where they can target their fight.

We've broken down the algorithmic ecology into four sections, outlined below:



*See back page for example algorithmic ecology

WHY ECOLOGY?

The algorithm is a site of power. It is a site of struggle. The algorithmic ecology looks beyond the inputs and outputs of the computer screen. We have to understand which interests and ideologies are being served by the algorithms we're fighting to understand the full impact it's having on our communities.

IDEOLOGICAL

The values and ideologies that the algorithmic system creates and perpetuates.

- What ideologies motivate the actors within this system?
- What ideologies are upheld, intentionally or unintentionally, by the algorithmic ecology?

INSTITUTIONAL

The institutions and entities that uphold the ideologies of power (for personal and institutional gain) and fund/create the technology either directly or through each other.

- Who funds the program?
- Who benefits?
- What interests came together to create the program?

OPERATIONAL

The technical components of the algorithm and the people who directly use those technical components.

- What is the function of the algorithm?
- Where is the data stored?
- Who interacts with the algorithm?
- What do they do with it?

COMMUNITY

The people who are impacted by the algorithm, and who hold the power to resist it. Includes the way the harm is manifested.

- Who is the community impacted by this algorithm?
- What kinds of harm does the algorithm create?