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Cops and Cameras: Police Force Under Scrutiny

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Cops and Cameras: Police Force Under Scrutiny
An In-depth look at the role cell phones and body cameras play in holding law enforcement accountable.

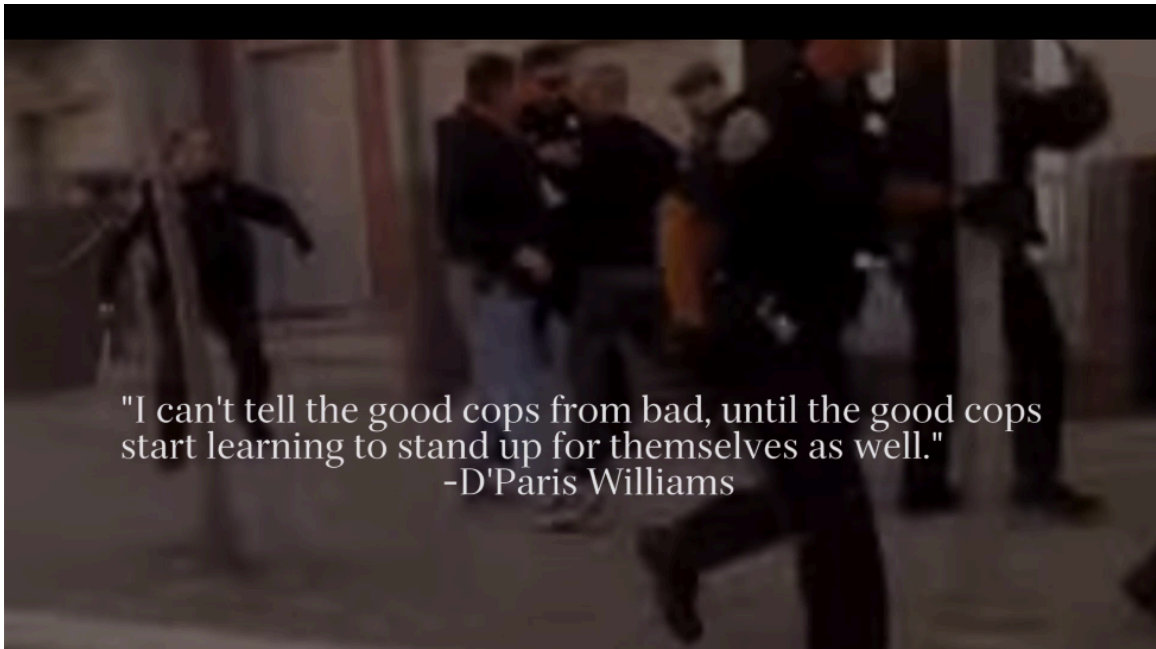
What impact has the growth of citizen-captured smartphone video and police body cameras had on policing? Has it improved the relationship between civilians and law enforcement? In this year, there has been a rise of national protest movements that call for police accountability. Our master's project aimed to create an open dialogue about the use of smartphone videos, many which brought these issues to national prominence. Specifically, we looked at how people interpret police brutality and excessive force used by law enforcement when it was captured on video.

In some instances, video footage taken during protests and arrests has been used in criminal and civil-rights cases to dismiss charges. In other instances they have brought to light police brutality that would not have otherwise been seen or noticed by the public. But beyond bringing a renewed attention to these issues, has the proliferation of smartphone video really changed the social dynamic between policing and communities? We set out to answer these questions and learn how useful these tools are for both the public and for police departments.

These conversations are important and relevant. Despite the large amount of media coverage, the country is still divided on these issues. According to a 2014 Pew Research Center study, 70 percent of black respondents thought black people were treated less fairly than whites by police. Broken down by race, only 37 percent of the white respondents thought the same.

This project features interviews with community activists, retired and active police officers, and regular civilians who have had encounters with police. Each speak from their experience, sharing stories about how they would approach an arrest situation, what cellphones show and leave out as well as their impressions on the usefulness of body camera footage. These videos are supported by individual videos that feature the voices of people who speak on police accountability, the success of community activism and protest, the goals of cop watching and the emotional toll of being unfairly arrested by police.

We also created a database of citizen-generated videos to help people create an informed opinion. The database contains over 80 unique videos uploaded to YouTube that claims to show instances of excessive force. We want the public to go through them and make up their own mind.



Cops & Cameras

Police force under scrutiny

Across the country, the killing of unarmed men-of-color by police has sparked a protest movement and calls for better police accountability.

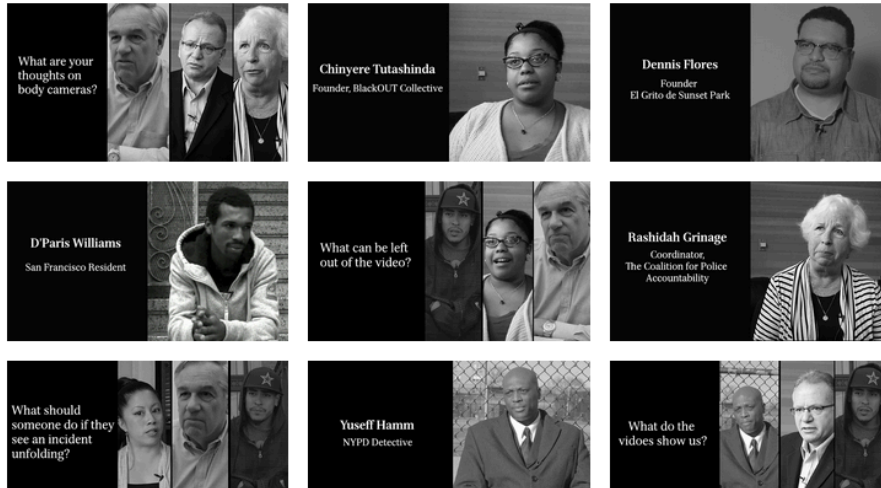
Cell phone footage of some of these incidents is being used as proof of what many communities have described as overly aggressive policing.

In the United States, young black men are 21 times more likely to be shot and killed by law enforcement than young white men, according to a ProPublica analysis. These numbers speak to an experience that is starting to become a national focus.

In July 2014, a cell phone video of Eric Garner being arrested by the New York Police Department went viral. His




Explore the different points of view:



Search our database of cell phone and body camera footage:

Cell phone footage of several arrests have gone viral, but there are many more videos that are uploaded to YouTube daily. Look through some

📍 NY, Staten Island



RIP Eric Garner
17 July 2014

A 44-year-old man named Eric Garner died after being put in a chokehold by police officers in Staten Island, New York. The video of the incident went viral and led to the death of Eric Garner.

Staten Island man dies after NYPD cop puts him in chokehold

Staten Island Man KILLED after NYPD Cop Puts Him In CHOKEHOLD For Breaking Up a FIGHT!!

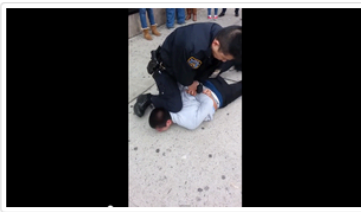
[link to Video](#)

Victim: Eric Garner

Department: NYPD

Officers: Officers Daniel Pantaleo and

📍 NY, New York City



Police Brutality - Officer uses excessive force - New York City - NYC Original

[link to Video](#)

Victim: Pedro

Department: NYPD

Source List

Gabrielson, Ryan; Grochowski, Ryann Jones; and Sagara, Eric "Deadly Force, in Black and White." ProPublica Oct. 10, 2014 <http://www.propublica.org/article/deadly-force-in-black-and-white>

"King's Dream Remains an Elusive Goal; Many Americans See Racial Disparities" Aug. 1-11, 2013" Pew Research Center, Total N=2,231
http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2013/08/final_full_report_racial_disparities.pdf

Interviewees

Chinyere Tutashinda: Founder of the BlackOUT Collective

David "Rasta Dave" Jimenez: Photographer

Dennis Flores: Founder of El Grito de Sunset Park

D'Paris C. Williams: Resident of San Francisco

Jason De Aguila: El Grito de Sunset Park Organizer

Josmar Trujillo: Community Organizer for New Yorkers against Bratton

Nicole Lee: Director, Urban Peace Movement

Rashidah Grinage: Coordinator for the Coalition for Police Accountability

Robert Nichelini: Retired Police Chief of Vallejo

Tod Opdyke: Retired Richmond Police Officer

Yuseff Hamm: NYPD Detective

"Body Cameras." Video Interview by David "Rasta Dave" Jimenez, Photographer.

"Body Cameras." Video Interview by Dennis Flores, *Founder of El Grito de Sunset Park*.

"Body Cameras." Video Interview by Rashidah Grinage, Coordinator for the Coalition for Police Accountability.

"Body Cameras." Video Interview by Robert Nichelini, Retired Police Chief of Vallejo.

"Body Cameras." Video Interview by Tod Opdyke, Retired Richmond Police Officer.
"Q&A." Video Interview by Chinyere Tutashinda, *Founder of the BlackOUT Collective*.

"Q&A." Video Interview by Dennis Flores, *Founder of El Grito de Sunset Park*.

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"Q&A." Video Interview by Yuseff Hamm, NYPD Detective.

"What can be left out of the video?" Video Interview by Chinyere Tutashinda, *Founder of the BlackOUT Collective*.

"What can be left out of the video?" Video Interview by David "Rasta Dave" Jimenez, Photographer.

"What can be left out of the video?" Video Interview by Josmar Trujillo, Community Organizer for New Yorkers against Bratton

"What can be left out of the video?" Video Interview by Nicole Lee, Director, Urban Peace Movement

"What can be left out of the video?" Video Interview by Robert Nichelini, Retired Police Chief of Vallejo.

What do the videos show us? Video Interview by Chinyere Tutashinda, *Founder of the BlackOUT Collective*.

What do the videos show us? Video Interview by Josmar Trujillo, Community Organizer for New Yorkers against Bratton

What do the videos show us? Video Interview by Nicole Lee, Director, Urban Peace Movement.

What do the videos show us? Video Interview by Tod Opdyke, Retired Richmond Police Officer.

What do the videos show us? Video Interview by Yuseff Hamm, NYPD Detective.

What should someone do if they see an incident unfolding? Video Interview by David "Rasta Dave" Jimenez, Photographer.

What should someone do if they see an incident unfolding? Video Interview by Jason De Aguila, El Grito de Sunset Park Organizer

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