

# What must we consider when sharing health-data with police? Evidence from the UK COVID-19 experience

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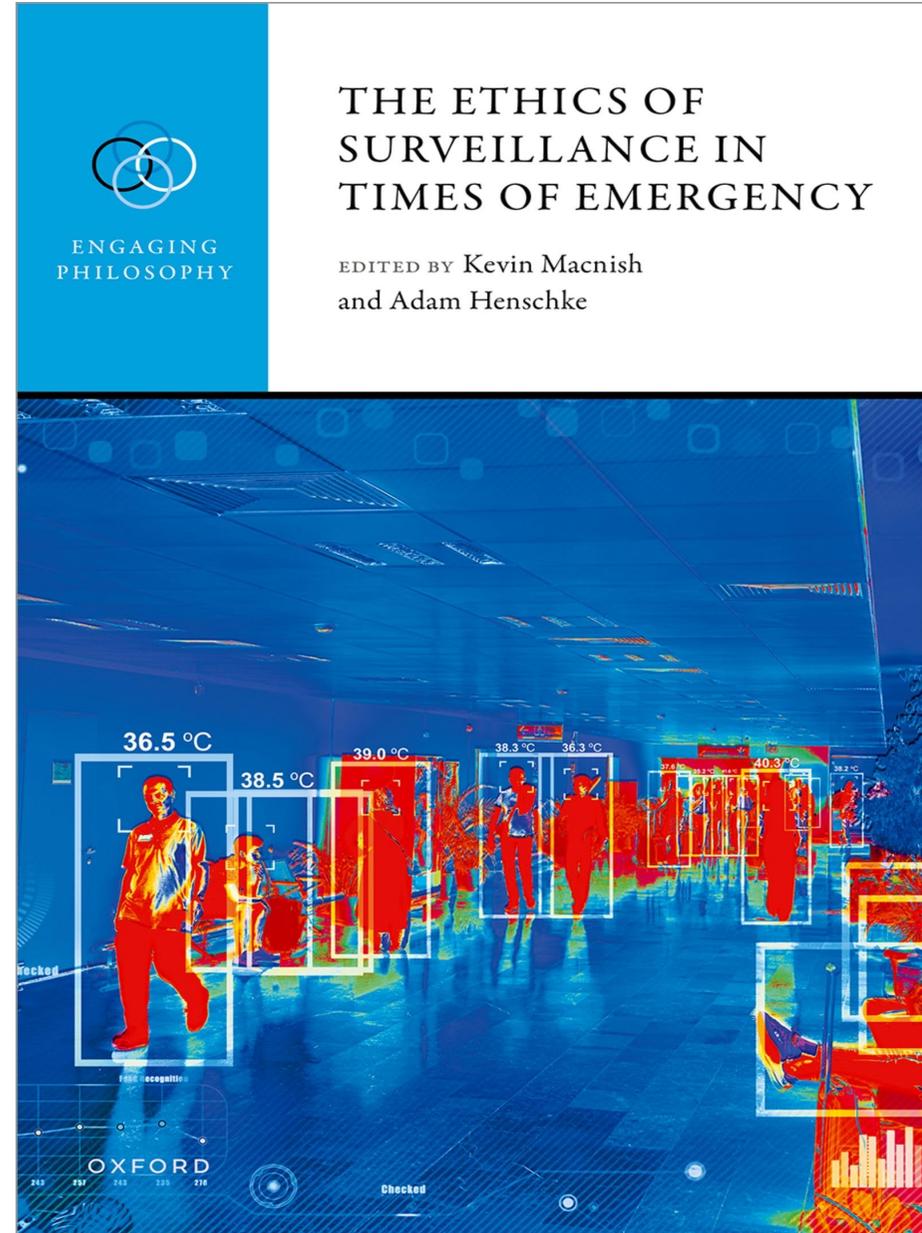
## Coronavirus: Police get access to NHS Test and Trace self-isolation data

18 October 2020

## Singapore reveals Covid privacy data available to police

5 January 2021

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Function  
creep???



# If function creep is not the (full) answer...

I am asking:

*What are the ethical and technical implications of repurposing **public health surveillance data** for policing purposes, and under what conditions—if any—is such repurposing legitimate?*

## **Qualitative research: semi-structured expert interviews (16)**

- Epidemiologists, contact tracing app developers
- UK advisory board members, policymakers
- Head of police data science divisions, experts in criminal studies and network analysis

# Experts' views

## On technical, legal, and governance barriers

- Disagreement
- Frustration
- Middle ground solution proposed: synthetic data, aggregate data

## On <<vulnerabilities>> and <<vulnerable>>

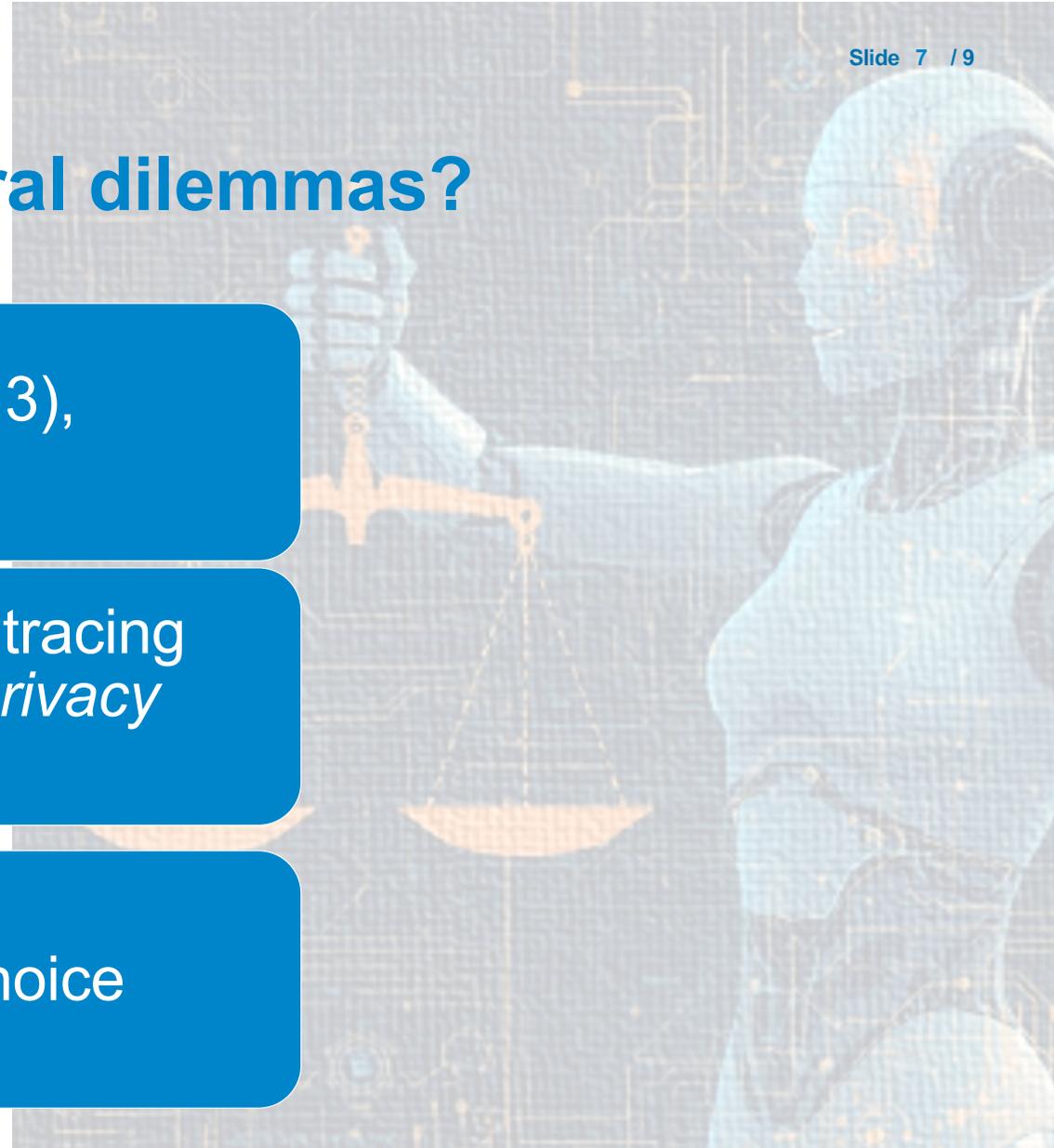
- The effects of the pandemic “*were predictable*”
- Concerns: surveillance systems widen inequalities + labelling + net widening etc...
- Opposite side: that data is essential for preventative interventions

# Can technology solve moral dilemmas?

Technosolutionism (Morozov, 2013),  
Technofixing (2024),

Decentralized COVID-19 contact tracing  
app architecture as example of '*privacy  
fortress*'

The design imposed one value choice



# What is the real problem: the misuses or the *missed uses*?

Slide 8 / 9

## End-of-life bioethical dilemma

Both are real concerns, but both are potential. The 'missed uses' concerns a real risk of 'right now'

Murdoch and Detsky (2013) wasteful to not maximize the knowledge from collected data.

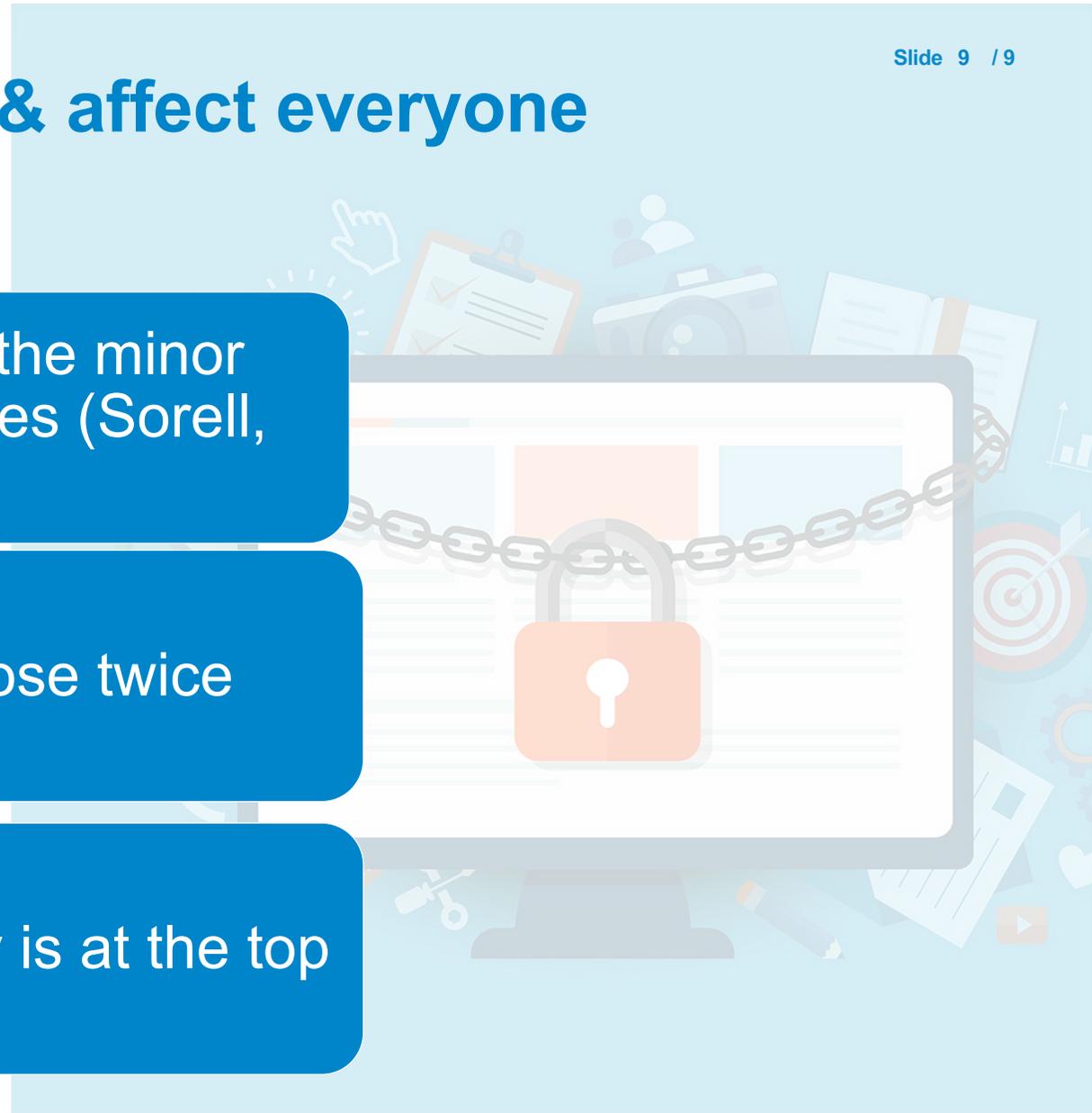
Porsdam, Savulescu, and Sahakian (2016) when someone can save another person at almost no cost, they ought to do so

# Does privacy distribute & affect everyone equally?

Privacy is over valued and is the minor value when comes to save lives (Sorell, 2023)

Who need protection might loose twice

Moral hierarchy where privacy is at the top





**Thank you!**

Reach out  
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