Inequality and Democracy Research Fellowship Program

Name of research supervisor at organization: Hamid Khan

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Title of research project: Mapping the Stalker State

Scope of research:
The Stop LAPD Spying Coalition’s vision of abolition requires methodically unpacking, developing, and disseminating a shared analysis that grounds and guides our fight against the complex apparatus of the police state. In partnership with the community, the coalition continues mapping the various intersecting tentacles of public and private sector agencies, corporations, academic institutions, social media, local and federal law enforcement agencies, and international partnerships creating a comprehensive landscape of surveillance. This mapping allows people to engage and better understand how layered surveillance is within the massive Information Sharing Environment (ISE). The Coalition has named it - The Stalker State.

Location of research and other activities:
The research fellow will have ample opportunity to spend time with and meet everyone involved with the Coalition. The fellow will have to be present at the Coalition’s location in Skid Row every Tuesday from 2:00pm until 8pm. Other times can be mutually agreed to. We are flexible if the research fellow is interested in spending research hours remotely as well.

Research methods to be used:
Research will include, but not limited to:

- In partnership with the community, identifying institutions to be researched within each sector – public, private, corporate, law enforcement, international, etc. Focused research can provide deeper insight into the process by which these institutions gather, store, and share information about our personal lives and the community;
- Research methodologies will include but not limited to conduct phone interviews with private sector institutions, filing public records requests where applicable such as in public sector, law enforcement; using other research tools including media stories to investigate private sector information gathering, storing, and sharing;
- Mapping human impact of the Stalker State from the information gathered;
Research methods to be used: (continued)
- Mapping human impact of the Stalker State from the information gathered;
- Digitizing research and investigation;
- Given the skill level of the research fellow, creating digital presentation of movement of information within and between various sectors;
- Other tasks that enhance research and presentation.

Deliverables:
Deliverable will include mapping key public/private sector institutions in the Stalker State that directly impact our communities’ lives including citations and documentation. Additional deliverable could include developing popular education material that can be used as organizing tools.

Qualities of the research fellow:
- The Stop LAPD Spying Coalition is a committed abolitionist organization - alignment with the coalitions values and principles
- Community-oriented person
- Research skills
- Consistency and timeliness
- Open to collective analysis and consensus building