

DIGITAL PUSHOUT

AI, EdTech & the New Jim Code

By Marika Pfefferkorn &
Clarence Okoh

MEET MARIKA & CLARENCE



Marika is co-founder of the Twin Cities Innovation Alliance and Director of the Midwest Center for School Transformation.

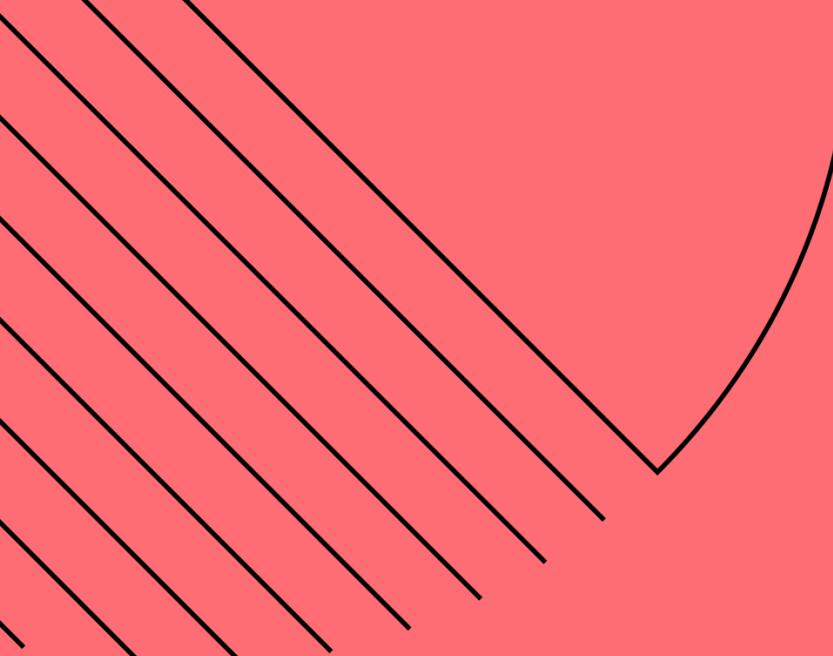


Clarence is a civil rights attorney at the Center for Law and Social Policy and a Just Tech Fellow who works at the intersection of race, technology, and the law.



THE NOTICE COALITION

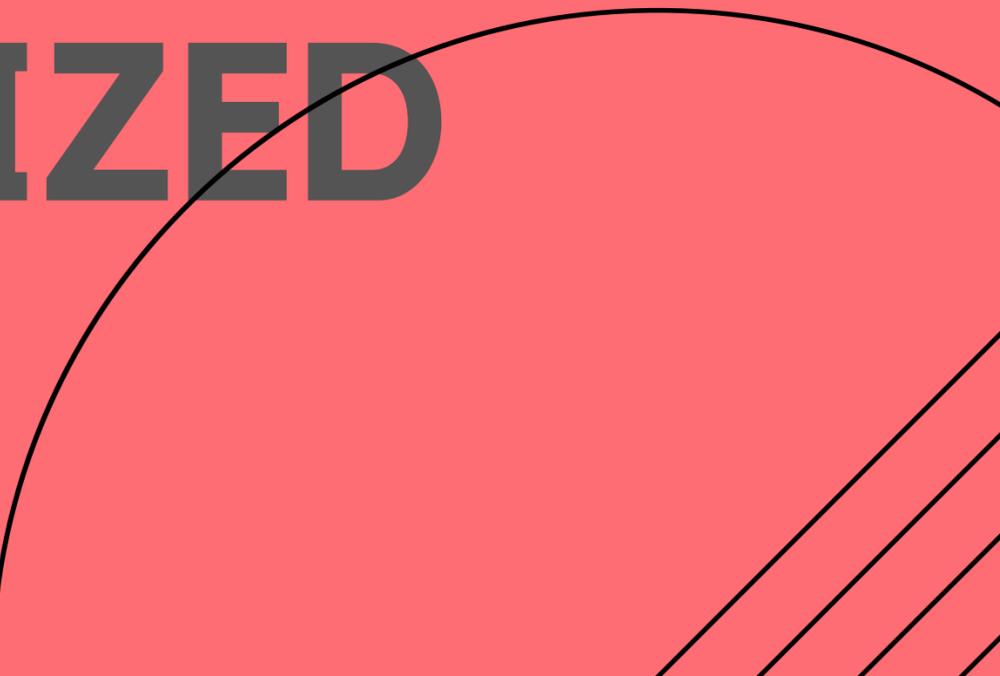
The NOTICE Coalition (“No Tech Criminalization in Education”) is a collection of advocates, researchers, and community voices seeking to build a national movement to end the use of data and technology that criminalizes young people and their communities, especially Black, Brown, Indigenous, disabled, LGBTQIA+, and otherwise marginalized people

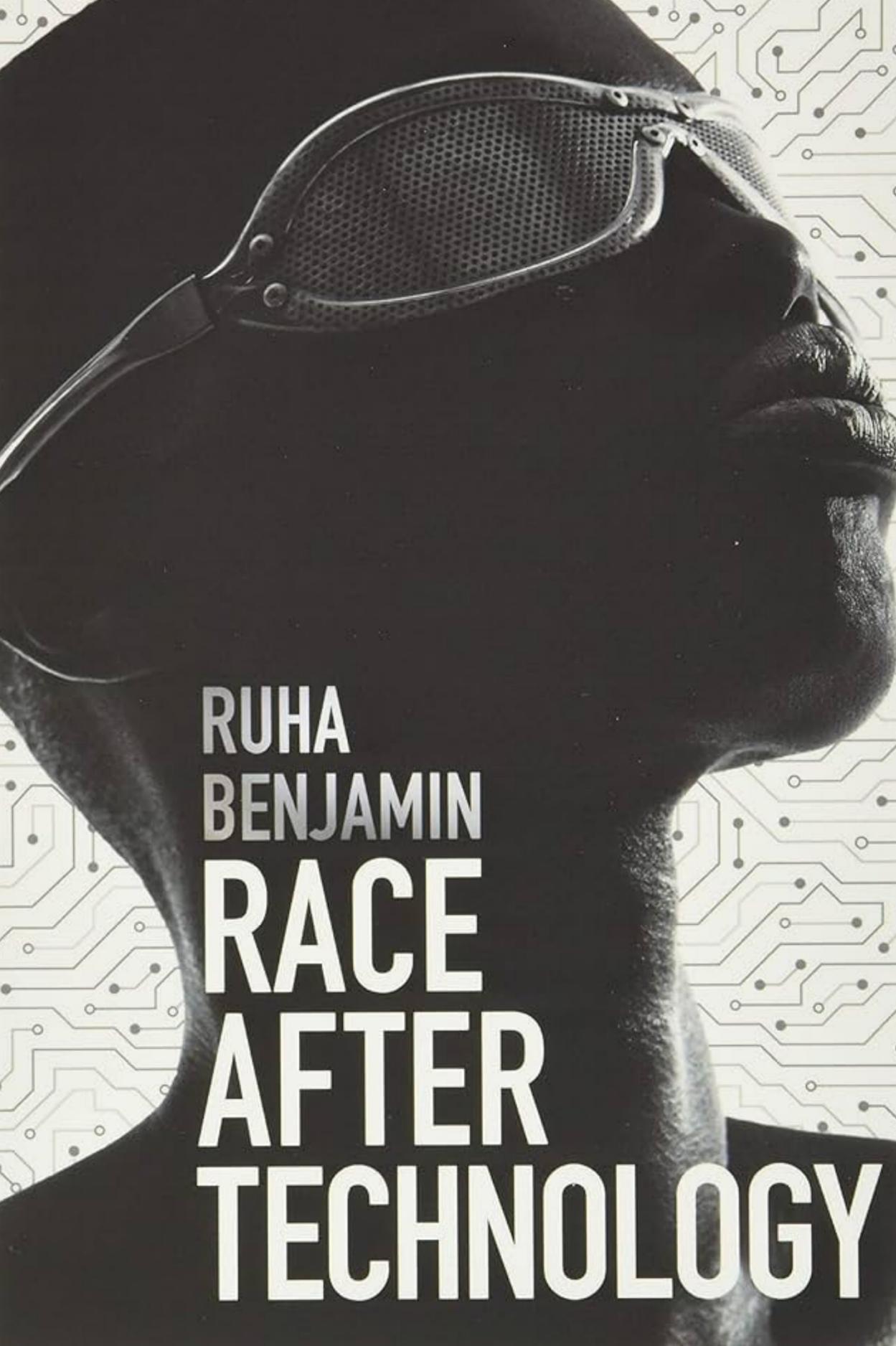


"WHAT FUTURE

**IS TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING**

**FOR MARGINALIZED
YOUTH?"**



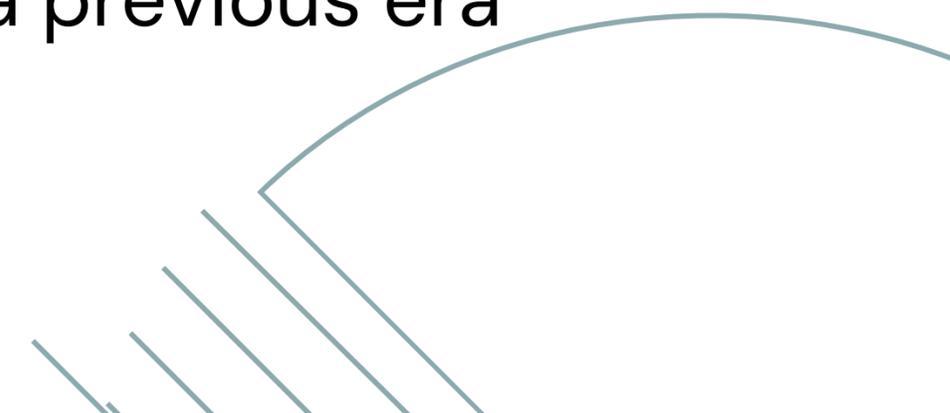


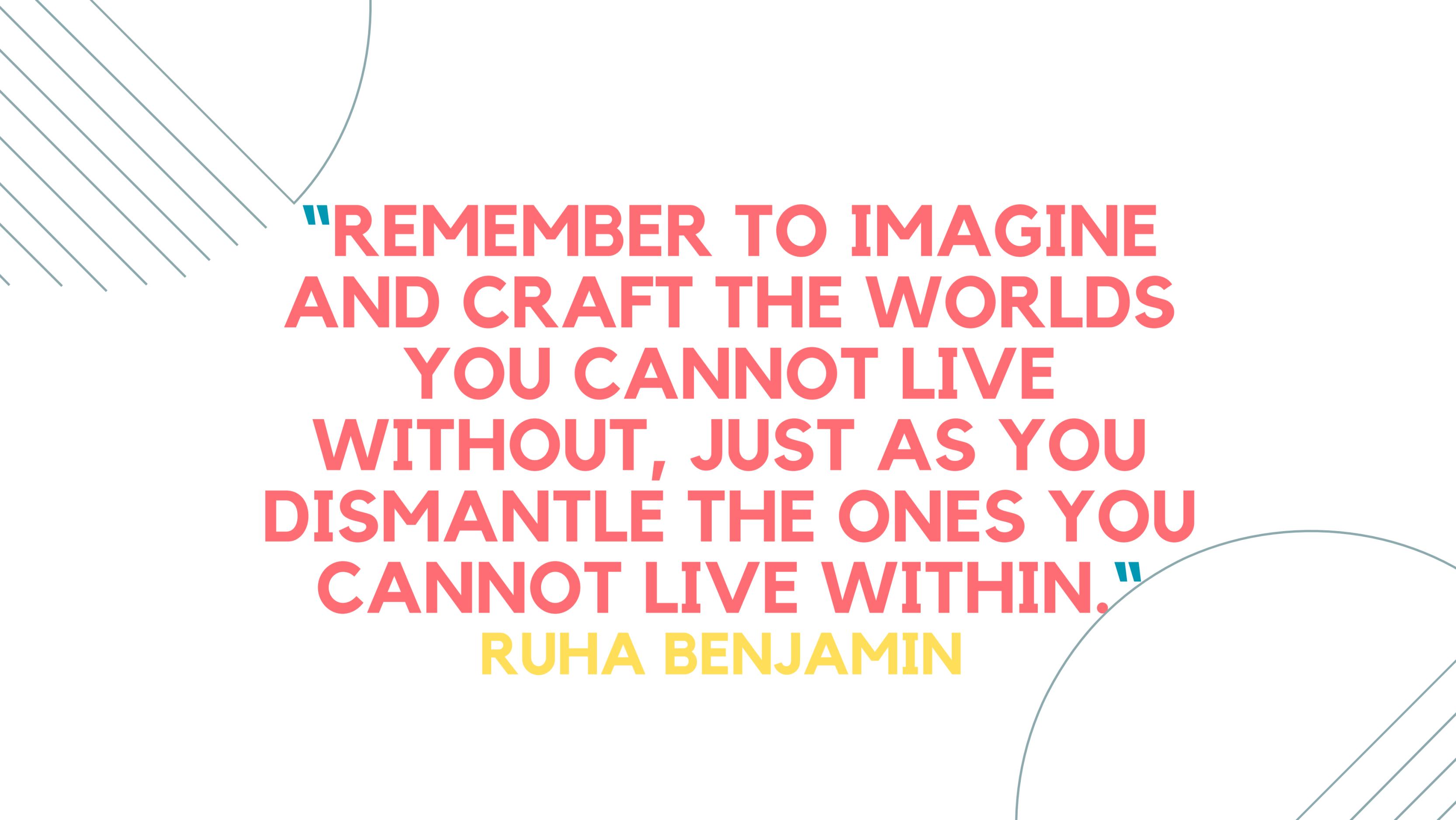
RUHA
BENJAMIN
**RACE
AFTER
TECHNOLOGY**



“THE NEW JIM CODE”

“The employment of new technologies that reflect and reproduce existing inequities but that are promoted and perceived as more objective or progressive than the discriminatory systems of a previous era”





**"REMEMBER TO IMAGINE
AND CRAFT THE WORLDS
YOU CANNOT LIVE
WITHOUT, JUST AS YOU
DISMANTLE THE ONES YOU
CANNOT LIVE WITHIN."**

RUHA BENJAMIN



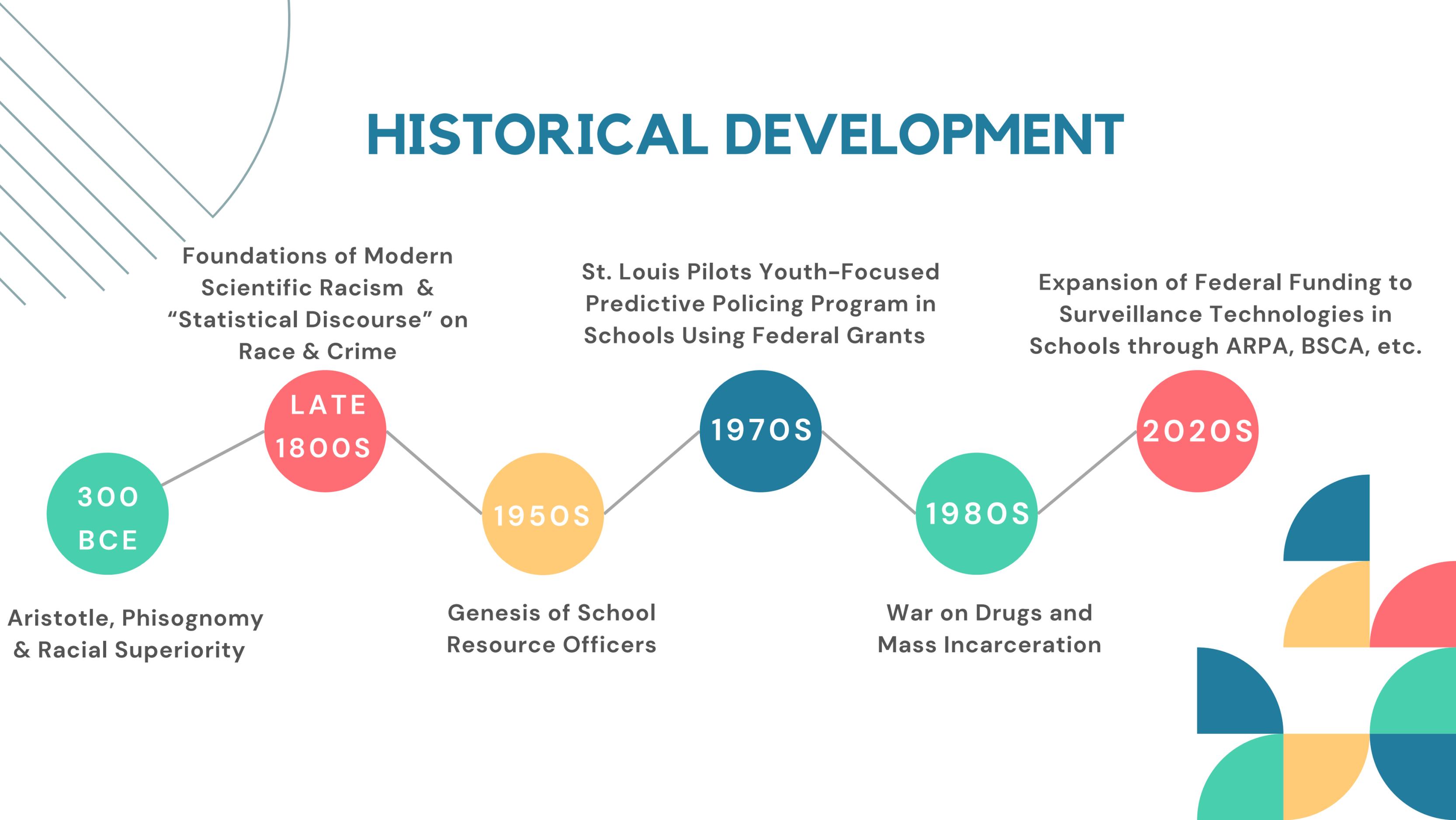
YOUTH DATA CRIMINALIZATION

Data criminalization refers to the “use of [law and scientific racism] to create and marshal supposedly objective data to prove a person’s criminality and argue for intervention and correction, often in the forms of diminished legal status and punishment.”

~Puck Lo, Community Justice Exchange



HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT



Foundations of Modern Scientific Racism & “Statistical Discourse” on Race & Crime

St. Louis Pilots Youth-Focused Predictive Policing Program in Schools Using Federal Grants

Expansion of Federal Funding to Surveillance Technologies in Schools through ARPA, BSCA, etc.

LATE 1800S

1970S

2020S

300 BCE

1950S

1980S

Aristotle, Phisognomy & Racial Superiority

Genesis of School Resource Officers

War on Drugs and Mass Incarceration

CRIMINALIZING TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOLS

1.

SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING

2.

FACIAL RECOGNITION

3.

AI VAPE DETECTION

4.

**AUTOMATED WEAPONS
DETECTION**

5.

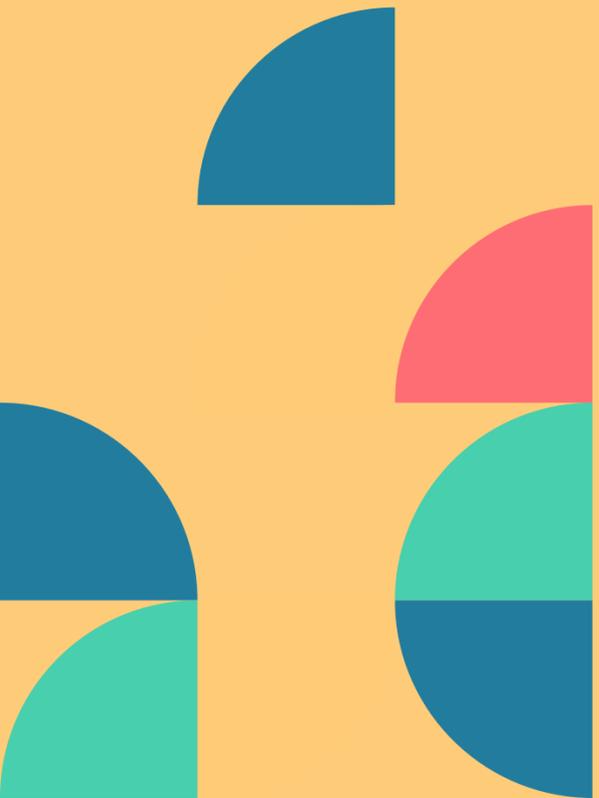
DRONE SURVEILLANCE

6.

GEOLOCATION TRACKING

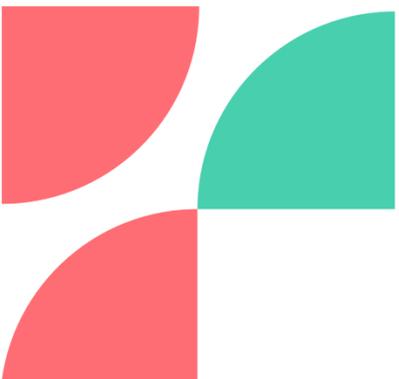
7.

**STUDENT DEVICE
MONITORING & OTHERS...**

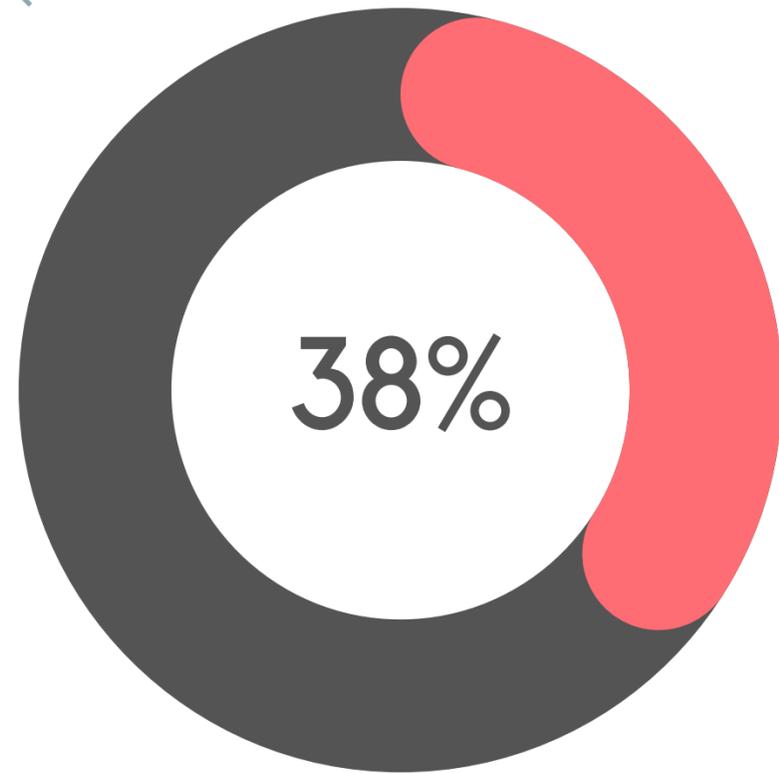


Audience Poll

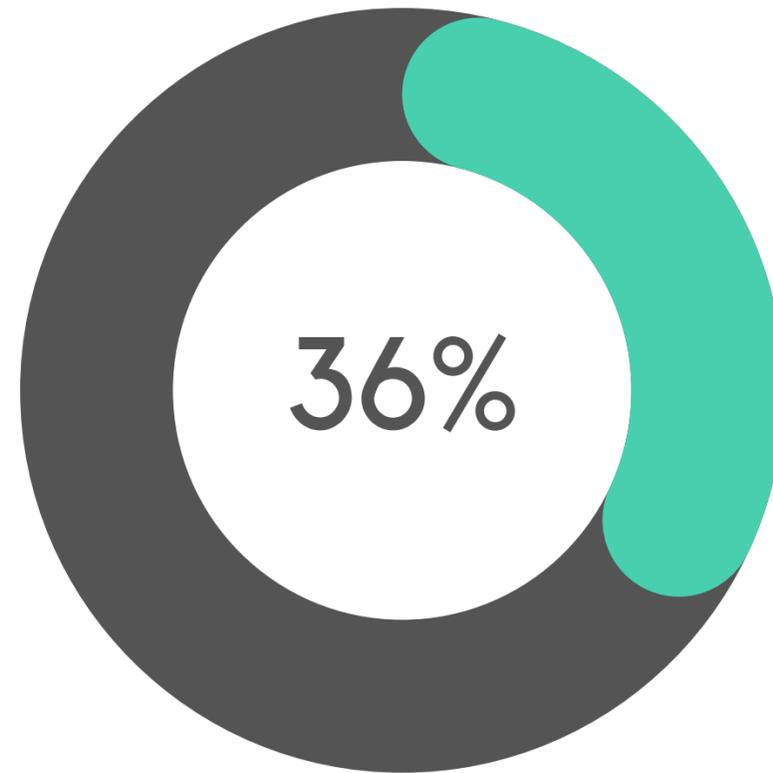
- 1) What percentage of schools share student data with law enforcement?*
- 2) What percentage of schools use predictive policing?*
- 3) What percentage of schools use facial recognition technology?*



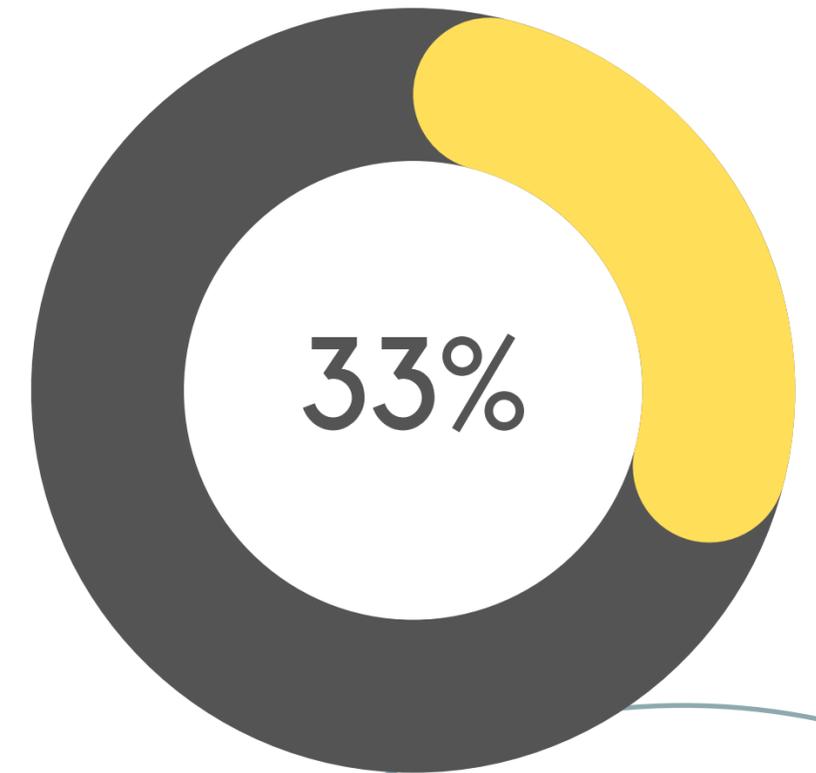
POLICE SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS



SHARES STUDENT DATA WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT



PREDICTIVE POLICING



FACIAL RECOGNITION

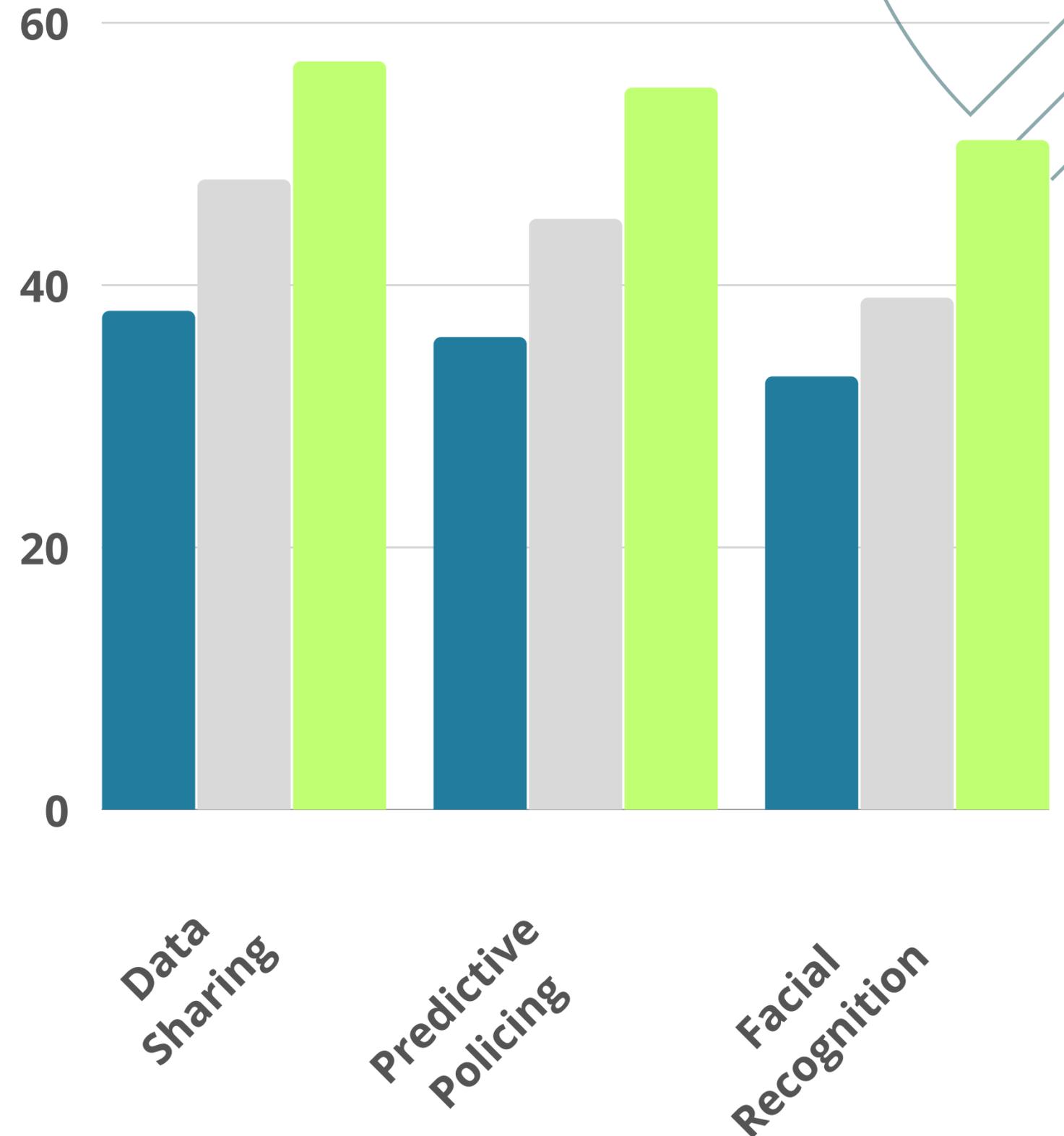
POLICE SURVEILLANCE TECH IN SCHOOLS

School surveillance is more prevalent in disadvantaged communities. This largely follows preexisting trends in school pushout and youth criminalization where students of color and students with disabilities experience disparate impacts.

ALL SCHOOLS

TITLE I SCHOOLS

SPECIAL EDUCATION



Source: Center for Democracy and Technology, Survey Research on Student Parent and Teacher Experiences, September 2023

IMPACT OF SCHOOL SURVEILLANCE ON STUDENTS

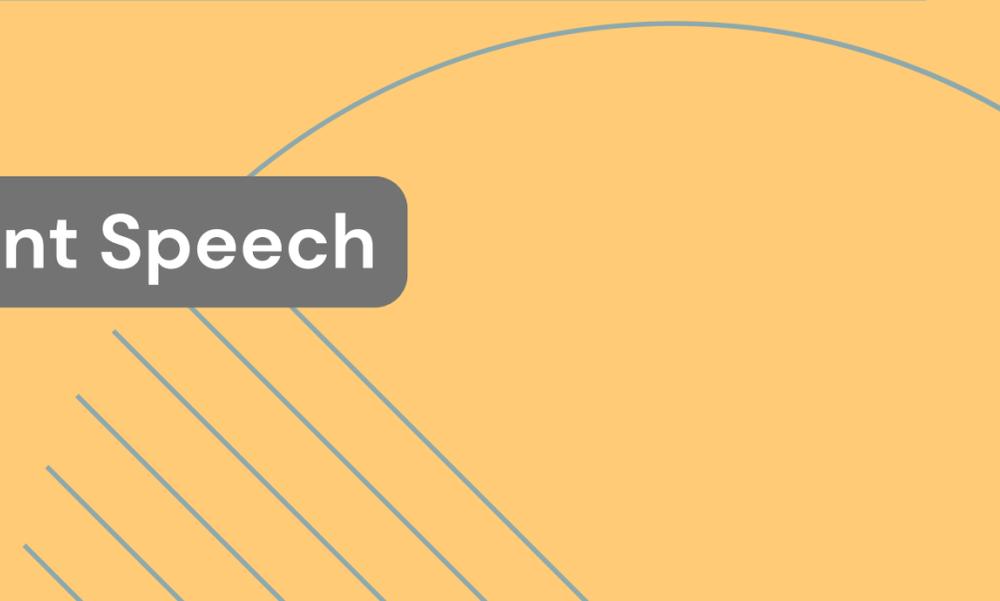
Expands the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Exposes students and families to immigration enforcement, family policing & other harms

Creates a more hostile learning environment that diminishes academic & social outcomes

Violates students' civil rights, human rights & digital rights

Chilling Effect on Student Speech



CASE STUDY: TWIN CITIES



TWIN CITIES INNOVATION ALLIANCE

CASE STUDY: PASCO COUNTY

VIDEO



From the school district

Grades

C's or better 1 or more D's 1 or more F's

GPA

Better than 2.5 2.0 to 2.49 Worse than 2.0

On-track to graduate/advance

Meets credits 1 credit behind

2 or more credits behind

Attendance

Meets credits 1 credit behind

2 or more credits behind

Office discipline

No referrals 1 referral in a quarter

2 or more referrals in a quarter

From state Department of Children and Families

Total number of adverse childhood experiences (physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, physical neglect, witnessing household violence, household member incarceration, household member substance abuse)

No traumas 1 to 3 traumas 4 to 5 traumas

6 or more traumas

From the Sheriff's Office

Age of first crime

17 or older 13 to 16 years old

Younger than 13

Type of arrest

No arrests Any arrest

One or more arrests for burglary, theft, robbery or criminal mischief

Victim of personal crime

No cases 1 or more cases

Lack of supervision (truancy, curfew warnings, juvenile disturbances or probation violations)

0 to 3 cases 3 to 5 cases 5 or more cases

Delinquent friends

None 1 or more

History of running away

0 to 1 times 2 or 3 times 4 or more times

Custody disputes

0 to 1 disputes 2 disputes

3 or more disputes

Certified gang member

No Yes



Targeted

Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco took over in 2011 and set out to transform the Sheriff's Office into a cutting-edge data-driven machine. The result is an intelligence operation that monitors, intimidates and harasses families across the county.



WAKANDA DESIGN LAB: REIMAGINING SCHOOL SAFETY THROUGH AFRUTURISM



**Inspired by Professor Walter Greason,
Macalester College &
Professor Lilliana Zaragoza,
University of Minnesota Law School**

WAKANDA



VIDEO



1

With your eyes closed, imagine a space in your school, community, or home where you felt safe.

2

Use your imagination to redesign one or more aspects of that space to expand & share your sense of safety with others

3

Either draw or write a description of the changes that you made



CALL TO ACTION

1) Join the NOTICE Coalition (Email cokoh@clasp.org)

2) Sign the NOTICE Coalition Letter to the Department of Education Urging A Federal Ban on Grantmaking for Data Criminalization (Email cokoh@clasp.org)

3) Learn More About the No Data About Us Without Us Fellowship (Email marika@tciamn.com)

4) ACT NOW! Urge your local and state education policymakers to ban harmful technologies in schools!

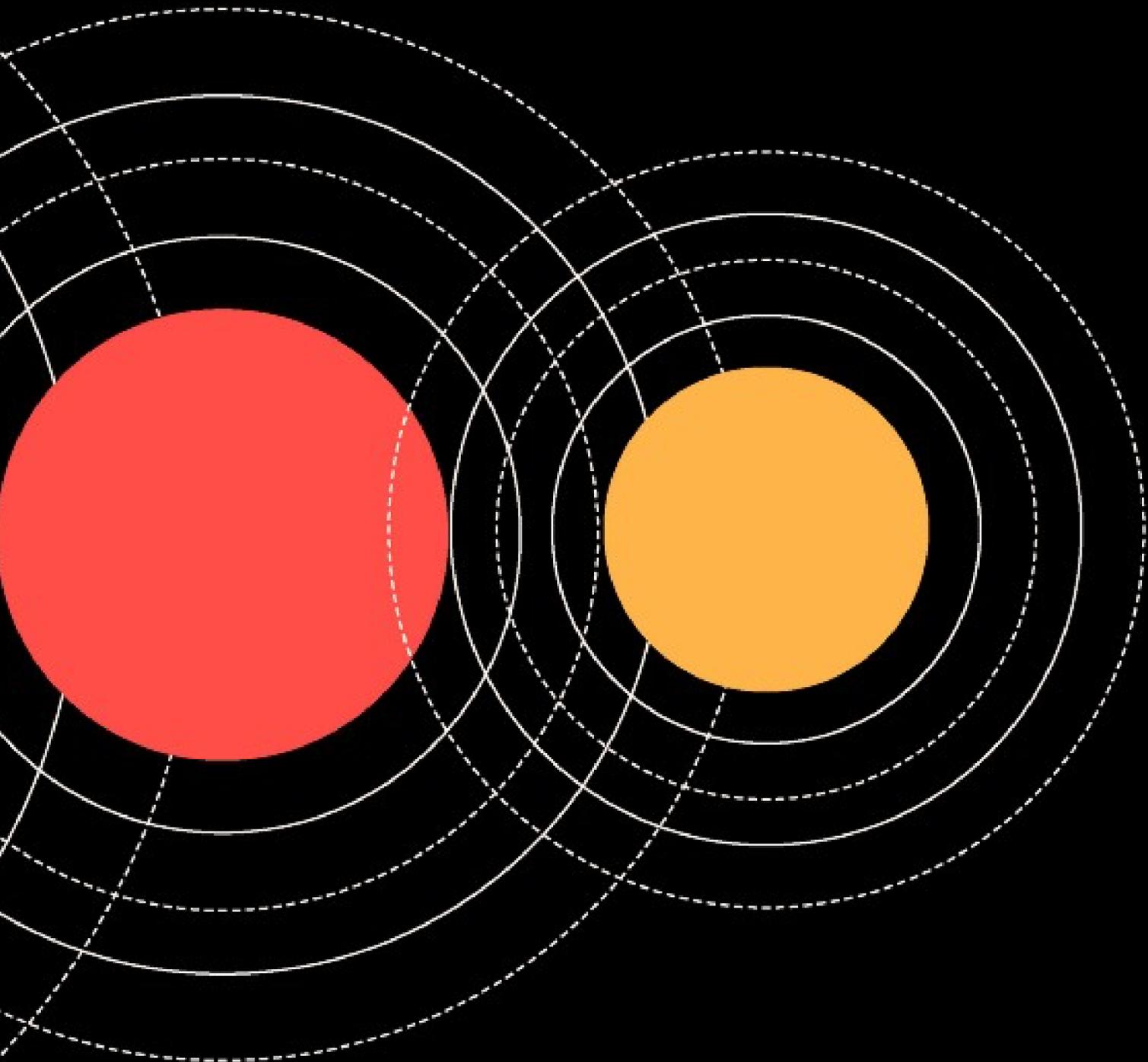
TAKEAWAYS

1. Big Data and AI are engineering new threats to youth justice as part of a larger civil rights crisis called “the New Jim Code.”
2. The fight for Data Justice requires Interdisciplinary advocacy strategies that blend art, organizing, policy, litigation, & media
3. Afrofuturism is a generative framework to imagine new solutions to historic and contemporary injustices
4. **ACT NOW!** School District Leaders & State Policymakers can Enact Bans on Racist Technologies in Schools TODAY

RESOURCES

- Twin Cities Innovation Alliance Cradle to Prison Algorithm ([Link](#))
- Center for Democracy and Technology Survey and Report on School Surveillance ([Link](#))
- Architectural Digest Tour of Wakanda ([Link](#))
- PASCO Coalition (People Against the Surveillance of Children & Overpricing) ([Link](#))
- How Long Til Black Future Month ([Link](#))

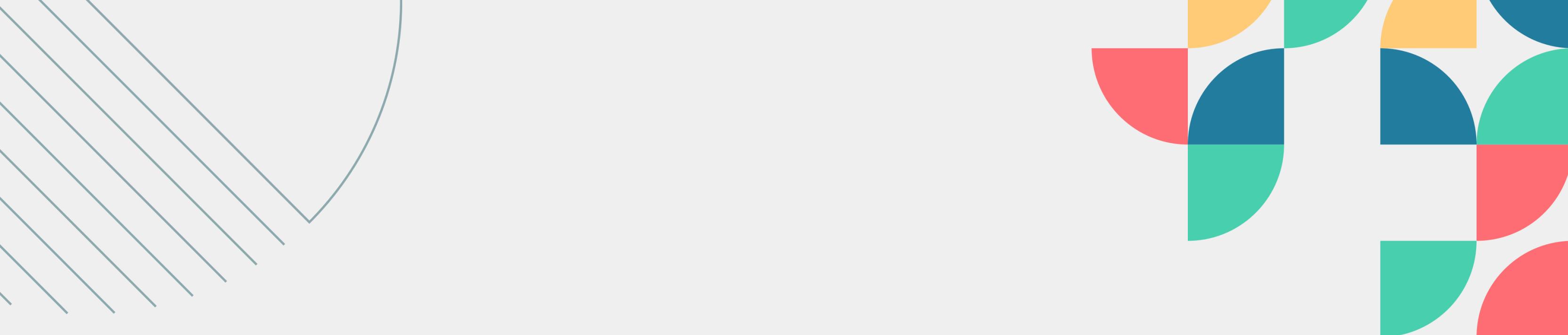




NEW SUNS

THERE'S NOTHING NEW _____
UNDER THE SUN, _____
BUT THERE ARE NEW SUNS. _____

----- Octavia Butler



THANK YOU

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