

**Cancel their platform, Cambridge is complicit:
It's time to stop Palantir from enabling the detention, deportation, and
control of migrants #NoTechForTyrants**

On Monday October 28th, the Computer Laboratory's Tech Talk series at Cambridge are due to host Anthony Bak, Lead Engineer for Palantir's Machine Learning Team, and Courtney Bowman, Lead of Palantir's Privacy and Civil Liberties Team for a talk on 'Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Machine Learning'. We, the undersigned, demand that the Department of Computer Science and Technology immediately cancel the event, which gives platform to a company that has enabled the systematic and violent oppression of migrant communities. We also demand that the Departments and University at large cancel any further relationship with Palantir, and make public any past relationship it has had with the company.

Palantir works with agencies and institutions known for their inhumane treatment of immigrant communities, particularly US Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE). The agency – which was emboldened under the Trump administration to target, detain, and deport thousands of immigrants across the US – has used Palantir's software to **separate families**, and conduct **workplace raids that resulted in the destruction of communities and collective trauma** (where children come back from school to empty homes, with both parents arrested). Raids like these are up by 650% under Trump. Thousands have been arrested, just for being undocumented.

Students and academics at the University of Cambridge are [already pledging not to work for Palantir](#), so long as they uphold their violence-enabling contracts with ICE. Now, **we demand that the Department of Computer Science and Technology CANCEL the October 28th talk, and any future engagement with Palantir**. We cannot in good conscience claim to solve some of the world's most pressing problems as a leading university while enabling the marginalisation of people who fled or are fleeing conflict, persecution and hunger. Our student body includes refugees and migrants from across the globe. In standing together against Palantir, we stand in solidarity with them.

To its great enduring shame, IBM sold technology to the Nazis during the Second World War. As a world community, we pledged never to stand by while atrocities were committed in our name. And yet, today, in 2019, Palantir is selling technology to ICE, an agency that is documented to have engaged in the systematic violation of human rights of vulnerable groups. Any material support for the agency is complicity. We reject any affiliation with this group in our name, and we find it reprehensible that this corporation is being granted space on our university grounds.

In the United Kingdom, the Cabinet Office has paid [£741,000 GBP for "IT Services" to Palantir](#), and since 2015 it has taken its place on the UK government's 'approved list of IT suppliers'. This is in spite of the knowledge that Palantir has acted in bad faith in the UK already, having [attempted to obtain Cambridge Analytica data](#). [The Ministry of Defence also recently awarded Palantir a £10 million contract](#). With at least [14 UK police forces using Palantir as vendors for analytical technologies](#), it is clear that there is significant and worrying market penetration in the UK alone. The UK arm of Palantir has generated £10 million for its parent company as of December 2018, and remains one of the largest (if not the largest) Palantir office to date.

It is critical that we learn about Palantir's work and refuse to stay complicit in its support for human rights abuses. If we take a stand and cut institutional ties, the company's recruitment will decline and its business will suffer. Palantir will become a pariah, shut off from academia and computer science talent unless it decides to change track.

If you are a member of the University of Cambridge, sign below to tell the University that you will not tolerate Palantir on your campus as long as they build tools that enable human rights abuses. Use your voice to stand with those who have been harmed by Palantir.

Through recruitment, seminars, dissertation prizes, and other events, student talent is funneled into tech companies that facilitate the detention and deportation of immigrants, the surveillance of marginalised communities, and beyond, in the United States, Europe, and globally. As a university, we are complicit in the violence tech companies facilitate on immigrants and refugees. Join us to fight back.

Students and academics at several universities in the US are already cancelling Palantir's presence on their campuses including Stanford, Harvard, Yale, UC Berkeley, Duke, Johns Hopkins, University of Michigan, The New School and UCLA amongst others. In the UK, the University of St. Andrews, and the University of Edinburgh are just a couple of universities that have started campaigns in recent weeks to do the same. Together, we are saying **No to Tech For Tyrants!**

We have the responsibility and the leverage to change this technology. They cannot build the tools if we don't provide their workers; if we don't tolerate their research; if we hold them to account. Use your voice to amplify those who are being silenced.

-- SIGN BELOW THIS LINE --

1. Dr. Jeff Miley, Lecturer of Political Sociology
2. Dr Justin Pearce, POLIS
3. Arathi Sriprakash, Education
4. Dr Mónica Moreno Figueroa, Senior Lecturer in Sociology
5. Dr Anne Alexander, Director, Learning Programme, Cambridge Digital Humanities
6. Dr Carlos Fonseca, Lecturer, Spanish and Portuguese
7. Graham Denyer Willis, Senior Lecturer, Development Studies, Latin American Studies, POLIS
8. Dr Ella McPherson, Senior Lecturer in the Sociology of New Media and Digital Technology, University of Cambridge
9. Matthew S. Mahmoudi - PhD Candidate, Department of Politics and International Studies
10. Jessica A. Fernandez De Lara Harada - PhD Candidate, Centre of Latin American Studies
11. Rebekah G. Lyndon - MPhil Student, Department of History
12. Mitra Dastbaz - MPhil Student, International Relations and Politics
13. Michelle Cheripka – MPhil, Sociology of Media & Culture
14. Marina Veličković - PhD Candidate, Faculty of Law

15. Scott Novak - Alumnus, MPhil, International Relations and Politics
16. Niyousha Bastani - PhD Candidate, Politics and International Studies
17. Verner Viisainen, PhD Candidate, Department of Engineering, Pembroke GP President
18. J Miller, PhD Candidate, POLIS
19. Neha Moharir, MPhil. Sociology
20. Diego Azurdia, PhD Candidate, Department of Spanish and Centre of Latin American Studies, and president of the Cambridge Migration Society
21. Surer Mohamed, PhD Candidate, Politics and International Studies
22. Ayşe Polat, PhD Candidate, History Faculty
23. Maria Hengeveld, PhD candidate, POLIS
24. Efthimios Karayiannides, PhD candidate , POLIS
25. Yasmin Dualeh, PhD Candidate, Faculty of History
26. Emrys Travis, MPhil, MMLL Faculty
27. Beja Protner, PhD student, Department of Social Anthropology
28. Saide Mobayed, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology
29. Flavia Saxler, MPhil Sociology
30. Safieh Kabir, Alumnus, BA, Human Social and Political Sciences
31. Lena Moore, PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies
32. Ray Adams Row farr, Undergraduate in Sociology
33. Christina Hambleton, MPhil International Politics
34. Siyang Wei, MPhil Sociology
35. Jane Darby Menton, PhD candidate, POLIS
36. Joe Shaughnessy, PhD Criticism and Culture
37. Anqi Chen, Mphil Sociology
38. Yassir Fathullah, MEng
39. Aoife O'Leary McNeice, PhD candidate, history faculty
40. Mustafa Hussain, PhD Candidate, Department of Informatics, University of California Irvine
41. Chloe Pacyna, PhD student, Biological Science
42. Scott Spivey Provencio, MPhil Candidate, Social Anthropology, Cambridge
43. Rachell Sánchez-Rivera, PhD Candidate, Centre for Latin American Studies, Cambridge University
44. Liran Morav, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology
45. Patrick Ferris, 3rd Year Computer Science Student, University of Cambridge
46. Cansu Karabiyik, PhD Candidate, Medical Genetics
47. Sam Dubberley, Member, King's College
48. Colin Barnes, member Wolfson College
49. Yasmin Shearmur, PhD candidate, Faculty of History
50. Amberley Middleton, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Education
51. Aline Khoury, PhD, Development Studies
52. Juliana Demartini Brit, PhD student, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Cambridge
53. Naoise Murphy, PhD candidate, Centre for Gender Studies
54. Paola Velasco - PhD Candidate, Department of Politics and International Studies

55. Richard Saich, PhD Student, Faculty of History
56. Anna Graff, MPhil Student, Department of Archaeology
57. Taskeen Adam, PhD Candidate, POLIS, University of Cambridge
58. Aureliane Pierret, Medical Student, Christ's college
59. Julia Doyle, PhD Student, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
60. Jasmine Olivera, MPhil Public Health, Institute of Public Health
61. Kerry Mackereth, PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Cambridge
62. Eleanor Cawte, Undergraduate, HSPS
63. Hakan Sandal, PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Cambridge
64. Maximilian Curtis, PhD candidate, POLIS Cambridge
65. Jonathan Birtwell, PhD Candidate, Education
66. Sandra del Valle Casals, PhD Candidate, Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge
67. Jing Min Tan, Undergraduate, Law
68. Saksham Sharma, PhD Candidate, Dept of CEB, Cambridge
69. Yi Ning Chang, Undergraduate, HSPS
70. Olga Plocienniczak, MMLL/Department of Geography, University of Cambridge
71. Jacqueline Gallo, PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge
72. Inès Aït Mokhtar, PhD Candidate, Department of Politics and International Studies
73. Katharina Oemmelen, MPhil in Development Studies, POLIS Cambridge
74. Jenny Carla Moran, PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies
75. Claire Marie Guimond, PhD Candidate, Department of Earth Sciences, Cambridge
76. Reetika Subramanian, PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies
77. Emilio Garciadiego, PhD candidate
78. Mayumi Sato, MPhil, Department of Sociology
79. Aleksandra Goclawska, PhD candidate, MML
80. Carys Goodwin, Alumnus, MPhil, International Relations and Politics
81. Saskia Borchardt-Hume, Alumnus, History BA, University of Cambridge
82. Muna Gasim, MPhil International Relations and Politics, POLIS Cambridge
83. Jennifer Tridgell, Alumnus, Master of Law, Cambridge
84. Michael Barton, Alumnus, International Relations and Politics, MPhil
85. Genevieve Riccoboni, Alumnus, History, MPhil
86. Quito Tsui, Alumnus, Development Studies, MPhil
87. Nishant Gokhale, PhD candidate
88. Shreyashi Dasgupta, PhD in Development Studies, Cambridge
89. Eli Cumings, PhD candidate, Faculty of English
90. Lorena Gazzotti, Research Fellow, Lucy Cavendish College and CRASSH
91. Rebecca Gordon, PhD Candidate, Lucy Cavendish
92. Joseph Brandim Howson, PhD candidate, POLIS
93. Waseem Yaqoob, Alumnus, History BA, University Lecturer in History 2016-2019, Fellow Pembroke College 2014-2019
94. Dr Callie Vandewiele, PhD Centre of Latin American Studies, Newnham College 2014-2019

95. Anna Forringer-Beal, PhD Candidate in Multidisciplinary Gender Studies
96. Tellef Solbakk Raabe, PhD Candidate in Sociology, Jesus College
97. Tatiana Pignon, PhD Candidate, Department of Politics and International Studies
98. Jonas Huruy Kidane, MPhil African Studies, Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge
99. Alasdair Neilson, PhD Candidate, Department of Geography
100. Aisha Lovise Maud Bornoe - PhD Candidate, Department of History of Art
101. Rebecca Vaa, HSPS alumni, King's College, Matric: 2014
102. Nikta Daijavad, Alumna, MPhil, International Relations and Politics
103. Utsa Sarmin, Alumna, MPhil, Development Studies, 2016-2017
104. Richard Southern, Medical Student, Pembroke College
105. Aurelie Skrobik, Alumna, MPhil, International Relations and Politics
106. Alice levins, Research Associate, Institute of Criminology
107. Line Dahler-Eriksen, Intern, Institute of Criminology
108. Sophie Ellis, PhD Student, Institute of Criminology
109. Dr Jennifer Cobbe, Trust & Technology Initiative
110. Abigail Joseph, MPhil, Department of Sociology
111. Mairi Eyres, Chemistry Undergraduate, Pembroke College
112. Sahil Shah, Alumnus, MPhil, International Relations and Politics, 2016-2017
113. Giles Barton-Owen, Computer Lab Alumni, St John's College, 2012-2015
114. Victoria Tse, PhD Candidate, Department of Politics International Studies
115. Camila Franco Restrepo, MPhil Development Studies, Lucy Cavendish, College 2017-2018
116. Ted While, Computer Science, 2018-Present, Fitzwilliam College
117. Christophe Gillain, PhD Candidate, Faculty of History
- 118.
- 119.
- 120.
- 121.