

[00:00:02.690] - Lucas Maaser

Okay.

[00:00:03.040] - Jack Poulson

Perfect.

[00:00:04.410] - Lucas Maaser

Yeah. So I basically started just like with a recap of your background to use as a basis for our conversation. Feel free to add anything that you'd like that you think is relevant for this. So you hold a PhD in computational and applied mathematics and worked for Google as a data scientist also during the Project Maven protests. Prior to that, you worked as an assistant professor of mathematics at Stanford University. You reportedly resigned in 2018 over a censored search engine project in China, quoting ethical concerns in your letter of resignation. Today, you are running Tech Inquiry, aiming to make contracting practices between big tech companies and the government more transparent.

[00:01:00.850] - Lucas Maaser

Is that, like, a good recap, or would you like to add something to that?

[00:01:05.550] - Jack Poulson

It seems pretty accurate to me.

[00:01:11.030] - Lucas Maaser

So in a recent conversation with Michael Kwet, I think I briefly mentioned that in our email exchange as well from the Yale University podcast Tech Empire, you mentioned that you were not part of the protests surrounding ethical concerns with Project Maven in particular at the time. Having recently made the transition from academia, you mentioned that you kind of kept your head down to not jeopardize your career at the time, but also mentioned that you felt the potential of now being perceived as a - I think you actually said as a hypocrite for being a former DARPA contractor as an academic.

[00:01:49.220] - Lucas Maaser

But for us, I'm trying to make this issue of government contracting big tech firms more relevant. This transition from academia over Google data science to actually running Tech Inquiry, which I understand as an investigative whistleblowing platform, is quite interesting. And I was curious on how that transition actually came to be.

[00:02:25.530] - Jack Poulson

The transition from after I left to running the kind of investigative site. Yeah, I guess that took place in a few phases, I would say, for about the first year to year and a half. We were about as Luddite as you could be, and we're entirely focused on speaking with journalists, kind of raising awareness over issues that folks in the nonprofit had been familiar with, and over time after having really pushed hard on, say, human rights issues. What I found was when I met with some of the more senior officials that the human rights issues were not so much the concern of theirs.

[00:03:21.570] - Jack Poulson

It was much more about maintaining a close military relationship with the US tech companies. As part of that, I started to become more aware of just how much bureaucracy there was surrounding those relationships, whether it's the Defense Innovation Board, the Defense Innovation Unit, the National Security Commission on AI, In-Q-Tel, et cetera, and starting to do freedom of information requests into some of those relationships and just starting to come to the conclusion that there are a lot of relationships between these companies that are just not very well documented.

[00:04:09.550] - Jack Poulson

And if you want to understand them better then one of the best tools is to monitor procurement which is done to some degree. But what I hope we've shown is that there's a lot more that can be juiced out of that if you very carefully kind of aggregate and curate those data feeds, and over time, that's kind of expanded internationally.

[00:04:40.110] - Lucas Maaser

I see I read about the resigning from Google in 2018. So these ethical concerns that you quoted in your resignation were they already quite present during Project Maven, but because it's kind of interesting or I think the perspectives we'd like to highlight is to kind of like how to start thinking critically about issues around this sector, even around these contracts, even if you have a role in, say, like a tech sector, or just try to reach out to people within the tech sector who might need further resources to kind of speak out or become more active and raise their ethical concerns.

[00:05:52.570] - Jack Poulson

Maybe missing the question a little bit. You're asking how we can support people who are wanting to do that, or what was the yeah.

[00:06:05.660] - Lucas Maaser

Maybe like from a personal standpoint, I don't know. Like, I imagine there to be this struggle between kind of like seeing issues within, for example, Project Maven at the time and maybe wanting to be part of it, but also kind of like not wanting to jeopardize your own career at the time.

[00:06:31.490] - Jack Poulson

I see you're kind of circling back to the question of why not to speak out. I mean, the reality is I just stood up fairly strongly in academia over an issue relating to public funds not being used and redirected into private intellectual property, which was a lot more so the case in applied math than I think it was in computer science. And to some degree, you're just trying to make sure you still have a career. It's one thing to kind of resign and protest once, but doing it twice is a bit harder.

[00:07:20.350] - Jack Poulson

To some degree, this gets to the heart of a debate over, like organizing versus speaking out in protest. I think organizing is obviously one of the more sustainable paths. It also, in a sense, builds power. I think it should come up in conversation more in circles relating to whistleblowing. And it's something I've pushed a lot for. If nothing else, you don't have to put your name on something. If you want to share it with the press, you can do that anonymously. I think one of the pitfalls for me was that a lot of the senior people I knew who weren't doing anything close to what we would traditionally think of as organizing.

[00:08:12.430] - Jack Poulson

Really like to use the change from the inside narrative as an excuse for why it was okay for them to do nothing. I feel like that side of the conversation isn't talked about much, which is essentially the bad faith application of change from the inside, which I think is more common in the one on one tech company circles. And so one question might be how to prevent people from getting away with the bad faith application of that because I do think unionizing et cetera is really important.

[00:08:49.330] - Jack Poulson

The downside rather, the complication of this, obviously, is that unions often represent the interests of the workers, which can dramatically differ from the interests of the public. So I think it's worth kind of always emphasizing, even when we go down the Union kind of conversation rabbit hole that we also call for coalitions, including independent civil society organizations. So maybe another kind of way of getting answering your question in terms of the focus of the organization, there's a lot of different reasons why you may want to advertise whistleblowing support and why you might not.

[00:09:45.390] - Jack Poulson

Tech Inquiry ended up because it started by, for example, me and others have come out of the tech industry. If you look at our board members, you'll see it's mostly ex tech folks. They've tried to be extremely careful about not being further influenced by the tech industry. And unfortunately, if you want to start doing serious support for others, that starts to require a lot more resources than we tend to have. So we're a lot scrappier. And I think investigative work you can do without a lot of resources.

[00:10:31.220] - Jack Poulson

Basically, we work with others. We run a small website and we have a lot of labor we can contribute, but just not a lot of money.

[00:10:45.890] - Lucas Maaser

Yeah. Thank you also for providing a link to Big Tech Sells War, which was quite nice to understand some of the basics, and it's kind of like a good way to communicate the things that you deal with in your reports. As a more condensed thing, I also saw a lot of arrows of keyfacts highlighted there between keys facts highlighted there and, like, certain points and narratives within peace work and of the International Peace Bureau that my colleague Stephanie and I work for. So from this, I'm reading that at least the narratives are compatible between the adaptations of your work that are then kind of like, summarized and put out there and our work. Have you ever been indirect or like you were talking about these alliances - is there, like, direct work done between Tech Inquiry or your network and the peace movement in the US or internationally

[00:12:09.990] - Jack Poulson

With the peace movement? One of the major campaigns right now is the campaign to stop killer robots. Really just calling for a ban on lethal autonomous weapons, which obviously has close connections to what you might consider broader pacifist movements. Fair to say, Human Rights Watch has been the most influential kind of component of the campaign to stop killer robots. Several of the members and board members of Tech Inquiry, like Liz O'Sullivan and Lauren Nolan, have played a major role in that campaign. For example, Liz O'Sullivan had left ClarifAI over their work on drone surveillance.

[00:13:06.350] - Jack Poulson

Lauren Nolan had left Google for the same reason over their work on Project Maven. And so that's something they dedicated an incredible amount of time to. There are definitely connections. It depends on what you identify as the peace movement. There's another way that one could kind of look at this from maybe the anticarceral kind of lens where one can view a lot of military technology as being upstream from technology that will end up in the hands of Department of Homeland Security through drone surveillance, autonomous border surveillance, facial recognition, et cetera.

[00:14:01.810] - Jack Poulson

And then it works its way into more municipal usage. It's not clear to me that rather there's a lot of different framing you could approach this from. I tend to find that if you're looking from the perspective of tech companies that they're really just trying to sell their technologies everywhere, and so the more cohesive of a narrative you can have, the better. And I think the kind of peace movement framing, I think, misses a lot of them, for example, border surveillance and policing. So I would say we're aligned, but it just hasn't been I would say that hasn't been the closest connection.

[00:15:01.310] - Lucas Maaser

Yeah. Thank you for also highlighting the spectrum of applications that are there and the ability of these technologies to evolve into all kinds of different kinds of fields. From probably like high tech AI military applications to municipal surveillance. I think that will also be interesting to kind of highlight in the article, one of the things that we would like to do the most as well. Besides kind of giving a little bit of a more personal note to the article to kind of make people excited about it and kind of like give all these contracts and all the work that is being done behind the scenes, like a face and maybe like a motivation and maybe just like some good reasons why they should read into them.

[00:16:14.430] - Lucas Maaser

It's like another big. I think the most prominent thing that we would like to do is to make people care about it and just think of it as one issue to have on their radar while they're doing well. We come from this kind of like peace work bubble, but I think the Rosenberg Foundation has a wider reach than that. So we're writing it for probably people with an academic background and people from the peace movement. But it's also interesting for a wider audience. The tech industry reports are quite deep dives into contracts and subcontracts between tech times like Google, Microsoft and Amazon and military reading into them.

[00:17:12.880] - Lucas Maaser

They can seem quite overwhelming at times. And you already highlighted, like, one platform that kind of tries to break them down. And there are quite few articles based on your data, but just as a blunt question in general, and then maybe also a question for us in Europe in particular, why should we care about your work?

[00:17:41.090] - Jack Poulson

Yeah, I guess to circle back a bit on the peace question first, there has been a lot of attention paid towards the degree to which the relationships between the tech companies and say the US government are being used to creating an affinity between US tech Giants, staving off regulation, arguably trying to hold back their economic competitors in China. And then from the side of the United States Defense

Department is a way to shift funding priorities and kind of ramp up this near peer adversary narrative to just further boost budgets.

[00:18:35.640] - Jack Poulson

So that's a really important issue. I think that the trouble I was having answering your question is really kind of nailing down, which are the kind of peace organizations that are leading that. Maybe one answer is that peace movements in the US just aren't very strong. There's a lot of organizations that care about it, and I could name a few and won't name some of them. I don't agree with all of their kind of framings, but it's a very sensitive topic in the US, and a lot of accusations get thrown around if you ever disagree on a particular kind of topic.

[00:19:13.790] - Jack Poulson

So it matters a lot. But I would say it can be complicated as to who you ally with there. On the subject of why anybody should care about our work. To some degree, I would say I kind of let journalists be the judge of that. We have a reasonable amount of publications that come out based upon our, say, freedom of information requests, or some of our summaries. The most recent includes showing that it's part of the United States sanctions enforcement arm OFAC in its investigations. They have apparently been using location tracking data that they procured from adtech location data.

[00:20:05.700] - Jack Poulson

And so I think there's maybe not quite a full appreciation always of how some of these technologies that are widely understood to be abusive and to violate civil liberties, how they might be used outside of the typical places that people associate with intelligence, like the Department of Defense, maybe DHS. And I think if you do a lot closer monitoring of procurement and maybe you have a little bit deeper understanding of the bureaucracy of, say, the US government. You understand that the intelligence community works very closely with a lot of agencies people don't tend to think of, in this case, the Office of Foreign Asset Control, or OFAC so I thought that was interesting.

[00:21:05.170] - Jack Poulson

One of our other big wins was showing that Google Cloud was being sold to a company called Thundercat Technology, which is a fairly prolific contractor with US Customs and Border Protection. And as part of the statement of work that we got back, it showed that Thundercat planned to use Google Cloud's AI to process thermal imagery from andurall industries autonomous border surveillance, which pretty well contradicts the way Google is positioning itself in terms of what it would and would not do at the US border. Interestingly enough, the head of Google Cloud ended up responding to that press coverage that resulted and just outright denied what the statement of work was saying.

[00:22:04.420] - Jack Poulson

So it raises an interesting question as to given the role that cloud computing plays financially and technologically, it's a huge component of defense sales. Now, it's a major component of revenue for major tech companies. If these tech companies are such that cloud computing is morally neutral, which is what we saw post Maven, then how do we actually show what they're actively contributing to and kind of set the bar for what would count as complicity in actions? Because if you can even FOIA and show that the technology is being used for something like surveilling immigrants and the company can oh, and that's the end of the story.

[00:23:08.450] - Jack Poulson

Then what levers for accountability really exist at that phase. Besides, employees, say, leaking internal communications. I think there's a similar issue that's come up with Google's and Amazon's contracts with Israeli government, including with the contract being known to also involve the Israeli defense forces. And I think the more we can show what these so called black box cloud contracts actually result in, the more we can push back in the narrative that this material support for militaries and intelligence agencies around the world is not just the equivalent of selling them a pile of steel or something that there's an actual direct contribution to their activities.

[00:24:25.210] - Lucas Maaser

So basically repoliticizing and recontextualizing these purportedly unconnected or without an issue kind of contracts and goods or services provided by these tech companies to other governments, for example, as something that's by highlighting the chain or by highlighting the capabilities or by highlighting what applications it may have to kind of make it an issue again of public interest. Am I kind of understanding, right?

[00:25:12.150] - Jack Poulson

Yeah. The workers at these places tend to understand it pretty quickly, but the tech companies tend. I mean, I wouldn't even say, like making it again an issue of public interest. But preventing tech companies from spinning cloud computing is something that there is no moral culpability with, especially when you're purposefully building and selling APIs for those uses. So, for example, there used to be a website that Amazon Web Services had up that was explicitly geared towards selling to the national security community. And I might have been the reason they shut it down.

[00:26:00.830] - Jack Poulson

But I sat in in a bunch of the webinars, and some of them they're just explicitly marketing things like facial recognition and emotion recognition directly to the intelligence community. And if you think about what the

procurement is typically going to be advertised, in the end, it's just the cloud computing sale. But obviously, as part of the marketing of the cloud computing, all of these extra software features are part of the reason that you might go with their company. To some degree, it's just opening up the black box of what this procurement actually entails beyond just an extremely coarse and description of cloud computing.

[00:26:50.830] - Jack Poulson

Obviously, if it's a multi billion dollar agreement, there can be a lot in that.

[00:26:59.690] - Lucas Maaser

All right. So just detailing, like the capabilities or the details of what certain contracts might entail while using the general term cloud computing, which is very much removed from all these applications that might be harmful.

[00:27:21.110] - Jack Poulson

Yeah, that's definitely been one of our themes, kind of from the perspective of just monitoring procurement fees, and when something looks interesting, foying it and often interesting things come out of it, but kind of more broadly, just encouraging people to make use of what open source information exists for monitoring these companies. They're kind of teaching people to fish single, if you will.

[00:27:55.050] - Lucas Maaser

This might be connected. But there might not be an answer to that practice of big tech companies to circumvent their own ethical guidelines for the ability to access military related government funds are like manifold. There was like a big article by Thomas Brewster and Forbes, kind of like highlighting how Google went through Alphabet and then to their venture capital arm to kind of fund startups that then access military or like bid on military contracts. And it seems like it's such a big mess and convoluted crowd of sister companies and subcontractors and sub-subcontractors.

[00:28:47.440] - Lucas Maaser

And it seems like it's not possible to analyze and to contextualize all these companies that pop up everywhere and all the track back all these kind of ways or paint the connections between the actual contract and maybe Google or Amazon, or like any big tech company. And it becomes like an analytical exercise where it might be that your work will always stay one step behind all these kind of mechanisms to decontextualize or disconnect the company from the contract. So what do you think would have to change or what would be like a good mechanism or regulation or development to kind of address this?

[00:30:04.450] - Lucas Maaser

Or maybe you even have another kind of idea what you would like the direction the industry would have to move into so that this doesn't happen anymore.

[00:30:30.430] - Jack Poulson

The approach we take is trying to map out all of the relevant companies that are involved in, for example, artificial intelligence procurement. So if you go through I do this pretty much daily. If you go through and just search for where does the term artificial intelligence show up? Procurement, or maybe the term facial recognition, et cetera. Then you get a list of companies who have been contracted with, and maybe you haven't heard of them half of the time. Then you look them up. You find kind of a way to connect their contracting Identifiers to their website, and then you map out who's their parent company, who are their child companies.

[00:31:26.170] - Jack Poulson

How did they fit in? Kind of more broadly, are there any investors that are involved with maybe a major tech company? It's a fairly mechanical process, and that tends to work reasonably well, though there are a lot of very small contractors that just nobody really cares about and say the mainstream kind of press that's one method is kind of just fishing in each of the procurement streams. That's how I found what was going on with Babel Street in the Office of Foreign Asset Controls is just monitoring the procurement of the Office of Foreign Asset Controls.

[00:32:15.750] - Jack Poulson

One could be Proactive and continually build out networks of connected companies. To some degree. I'm just driven by trying to understand these networks better, which is kind of a never ending task and often that produces interesting things, but most of the time it doesn't. Yeah, I don't want to get too technosolutionist by any means, but there's definitely a lot of technology that exists to help tame wide collections of entities and to help explore them. And it happened to have been one of the things that I built when I was at Google.

[00:33:08.900] - Jack Poulson

Admittedly I'm a back end person, so it's embarrassing to also do front end work. But yeah, we definitely have some expertise in helping to explore very large collections of entities.

[00:33:29.930] - Lucas Maaser

Basically understanding the networks better through, as you said, procurement kind of chain or stream, and therefore making these streams more transparent, at least, and giving that information to maybe others to other report on it, or use it to kind of investigate the change further.

[00:33:57.230] - Jack Poulson

Yeah. And the kind of other angle on it that I was hinting at is that if you have created a mirror of some of these procurement feeds, you can now use that as an input into, say, training a recommendation system. Most people may have heard of Palantir, but maybe they haven't heard of the 20 other companies that are pretty similar to them, like a Black Cape, for example, or Big Bear. I think basically expanding people's understanding of this Zoo of companies is something that we care a lot about.

[00:34:43.050] - Jack Poulson

I assume that you're aware that that Thomas Brewster article you were referencing built on some of our work. So it definitely has some impact periodically.

[00:34:59.870] - Lucas Maaser

One of the reasons why our CEO at our headquarters is interested to bring the conversation to Europe and Germany is that the conversation is very much active in the US, which is like with very big tech companies that have these multi million billion dollar contracts. Understandable why this course is bigger in the US than in Germany and Europe. In analyzing these networks, what would you say? What are the most relevant reasons why we should care about that here? Maybe there are some applications or some consequences in Europe and Germany.

[00:36:03.010] - Lucas Maaser

You found that could be a conversation starter in Germany and Europe.

[00:36:12.010] - Jack Poulson

Well, obviously the Gaia X initiative that's been pushing for, like, a software and cloud of sorts in Europe by France and Germany. There's been some reporting example from Politico that Microsoft and Amazon and even Palantir are starting to play a major role in the technical planning components of that effort, which I think should at least raise an eyebrow for people in Europe. To some degree, I think there's more focus on kind of almost a colonialism from these American companies coming in. But obviously there are human rights issues everywhere.

[00:37:08.530] - Jack Poulson

Whether that's maybe Palantir coming in and wanting to sell technology to amplify border surveillance or deportations, which, if I'm not mistaken, they've already started to get contracts in England. I don't know to what degree they're doing that across the rest of Europe. It's something I'm starting to just have some of that functionality go online to start to monitor European procurement. It's certainly these companies have close relationships with the intelligence communities kind of across Europe. Yeah. I don't really see why it would be fundamentally different, even if one might expect that Europe is going to try and create its own analogues of these companies.

[00:38:06.450] - Jack Poulson

You could look to Australia, for example, there's an analog where they've created this company Five Cast, which in many ways is like an open source kind of Palantir-like company meant to do data fusion on kind of online surveillance. So I think that should be expected. And there's a lot of companies, especially in the defense space. I think you'll see more of that, because if your funding is largely from a government, then it's much easier to kind of compete against some of these bigger international companies.

[00:38:57.170] - Jack Poulson

To some degree. I'm curious whether your question is about how Amazon and Microsoft and Alphabet, et cetera are going to contribute, or whether there are military and human rights issues, which I'd assume that's not up for debate.

[00:39:21.450] - Lucas Maaser

No, I think it's kind of both. I think one arm of discussion while conceptualizing this project was, well, how do and it's mainly about Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple and Microsoft. I believe Apple at least didn't show to be such a major player in this kind of conflict for some reason. But yeah, this was like the initial kind of idea, like how they interact with European intelligence services in particular or might have an impact on this kind of industry in Europe as well. But I think it could also be about what we talked about earlier.

[00:40:22.470] - Lucas Maaser

That kind of like why we should care in general, why we should care about the work to kind of highlight why it is important to not just let narratives and framings kind of like be unanswered and unanalyzed and kind of track back to different capabilities or applications that might have an application in military activities in Europe independent from the companies that I involved.

[00:41:12.490] - Jack Poulson

Yeah. Obviously Microsoft and Amazon are major facial recognition providers, and it's pretty well documented that Microsoft has built software for police forces all around the world. Here in New York City, where I am, that includes the Domain Awareness system, which they kind of spear headed by Bloomberg. I think a partnership at the NYPD and is exported internationally, including to Singapore. Like I was mentioning, the UK police have a close partnership with Microsoft. To some degree, they're just kind of becoming part of the foundation of how government agencies and especially law enforcement, defense departments and intelligence agencies modernize.

[00:42:13.590] - Jack Poulson

I think if you care about not having increases in police and government surveillance in your cities or countries that it's important to pay attention to these relationships, because there's a large kind of likelihood that it's going to involve one of these major companies eventually, maybe an NEC Corporation as well, or probably not a clear view AI, even though they get so much attention to some degree, you can just look at what's happened in the United States, and the question is, why wouldn't that translate? What is it that's specific to the United States about those rollouts?

[00:43:23.110] - Jack Poulson

Obviously, the UK is not in Europe anymore, but they're one of the biggest per capita deployments. They have one of the biggest per capita deployments of facial recognition. There is certainly with, like, video cameras. There's always the civil liberties angle. Not that I think we should stop there, but I think the case has been made pretty well there, and there's a lot of different angles one could go. But I think just generally, if there's anything you're concerned about with government or corporate power, you really have to be paying attention to these companies.

[00:44:17.770] - Lucas Maaser

All right, then maybe as a last kind of turn back to kind of the readers and as like active members of the discourse or contributing persons in Europe and hopefully evolving European discourse. So with all that in mind and reading into this and what can civil society members and activists who are fairly new to the issue, who want to see it as an issue but want to become active due to the issue, to become more permanent without having to become too proficient? What is an easy way to become involved?

[00:45:26.730] - Lucas Maaser

And what would you wish for in your work from civil society members and activists who are not particularly from the tech industry or like the tech field to support your work?

[00:45:41.190] - Jack Poulson

So do you mean like members of the general public or other kind of nonprofit folks?

[00:45:48.090] - Lucas Maaser

I was talking about the general public, but obviously we have a big network of NGOs as well. So either would be interesting.

[00:45:58.290] - Jack Poulson

Yes, from the general public. I think one support civil society, ideally through grassroots donations, which I think one of the major problems in the nonprofit space is that most of the money comes from the very tech billionaires that you're trying to critique. Even in the best case, it's going to be like an Omidyar. And I think we really need to be able to be self sustaining if we're going to tackle tech billionaire influence. Also call for taxation of these companies at a fair rate. I think there's been a bit of push from that recently, but I think the kind of financial foundation of the nonprofit sector is beyond shaky.

[00:46:51.990] - Jack Poulson

And even at the most respected organizations, you constantly see even the high level figures moving into tech companies because there's so much power and honestly, nonprofits just can't usually pay very well. So I think there's no real substitute for just making civil society a place people can actually have a career, and that's going to ultimately come from taxes. And before that, from grassroots donations. In terms of other nonprofits, I think just collaborating better generally. That doesn't mean not ever criticizing. But I think when nonprofits can come together and kind of work on projects that combines their strengths, I think that tends to lead to incredible impact.

[00:47:51.310] - Jack Poulson

Like my nonprofit, we can do great research, but we're not super great at, like, glossy reports or a lot of other things. And we're small. And so I think when we learn how to work together instead of just competing with each other, I think that's what leads to the most progress.

[00:48:17.930] - Lucas Maaser

Great. Yeah. I think that would also be a great snippet for, like, an invitation in the end of an article to just invite people to read up in it and to reach out and try to connect and share their resources and fields of expertise. Yeah. That's great. Do you have any questions for me for us on Petersburg, what we would like to do with this, or do you have the feeling that something is fundamentally missing from what we talked about?

[00:49:08.650] - Jack Poulson

No. I think the interview was great. I guess I'd be curious, like how you feel, like, beyond this report, what do you think the kind of connection would be in Europe? Like you asked a question, but I'd be curious on your thoughts. Like, how do you think about big tech and more as it relates to Europe?

[00:49:36.530] - Lucas Maaser

Yeah. I think it was quite interesting to kind of actually learning what it means to read into all these contracts and to find the connections because it has been beyond investigative journalists work, it has been quite challenging to actually find a good kind of cohesive overview of what is happening without just delving into specific contracts and trying to make sense of specific things. For me, I'm personally not like the most proficient in piece work per se. I'm not coming from that field. So I think for me it is like the argument of kind of like contributing to the value of an international Corporation that offers its services like social media or video game consoles or operating systems or whatever to an international market or international consumers who then kind of contribute to their abilities to kind of develop this expertise further that they can then use to kind of contribute to this contract is, I think, like a narrative or like an argument or a perspective that interests me because in the end, it holds every person accountable, too.

[00:51:41.320] - Lucas Maaser

And I think it's a little. My argument wouldn't be you would have to. But like all these big tech giants'because, I think that's not really a good way to sell it, but it's rather just to kind of highlight that every service that we commonly use, which are also in high demand all over Europe, are also making us kind of complicit to everything that these companies do with the money that we give them. So then we rather directly than indirectly fund in the worst case. And that would be something that the IPB would like to highlight.

[00:52:35.090] - Lucas Maaser

I don't know, like technology that is then used in Acts of War, for example, or has the potential to. So I think this is what my main interest would be, but, yeah, we're trying to at least give people here, like, an overview of tools that are used to find things out. And it might be a challenge because I don't know, there's not much on the issue yet. And we hope both us and the Rosalix Book Foundation hopes that at least after the publication, some people will object to whatever we said or some people will just find something that they would like to comment on.

[00:53:34.150] - Lucas Maaser

Maybe you intuitive. I don't know. I didn't mean that or fundamentally missing like this perspective to then just start a conversation and maybe have a few events. And ultimately, I think our CEO's fantasy is to all of that goes well to maybe found a small watchdog group of companies and NGOs that are rather NGOs are like activists who are kind of better connected within Germany or Europe to then, just like, keep in

contact with others and kind of build a little bit of a network on the issue to keep in contact and update one another.

[00:54:28.790] - Lucas Maaser

But, yeah, we'll see the first part is just going to be this one publication. It's like a very limited publication and just make people excited. And the second part will be next April, like a more in depth study taking consideration everything that happens between the publication and then the study, which will hopefully be like a lively discussion. And we'll see how that goes.

[00:55:02.950] - Jack Poulson

But that makes a lot of sense. Thanks for the very helpful answer. And yeah, I look forward to reading the publication when it comes out.

[00:55:15.760] - Lucas Maaser

Great. I'll make sure to share it with you.

[00:55:19.250] - Jack Poulson

Okay. Thanks. All right. It was wonderful to meet.

[00:55:22.420] - Lucas Maaser

Yeah. Great. And have a good day and soon.

[00:55:26.070] - Jack Poulson

Thank you. Take care.

[00:55:27.790] - Lucas Maaser

You too. Bye.