

Stories Across Missing Data Typologies

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The cases presented here are introduced as representative examples of the typologies outlined in the curatorial framework. The aim of this Stories section is to explore alternative formats that deal with absence of data in different ways and in order to address different typologies of absence. Next to the selected visuals and images, most relevant is the description of the methods that each of these initiatives and organizations have developed to identify the absence, first, and collect missing data for different purposes.

The content has been developed as part of Simona Colitti's case study analysis through a combination of sources. Most descriptions draw on publicly available materials produced by the projects themselves, including websites, reports, toolkits, and visual outputs, as well as on the accompanying case study analysis. The final visual story contribution includes original material authored by Visualizing Palestine, expanding and contextualising the analysis through an authorial methodological note. This approach reflects our intent to situate these cases not as exhaustive accounts, but as situated entry points into the broader categories of missing data identified in the study.

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Algorithmic Justice League

Website

ajl.org/library/home

Responsible Body

Algorithmic Justice League (AJL)

Focus

A cultural and policy-oriented movement toward equitable and accountable AI, addressing how biased data and harmful deployments can amplify inequality and threaten civil rights, including in biometric and surveillance contexts.

Typologies of Missing Data Addressed (Tab. I)

Algorithmic Injustice (Primary)
Data Asymmetries (Secondary)

Process Overview

Algorithmic Justice League (AJL) agenda is structured around making algorithmic harms publicly legible and actionable, using educational and campaign-oriented entry points that connect individual experiences to structural patterns (e.g., biometric rights, biased systems). Research is assembled through documented cases, public-facing resources, and curated materials that translate technical and institutional dynamics into communicable evidence and critique.

Narratives frame 'bias' as a sociotechnical outcome of classificatory regimes, evaluation metrics, and institutional adoption contexts, rather than as an isolated model failure. This centers absence as produced through what is measured, benchmarked, and treated as normative.

Outreach is integral: *AJL* provides materials explicitly meant for screenings, teaching, and civic mobilisation, aligning dissemination with accountability goals rather than academic circulation alone.

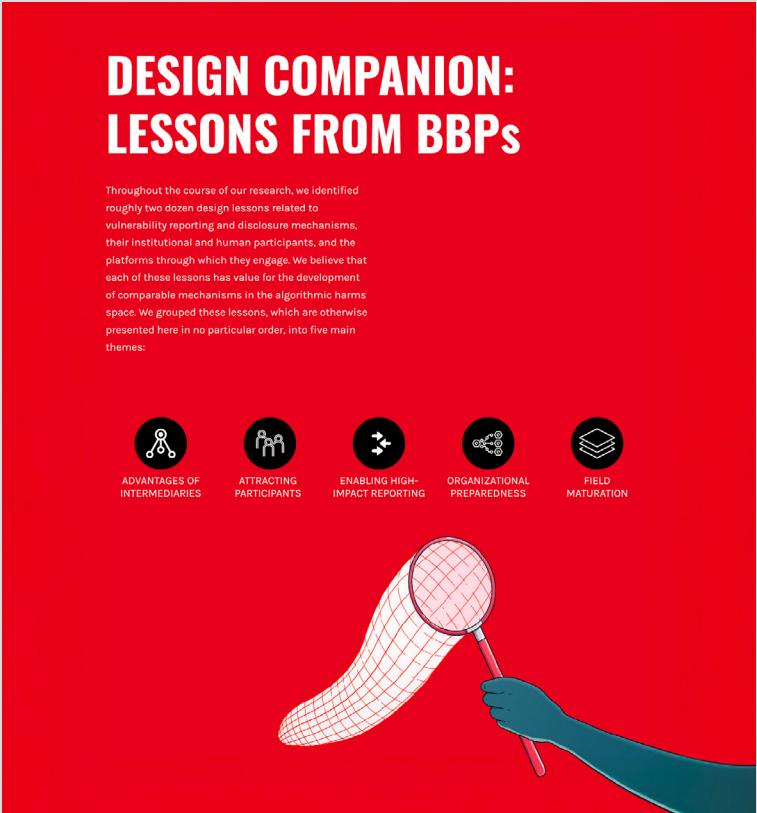


Fig. 1
Thematic overview of design lessons from AJL's Bug Bounties research (Source: Algorithmic Justice League).

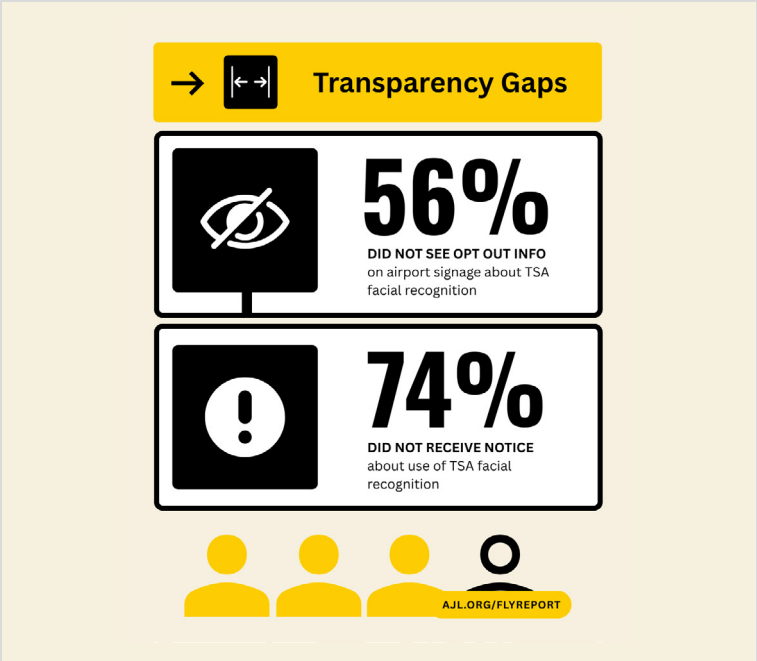


Fig. 2
Infographics as a mode for disseminating research evidence (Source: Algorithmic Justice League).

Political Imagination Toolkit

Website

superrr.net/en/work/political-imagination-toolkit

Responsible Body

Superrr

Focus

Superrr is a research and practice collective working on political imagination, critical futures, and participatory methods oriented toward social transformation.

Typologies of Missing Data Addressed (Tab. I)

Extractivist Design

Process Overview

The *Political Imagination Toolkit* is presented by Superrr as both the outcome and the continuation of a pilot programme, and as an invitation to critical futures thinking. The project frames imagination as a situated and political practice, explicitly rejecting the idea that futuring can be objective or neutral. Instead, it foregrounds questions of who is able to imagine futures, under which conditions, and which narratives are recognised or marginalised in such processes.

The toolkit takes the form of a collection of materials designed to support collective reflection. According to its Authors, it is composed of analytical methods, somatic and visual practices, reflective exercises, and conceptual introductions. These elements are intended to be used in group settings and are organised to encourage exploration, discussion, and reflection rather than the production of definitive outcomes or forecasts.

Across its materials, the toolkit repeatedly engages with uncertainty and ambiguity as conditions to be worked with rather than resolved. Reflection prompts explicitly invite participants to attend to uncertainty, to question assumptions embedded in dominant narratives, and to reflect on the social and material conditions that shape whose imaginaries are amplified or constrained. In this sense, the toolkit positions futures work as a relational and political activity, embedded in existing power relations and inequalities.

Rather than extracting insights, visions, or consensus from participants, the toolkit is explicitly designed to resist extractivist logics common in participatory and futures-oriented processes. It avoids outcome-driven formats and refuses the transformation of collective imagination into data, deliverables, or foresight products, foregrounding instead reflection, positionality, and relational processes.



Fig. 3
 (a) Cover of the physical toolkit.
 (b) Materials arranged for futures oriented workshop facilitation.
 Physical toolkit consisting of printed materials designed for futures oriented workshop facilitation (Source: SUPERRR).



Queering the Map

Website

queeringthemap.com

Responsible Body

Lucas LaRochelle

Focus

Community-generated counter-mapping as a living, affective archive of LGBTQ2IA+ experiences tied to physical space, where partiality, discontinuity, and opacity are treated as structural conditions of the dataset rather than technical limitations.

Typologies of Missing Data Addressed (Tab. I)

Statistical Invisibility (primary)
Situating Gaps (secondary)

Process Overview

Queering the Map is a community-generated counter-mapping platform that collects and displays LGBTQ2IA+ experiences in relation to physical space. The project presents itself as a living, participatory archive in which users anonymously contribute short, place-linked testimonies, producing a collective record of queer life that is affective, situated, and continuously evolving.

The platform foregrounds partiality, discontinuity, and uneven coverage as intrinsic features of the archive. Contributions accumulate unevenly across geographies and contexts, resulting in a non-uniform archive. In this sense, the archive does not attempt to correct or smooth out gaps, but allows them to remain visible as part of the conditions under which queer experiences are lived and documented.

The process of archive formation is driven by ongoing public participation. Users submit entries by pinning their experiences to specific locations on a global map, with each pin functioning as a micro-narrative connected to place. Over time, the map accumulates a dense but non-uniform constellation of testimonies, where individual accounts coexist without being synthesised into a single explanatory frame.

From a design perspective, the map interface operates as the primary organising device of the archive. Geographic navigation structures how stories are encountered and related to one another, while anonymity and minimal submission requirements lower barriers to participation. Design choices prioritise the preservation of affective and experiential detail over standardisation, allowing opacity, fragmentation, and silence to remain part of the archive rather than problems to be resolved.

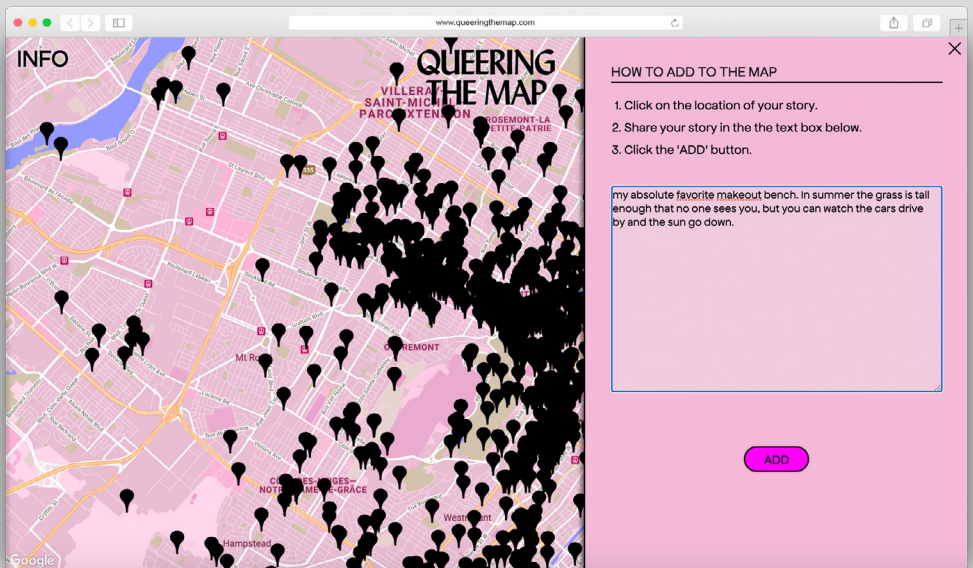
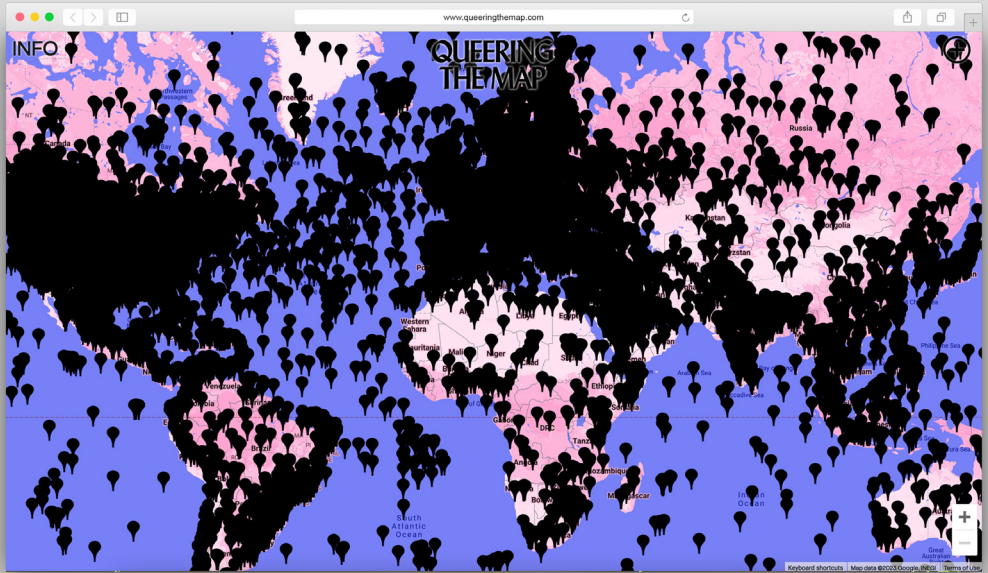


Fig. 4
 (a) Map view with geolocated entries.
 (b) Contribution form for adding new stories.
 Web-based interface for anonymous, user-generated submission of place-based LGBTQ2IA+ experiences (Source: Queering the Map).

Syrian Archive

Website

syrianarchive.org/en/

Responsible Body

Syrian Archive

Focus

A Syrian-led project aiming to preserve, enhance, and memorialise documentation of human rights violations and other crimes committed by all parties to the conflict in Syria, for use in advocacy, justice, and accountability.

Typologies of Missing Data Addressed (Tab. I)

Censorship and Repression (primary)
Statistical Invisibility (secondary)

Process Overview

Syrian Archive is a Syrian-led initiative dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and memorialising digital documentation of human rights violations and other crimes committed by all parties to the conflict in Syria. The project frames its work explicitly in relation to advocacy, justice, and accountability, positioning digital preservation as a necessary condition for historical record and evidentiary use.

The project emerges in response to the fragility of digital evidence in conflict settings, where documentation produced and circulated on online platforms is subject to deletion, takedown, and loss. *Syrian Archive* describes this environment as one in which vast amounts of visual material exist temporarily but risk disappearance, making systematic archiving an urgent infrastructural task. Preservation is therefore understood not as neutral storage, but as an active process shaped by political, legal, and technical constraints.

Syrian Archive's process centres on the collection, organisation, and verification of digital content. According to its published methodology, this involves identifying and maintaining databases of credible sources, implementing a standardised metadata schema, and developing workflows that support verification and contextualisation. These procedures are presented as essential to ensuring that archived materials remain reliable and usable in journalistic, legal, and human rights contexts.

From a design perspective, the project operates through infrastructural and procedural design rather than through visualisation or public-facing storytelling alone. Design decisions are embedded in the architecture of the archive, the structure of metadata, and the sequencing of collection and verification practices. These elements together support transparency, traceability, and long-term accessibility, allowing documentation that might otherwise disappear to persist as part of a public record.



Fig. 5
 Infrastructural workflow
 for evidence preservation
 and accountability
 (Source: Syrian Archive).

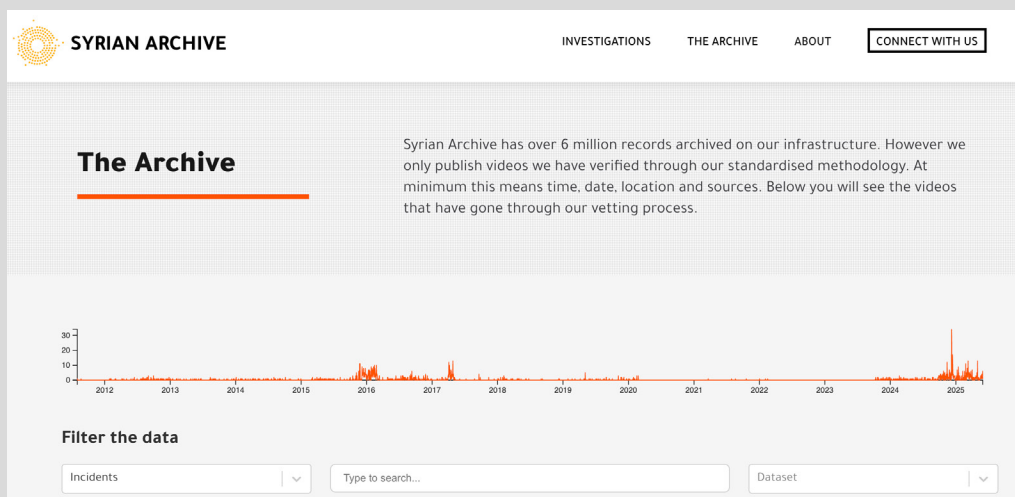


Fig. 6
 Archival interface structured
 around verification
 and access (Source:
 Syrian Archive).

Visualizing Palestine (VP)

Website

visualizingpalestine.org

Responsible Body

Visualizing Palestine

Focus

Visualizing Palestine describes its work as using data and research to visually communicate Palestinian experiences in order to provoke narrative change, situating this within a broader commitment to a liberated future free from oppression.

Typologies of Missing Data Addressed (Tab. I)

Statistical Invisibility (primary)
Situated Gaps (secondary)

Visualizing Palestine's Process

Authorial methodological note (original contribution) by Jessica Anderson and Rasha Sansur (Visualizing Palestine).

Visualizing Palestine's process wheel (2012) shows how we approach data storytelling, moving cyclically through steps of idea-tion, research, story conceptualization, design, and outreach. One of the most frequent questions we receive is: "how does the team decide what topics to work on?". We published a reflection on editorial criteria that explored how we identify potential topics through immersion in emerging research, reports, and news; conversations with activists, organizers, and experts; experience based on years of previous work; and curiosity. We then prioritize these topics, considering factors such as whether strong data or information is available; the timeliness of the topic; its potential long-term relevance as a tool for political education; whether we have covered the topic before; the audience we hope to reach; and more.

Since *Visualizing Palestine* focuses on translating existing research into accessible communication tools, every project begins with assessing available information. We work with sources such as human rights reports, scholarly research, United Nations agencies, humanitarian organizations, news reports, and published government statistical agencies.

As an anti-colonial project, we recognize that colonial hierarchies are deeply embedded within research and knowledge production across disciplines, including design. In her book *Plantation Memories. Episodes of Everyday Racism*, Grada Kilomba encapsulated this dynamic: "when they speak it is scientific, when we speak it is unscientific...they have facts, we have opinions; they have knowledge, we have experiences"¹. An important part of Visualizing Palestine's work is centering Palestinian history, expertise, and knowledge, especially during a time of genocide and scholasticide against the Palestinian people². Every VP visual includes a source link in the footer with detailed citations.

1

Kilomba, G. (2021). *Plantation memories: Episodes of everyday racism* (p. 28). Between the Lines.

2

Vulliamy, Ed. (2009, January 10). In Gaza, the schools are dying too. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jan/10/gaza-schools>.

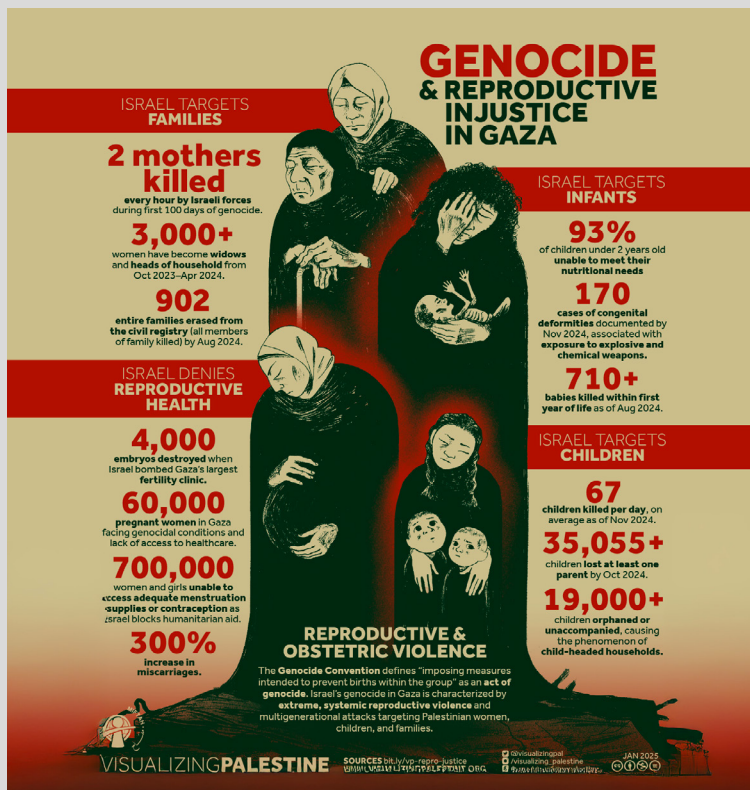


Fig. 7
Infographic on reproductive and familial violence against Palestinians in Gaza (Source: Visualizing Palestine).

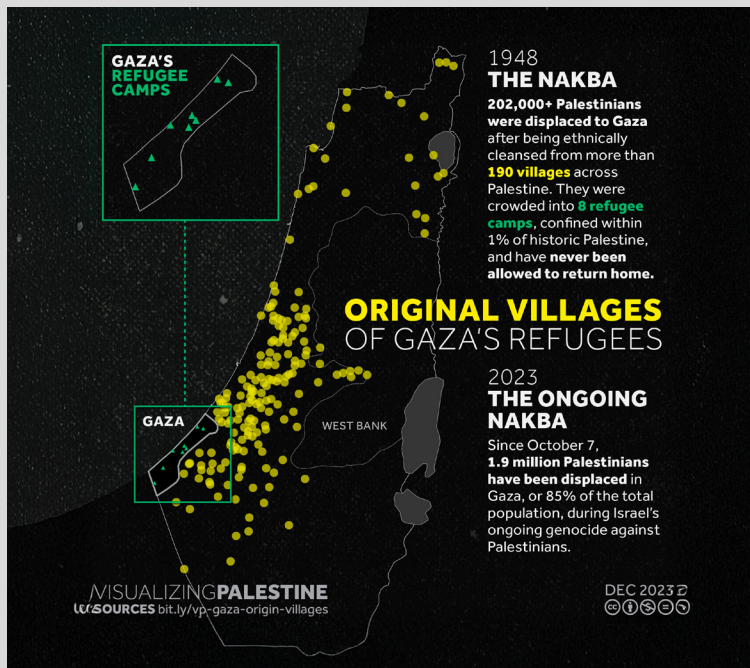


Fig. 8
Map of the original villages of Gaza's refugees displaced during the 1948 Nakba (Source: Visualizing Palestine).