

CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU: THE CONTROVERSIES AROUND GLOBAL SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE

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Spaceborne sensors are measuring the Earth constantly; these data inform many aspects of global human-built systems and can be used to improve those systems in countless ways. From communications and weather forecasting to navigation and land use change detection, satellite systems are incorporated into many monitoring, management, and governance applications which influence our everyday lives. But what might be the downsides of all this surveillance? The public may not realize just how widely satellite data collection impacts their lives, whether they have any influence in the matter, nor what agreements govern that space. National regulations exist within Canada to ensure appropriate use of remote sensing systems and international treaties provide a framework for global space applications. China aims to become the world's leading scientific superpower by 2050 through the collection and analysis of big planetary data under its Belt and Road Initiative; global observation infrastructure, geopolitical alliances, and the international economic landscape are facing upheaval with this major exertion of influence. Understanding the positive and negative aspects of global satellite surveillance is essential to determine how we can navigate future applications of remotely sensed big data and how those data can be used ethically in resource management.