Book Review

Review of Fan, Mary D. 2019. *Camera Power: Proof, Policing, Privacy, and Audiovisual Big Data*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 261 pp. US\$33.95. Paperback. ISBN: 9781108407540.

Benjamin Faveri

Carleton University, Canada
benjamin.faveri@carleton.ca

Police body-worn cameras (BWCs) and civilian cameras continue to proliferate across the US, the UK, and Canada. As more BWCs and civilian cameras are adopted, the total collected audiovisual data increases. This collected data increase poses new challenges and opportunities for governments, police services, and the public. *Camera Power: Proof, Policing, Privacy, and Audiovisual Big Data* provides an excellent description of these new challenges and opportunities alongside various ethical, legal, and policy implications from the vast stores of audiovisual data and the continued proliferation of both police and civilian cameras. Fan argues that more cameras and their collected data, both from police and civilians, is not necessarily bad. These collected data can be bad, and there are serious ethical, legal, policy, and privacy concerns around the use of these collected data. However, if these concerns are navigated correctly, these data can provide better police training, public trust, and predictive analytic ability. *Camera Power* examines these concerns and potentials, spending its pages discussing both sides of each primary and sub-argument, offering academic literature, personal accounts, and legal decisions as support for the various arguments. The book ends with a short conclusion on how BWCs are “no technological silver bullet” (251); BWCs cannot solve the hard policy and law enforcement problems. However, BWCs do provide an avenue for both sides of the political divide to communicate, a necessity for navigating the ethical, legal, and policy concerns about BWCs.

The police BWC literature is rapidly expanding, providing further insight into topics such as public and officer perceptions, use of force, and, as of late, the ethical implications of machine and deep learning within predictive analytics of audiovisual big data. *Camera Power* is the first book to sufficiently present these ethical implications and the various policy and legal arguments for how police services and governments may navigate these issues. The book discusses arguments for federal legislation, state/provincial or municipal regulation, and private standards of BWCs and predictive analytic software. BWC issues are technical, multijurisdictional, publicly divided, and full of emotion. However, if these issues are resolved, predictive analytics can offer enormous benefits for law enforcement, protections for civil rights and liberties, and reduced violence involving police and citizens.

Camera Power is unlike other BWC books. Fan simultaneously tells a story while presenting a unifying argument. The book begins with a description of police and citizens’ surveillance power, gained through the rapid adoption of police and civilian cameras. It then presents the history of body-worn and civilian cameras and the many civil rights cases that brought their use to the forefront of modern policing. This

description and history are presented through detailed personal accounts and interviews, including accounts of civilians who have had their lives ruined by police brutality losing in court because the officer's word carried more weight than theirs. Additionally, Fan includes accounts of civilians who falsely accused police officers of assault only to have the BWC footage provide counterevidence to their accusation, saving the officer's career. This storytelling cements the underlying arguments. The second part of the book outlines the challenges and opportunities of the collected audiovisual data: discussing big data analytics' ability to prevent harm, how it can provide misleading evidence and inferences, and the various privacy and public disclosure issues. The third and final part offers frameworks for future policymaking, considering controlled access, privacy, data retention, officer discipline, and ethics. The frameworks borrow from epidemiology's data policy, including how the data are structured, their protection and preservation, and how the field approaches the ethical, legal, and policy implications of their collected data.

Camera Power is intended for academics, students, police professionals, and anyone interested in how surveillance technology is reshaping our relationship with the police. This book is mostly written in plain language, aside from the occasional necessary academic and technical jargon. The book offers examples throughout to provide context for each sub-argument. The author draws from her own vast experience working with police, detailing accounts from ride-alongs, interviews, and observations from her immersion into policing.

For those familiar with some of the BWC literature, this book offers an analysis of 213 US police BWC policies and their implications in the broader BWC debate. Students will enjoy the simple writing and general introduction to BWCs and their various challenges and opportunities. For policing professionals, the text offers firsthand accounts of officers both for and against BWCs, explanations for why they feel that way, and the practical difficulties that accompany those who wear BWCs. Anyone interested in the relationship between surveillance technology and policing will benefit from this book.

Camera Power is written for a wide readership and covers the prominent debates in the BWC literature around audiovisual big data. Readers will gain a fundamental understanding of BWC technology, surveillance, predictive analytics, and privacy. These topics are well cemented in the reader's mind by the use of academic literature, legal decisions, and first-hand accounts. As BWCs continue to proliferate across the US, the UK, and Canada, these themes will only increase in relevance. This book and its accompanying analysis of 213 US BWC policies can serve as a guide for future BWC adoption.