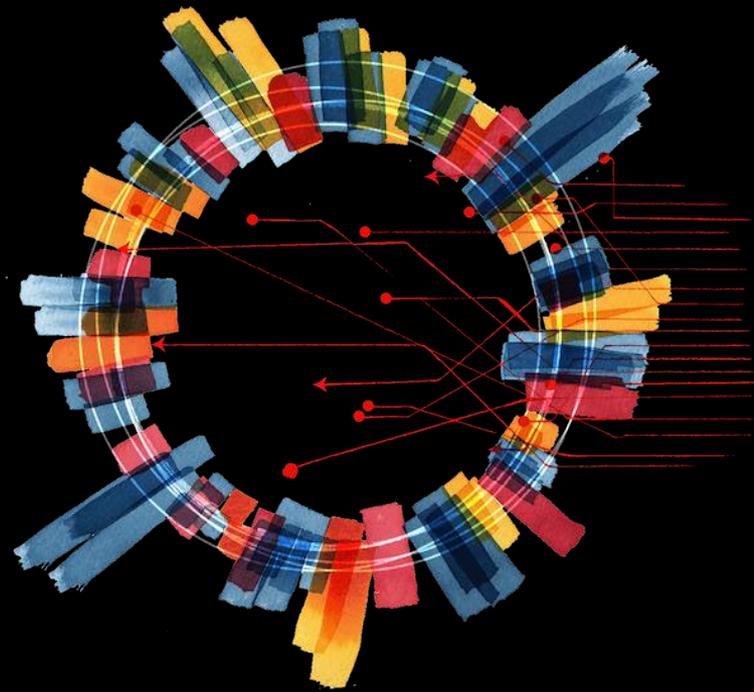


**TACTICAL TECH**

Making sense of the digital



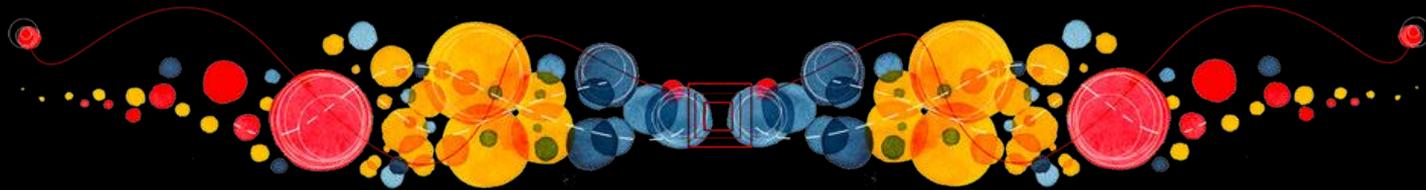
# Exposing the Invisible

Resources for investigators and  
other evidence gatherers

Laura Ranca – Exposing the Invisible | Tactical Tech  
December 2023

**EXPOSING  
THE INVISIBLE**

# About us



## ABOUT US

We are an international NGO that, for over 20 years, has engaged with citizens and civil society organisations to explore and mitigate the impacts of technology on society.

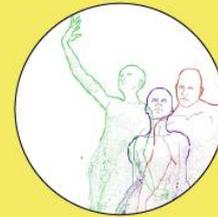
Today, more than ever, we need to reflect critically on our relationship with technology. How do digital technologies impact the way we get informed and make decisions? How can we as a society face the 'side-effects' of an increasingly data-driven world?



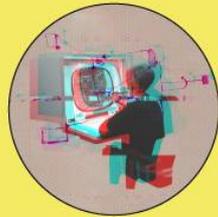
ENGAGING WORKSHOPS  
& MASTERCLASSES



PLAYFUL TOOL-KITS  
& GUIDES



INTERACTIVE EXHIBITIONS  
& INTERVENTIONS



INNOVATIVE LEARNING  
PLATFORMS

# TIMELINE: A TRAVEL THROUGH OUR COLLABORATIVE AND CREATIVE JOURNEY



When Tactical Tech was founded two decades ago, there was a lot of optimism surrounding digital technologies but not much focus on their potential for civil society and the risks that could arise. Many people talked about technology as an equalising and empowering force, but there was little action to make it a reality. Tactical Tech wanted to

Since its creation, Tactical Tech has co-developed hundreds of interventions and resources in collaboration with local partners and collaborators worldwide. These resources have directly reached millions of people: activists, human rights advocates, researchers, journalists, educators, librarians, young people...and the list continues

# We work collaboratively to develop & localise resources

The image shows a screenshot of the TACTICAL TECH website navigation bar at the top, with the following items: TACTICAL TECH, OUR WORK, OUR PARTNERS (highlighted in yellow), GET INVOLVED, NEWS & STORIES, ABOUT US, and DONATE. Below the navigation bar is a photograph of an outdoor banner. The banner features a central illustration of two hands shaking, surrounded by various icons representing different aspects of technology and communication. The banner is titled 'HOE JE TELEFOON IS ONTWERPEN OM JE AANDACHT TE TREKKEN' (How your phone is designed to attract your attention). The banner also includes several sections of text, each with a red circular icon, discussing various aspects of phone design and user experience. A QR code is visible on the banner. In the background of the photograph, a building with a sign that reads 'de bibliotheek' is visible.

**TACTICAL TECH**    OUR WORK    **OUR PARTNERS**    GET INVOLVED    NEWS & STORIES    ABOUT US    DONATE

## PARTNERS DIRECTORY

Explore our directory of civil society organisations, rights groups, schools, universities, libraries, museums and community and cultural centres worldwide with whom we partner to research, co-develop resources and outreach through interventions.

**HOE JE TELEFOON IS ONTWERPEN OM JE AANDACHT TE TREKKEN**

<https://tacticaltech.org/resources/>

## OUR RESOURCES

Explore, use and adapt our educational interventions, resources, tools and research material around the impact of technology on people's lives.



# Investigation & creative design to inform and inspire change



## TECHNOLOGIES OF HOPE & FEAR

Quarantine bracelets, pandemic drones, predictive cleaning, bio-patches and syndromic surveillance: the pandemic has shown how much faith we put in data, digital tools and the intelligence the companies who produce them claim will solve our problems.

[https://  
techpandemic.theglassroom.  
org/#](https://techpandemic.theglassroom.org/#)

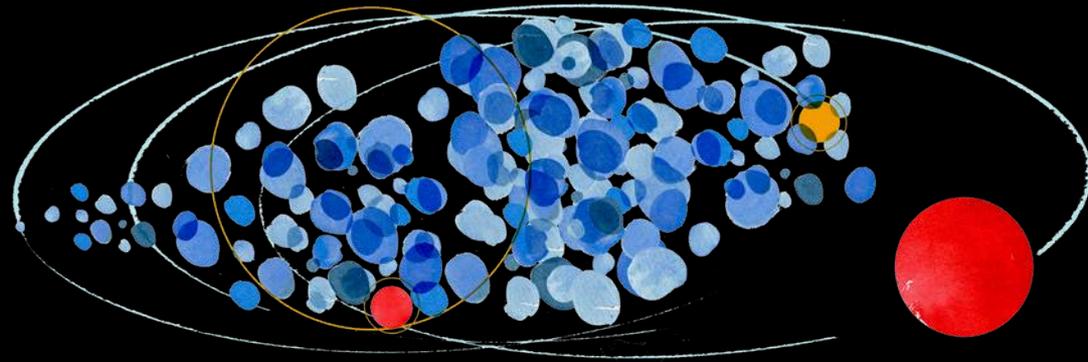


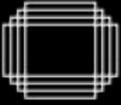
## GAFAM EMPIRE

GAFAM Empire is a project developed in collaboration with DensityDesign Lab that looks at the known acquisitions conducted by five big tech companies: Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, and Microsoft, which sectors they expanded to, what types of know-how they absorbed, and in fact who they actually are besides who we

[https://gafam.theglassro  
om.org/](https://gafam.theglassroom.org/)

# Projects





<https://www.theglassroom.org>

## THE GLASS ROOM

An interactive exhibition on data and privacy that provides different ways of understanding how technologies and data are changing our lives.





<https://theglassroom.org/youth/>



## DATA DETOX KIT

Guides, materials and resources to engage people in conversation about how to improve their digital lives and how they can take control of their privacy, security, and wellbeing.

4. **TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS**



## DIGITAL ENQUIRER KIT

An e-learning course that guides learners through lessons on how to prevent the spread of misinformation. The course covers topics including: Identifying and Responding to Misinformation; Verifying Online Information; Collaborating on and Documenting Your Digital Enquiry; Examining and Sharing Your Findings.

Module 1 introduces some of the recurring cast of characters who will appear throughout the course, as they learn to deal with misinformation in their community.

Lina hears a rumor through social media that her brother, Junior, cheated on his exams. Lina follows the trail until she finds the source of the rumor.





# THE INFLUENCE INDUSTRY PROJECT

Learn about, explore research, and discover resources on the industry using our personal data to influence citizens in political campaigns.

**Read >**

Articles & Databases

**Watch >**

Films

**Listen >**

Podcasts

**Learn >**

Guides & Workshops

**A new generation of  
investigators**

Through a series of films, interviews, guides, tools and workshops, Exposing the Invisible brings together different techniques and individual practices of those working at the new frontiers of investigation.



Investigative Techniques  
and Tools



- Investigation as a form of evidence-driven civic engagement, community initiated
- Collaborative development and testing of resources
- Accessible free materials, CC licence
- Demystifying investigation techniques, OSINT

Investigation institutes, workshops, discussions

Guides, articles, films, podcast

Training curricula (10+ languages)

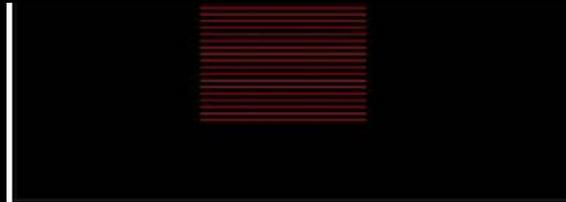
Partnerships with local organisations in Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe



Money and Politics Verification

### Deepak Adhikari - We are in a business of thinking

Veteran Nepalese journalist Deepak Adhikari takes us through his life journey from



Investigating Visual Media Conflict and Power  
Verification Video Image

### The Archive as Activism: Lessons from Mnemonic and the Syrian Archive

Mnemonic, the non-profit that runs Syrian Archive, Yemeni Archive and Sudanese Archive



### Basma Mostafa - If we just keep telling the truth

Basma Mostafa, an Egyptian Investigative journalist in Exile, takes us through her journey



### Finding and Retrieving Lost Websites

FR EN ES PT

EXPOSING THE INVISIBLE

THE KIT

## GETTING STARTED

The Kit

You Are Already an Investigator

Safety First!

## INVESTIGATION ESSENTIALS

What Makes an Investigation

Evaluating Evidence and Information Sources

Get Your Facts Straight: The Basics of Fact-Checking

Navigating Libraries and Archives for Investigations

Investigation is Collaboration: How to Make It Work

## INVESTIGATION METHODS

OSINT – Diving into an ‘Ocean’ of Information

Search Smarter by Dorking

Retrieving and Archiving Information from Websites

## Exposing the Invisible - The Kit

## Getting Started

Since you're here, this is the kit for you. This section is about getting you started with an understanding of what the kit is about and what it means to start an investigation.

## The Kit



This kit is a starting point for those who believe in the power of information as evidence.

## You're Already an Investigator



You are already an investigator. That is why you are here.

## Safety First



Stay safe, digitally, physically and psychologically to keep yourself and those around you protected.

## Investigation Essentials

Some basics of investigation such as what makes good evidence, how to evaluate it and do fact checking.

## What Makes an Investigation



## Evaluating Evidence and Information Sources



## The Basics of Fact-Checking



A collaborative, self-learning resource that makes investigative skills, techniques, ethics and safeguards applied by experienced investigators more accessible to others who want to start their own investigations to address issues affecting their communities.

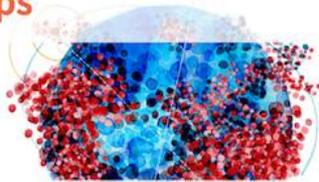
# EXPOSING THE INVISIBLE

## Navigating Libraries and Archives



Explore libraries and archives that offer precious resources for your investigation.

## Thinking Critically About Maps



How to critically read and use maps for investigation, resistance and more.

Mapping Disinformation

## How to Track Disinformation Networks

Workshops

Guides

Collaborative Investigations

Evaluating Evidence

Searching

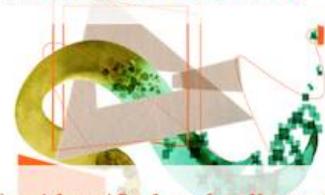
## Investigating the Unfamiliar

## Geolocation Methods: A step by step guide



How to geocate photos and videos, moving from basic to more advanced techniques and skills.

## Evaluating Evidence and Information Sources

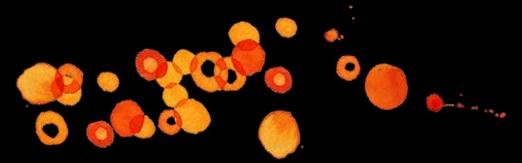


You've identified and collected information to serve as evidence in your investigation. What next?

## Retrieving and Archiving Information From Websites



Explore ways to find and retrieve historical and 'lost' information online.



Archiving → accountability, verification, participation, safety ...

- Vital in any **investigations** (journalistic and others): clues from the past, ephemeral proof from the present
- A **mindset**, not just a tool: part of basic investigation 'hygiene'
- Awareness raising: what did we miss? Does it make a difference now?
- Collaborative: everyone can add, others can benefit
- Risks: bias, content taken for granted, gaps, backlash...

# Cases

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_fake\\_news\\_websites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fake_news_websites)

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia page for "List of fake news websites". The article text includes: "From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia", "For satirical news, see *List of satirical news websites*.", "This is a *dynamic list* and may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by *adding missing items with reliable sources*.", and "Fake news websites are those which intentionally, but not necessarily solely, publish *hoaxes* and *disinformation* for purposes other than *news satire*. Some of these sites use *homograph spoofing attacks*, *typosquatting* and other deceptive strategies similar to those used in *phishing attacks* to resemble genuine news outlets.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>"

The screenshot shows the Gateway Pundit website. The main article is titled "THREE DOCTORS From the Same Hospital 'Die Suddenly' in the Same Week After Hospital Mandates Fourth COVID Shot". It is by Jim Hunt, published July 18, 2022 at 6:53pm, with 1158 comments. The article features three portraits of men. A sidebar on the right includes a "POLITICAL PRISONER SPOTLIGHT" section with a "HELP & DONATE" button and a "TRENDING" section with a video thumbnail of Janet Bewley.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20171221164253/https://www.facebook.com/business/success/categories/government-politics>

The screenshot shows the Facebook Business Success Stories page. The main heading is "Success Stories" with the subtext "Case studies like these inspire and motivate us. See how businesses like yours are growing with Facebook marketing." Below this, there are filters for Business Size, Objective, Industry, Product, and Region. A search bar shows "Government and Politics" with 11 results. Three featured stories are visible: "Government of Canada", "Toomey for Senate", and "Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)".

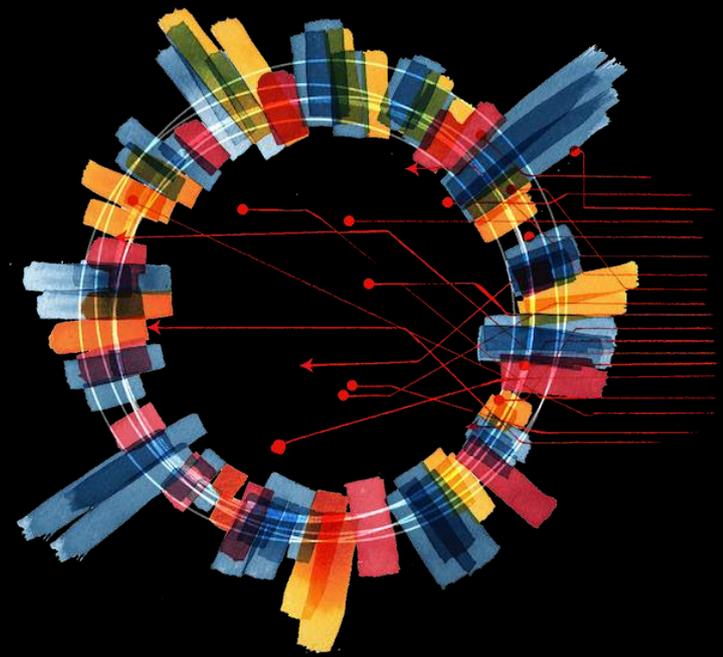
<https://archive.ph/eI025>



**Investigation is a mindset. Get started.**  
**[kit.exposingtheinvisible.org](http://kit.exposingtheinvisible.org)**

# TACTICAL TECH

Making sense of the digital



## Thank You!

Laura Ranca: [laura@tacticaltech.org](mailto:laura@tacticaltech.org) | [eti@tacticaltech.org](mailto:eti@tacticaltech.org)

Twitter: @info\_activism

Website: [tacticaltech.org](http://tacticaltech.org)

Newsletter "In the Loop": [lists.tacticaltech.org](http://lists.tacticaltech.org)

Email: [ttc@tacticaltech.org](mailto:ttc@tacticaltech.org)

*Ink illustrations by [Ann Kiernan](#) for Tactical Tech*

**EXPOSING  
THE INVISIBLE**