



THE LONDON PANOPTICON AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

Across the metropolises of the world, the realities of space and boundary have warped. No longer does an ocean stand between the subjects and citizens of empire, but a street. Constructed under a theory of national hierarchies, **empire has become ordered on the individual scale through race.** To prove empire is to prove race, and to perform it is to enact social death. This is necro-political ordering: sovereignty built on the borderlands of death. And to these ends, **the British government is in the process of constructing a digital panopticon: a societal prison of ubiquitous surveillance.** Today, **Black children are spied on and marked.** Increasingly, this surveillance is entering the social psyche, and its experiences — and related anxieties — will become a defining characteristic of identity in an age of digitally-administered death.

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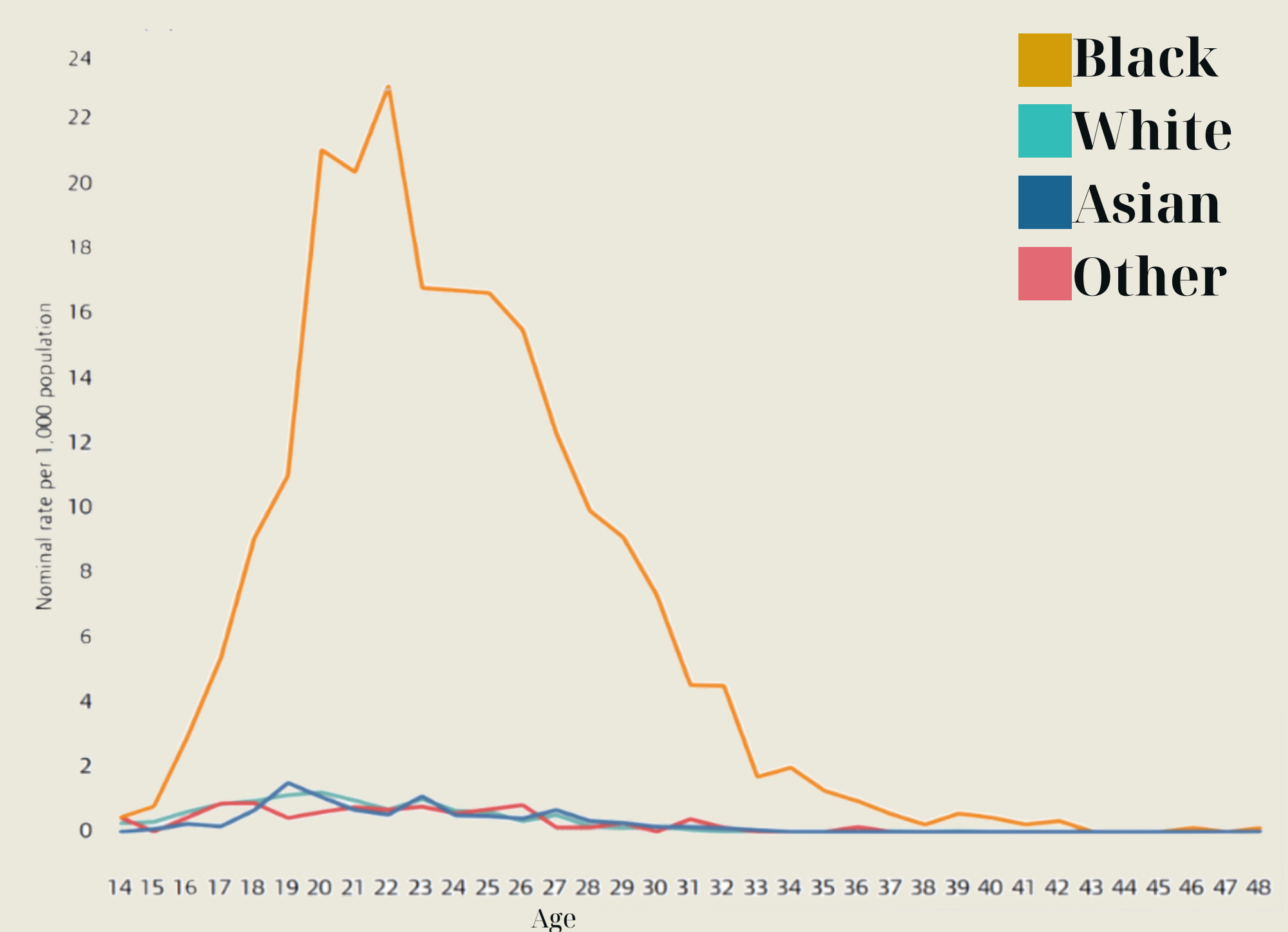
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ABSTRACT

The London Metropolitan Police have recently launched a campaign of "extensive profiling," targeting the online activities of youths and children as young as 13. The official justification stems from a broader movement of the British criminal system to combat "gangs" by enacting a state of exception. Gangism, however, seems to be little more than a reverse-euphemism for Blackness. The police's "gang" identification index is made up of 80% Black men. When scaled for population, the rate is 25 times higher for Black men than white men. Integrating that back into the above-mentioned profiling program, named Project Alpha, in practice, it acts as a mass surveillance project of young Black boys. The effects of these programs are both banal and spectacular, constituting an apparatus of social death. Identification on the "gang" index leads to exclusion from benefits, evictions, employment restrictions, increased searches, and even immigration action. In 2018, it was revealed that for years the police had been incorrectly identifying victims as perpetrators. Proximity, even in victimization, is criminalized. Association with Blackness is a sweeping attestation of guilt, proxied perfunctorily behind gangism.

"Gang" Index by Age and Ethnicity, Scaled for Population



Credit: Review of the Metropolitan Police Service Gangs Violence Matrix – Second Annual Review

Ethnicity of Person Charged for Gun Crimes, Relative Scaled for Population

