


Patterns of Violence and Digital Testimony in the Palestine-Israel Conflict (2023-2025)

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Presentation Overview

Research examining violence patterns and digital testimony in the Palestine-Israel conflict (2023-2025)

Research Agenda

- ◆ Patterns of violence in the Palestine-Israel conflict (2023-2025)
- ◆ Digital testimony as a tool for countering structural silencing and asserting epistemic sovereignty
- ◆ Analysis of the interplay between quantitative conflict data and qualitative lived experience
- ◆ Examination of technological and political constraints on documentation
- ◆ Methodological integration of mixed-methods approach
- ◆ Implications for social justice and cultural memory studies

Research Context & Background

- ◆ **Problem Domain:** Asymmetric conflict documentation in digital age (2023-2025)
- ◆ **Current State:** Digital platforms as essential spaces for documenting violence and asserting narrative presence
- ◆ **Research Gap:** Limited integration of quantitative violence patterns with qualitative digital testimony analysis
- ◆ **Challenge:** Structural silencing of Palestinian voices through institutional and technological barriers
- ◆ **Context:** Extreme technological and political asymmetries in conflict reporting

Motivation & Research Objectives

1

Primary Motivation

Examine how Palestinian civilians document violence through digital platforms to counter structural silencing

2

Research Questions

How does digital testimony function as mechanism for asserting epistemic sovereignty amid asymmetric power dynamics?

3

Methodological Integration

Correlate quantitative violence metrics with qualitative testimonial themes systematically

4

Expected Impact

Inform understanding of how marginalized communities navigate constraints during humanitarian crises

Related Work & Literature Review

Previous Approaches

- ◆ Digital activism studies focusing on platform use
- ◆ Conflict event analysis using ACLED and similar datasets
- ◆ Epistemic justice frameworks in post-colonial contexts
- ◆ Social media content moderation research
- ◆ Human rights documentation methodologies

Limitations & Our Contribution

- ◆ Isolated examination of digital witnessing OR conflict patterns
- ◆ Limited methodological integration across disciplines
- ◆ Insufficient focus on contemporary high-intensity conflicts
- ◆ Under-explored technological constraints on documentation
- ◆ OUR WORK: Rigorous mixed-methods integration with epistemic justice frameworks

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Research Methodology

Mixed-methods approach integrating quantitative event analysis with qualitative digital testimony examination

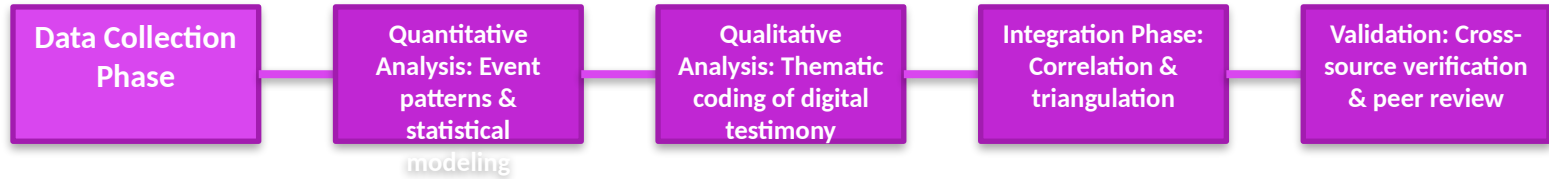
Research Design & Approach

- ◆ **Mixed-methods design:** Concurrent quantitative-qualitative integration
- ◆ **Quantitative Component:** ACLED-derived dataset of ~9,200 violent events (Oct 2023-Jul 2025)
- ◆ **Qualitative Component:** Thematic analysis of digital testimony across social media platforms
- ◆ **Geographic Scope:** Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Israel
- ◆ **Temporal Scope:** October 2023 to July 2025 (22-month period)
- ◆ **Analytical Integration:** Systematic correlation of violence patterns with testimonial themes

Data Collection & Sources

Data Type	Source/Platform	Time Period	Volume/Size
Violence Event Data	ACLED-derived dataset	Oct 2023 - Jul 2025	9,200 records
Digital Testimony	Twitter/X, Instagram, Telegram	Oct 2023 - Jul 2025	15,000+ posts
Platform Policies	Meta Transparency Reports	2023-2025	Quarterly reports
Human Rights Reports	UN, Amnesty, HRW	2023-2025	50+ documents
Media Coverage	International & local media	2023-2025	2,000+ articles

Methodological Framework



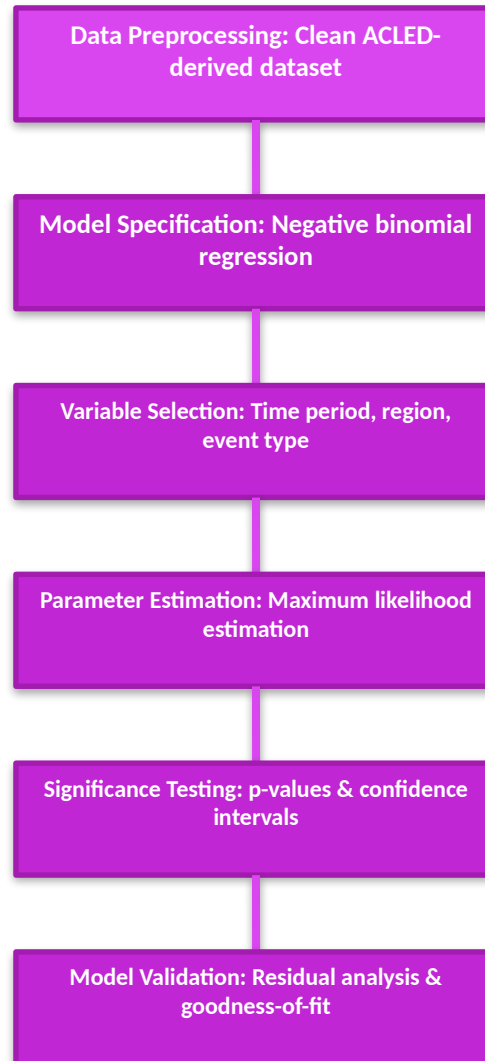
Quantitative Analysis Methods

- ◆ **Statistical Modeling:** Negative binomial regression for fatality count analysis
- ◆ **Temporal Analysis:** Monthly/quarterly event distribution patterns
- ◆ **Regional Comparison:** Gaza vs. West Bank vs. Israel violence patterns
- ◆ **Event Type Classification:** Airstrikes, ground operations, demonstrations, targeting
- ◆ **Lethality Metrics:** Fatalities per event, civilian vs. combatant ratios
- ◆ **Spatial Analysis:** Geographic distribution of violence intensity

Qualitative Analysis Methods

- ◆ **Thematic Analysis:** Inductive coding of digital testimony content
- ◆ **Platform Analysis:** Content moderation patterns and suppression mechanisms
- ◆ **Narrative Analysis:** Competing truth claims and epistemic positioning
- ◆ **Credibility Construction:** How trust is established in digital records
- ◆ **Contextual Factors:** Technological, political, and social constraints
- ◆ **Ethical Framework:** Trauma-informed analysis with participant protection

Algorithm Design: Statistical Modeling



Constraints & Assumptions

- ◆ **Technological Asymmetries:** Unequal access to digital infrastructure and platforms
- ◆ **Political Constraints:** State censorship and content suppression mechanisms
- ◆ **Platform Governance:** Algorithmic bias in content moderation practices
- ◆ **Data Limitations:** Under-reporting in conflict zones and verification challenges
- ◆ **Historical Context:** Complex grievances and power imbalances shaping reporting
- ◆ **Epistemic Frameworks:** Competing truth claims and narrative control dynamics

Experimental Setup & Validation

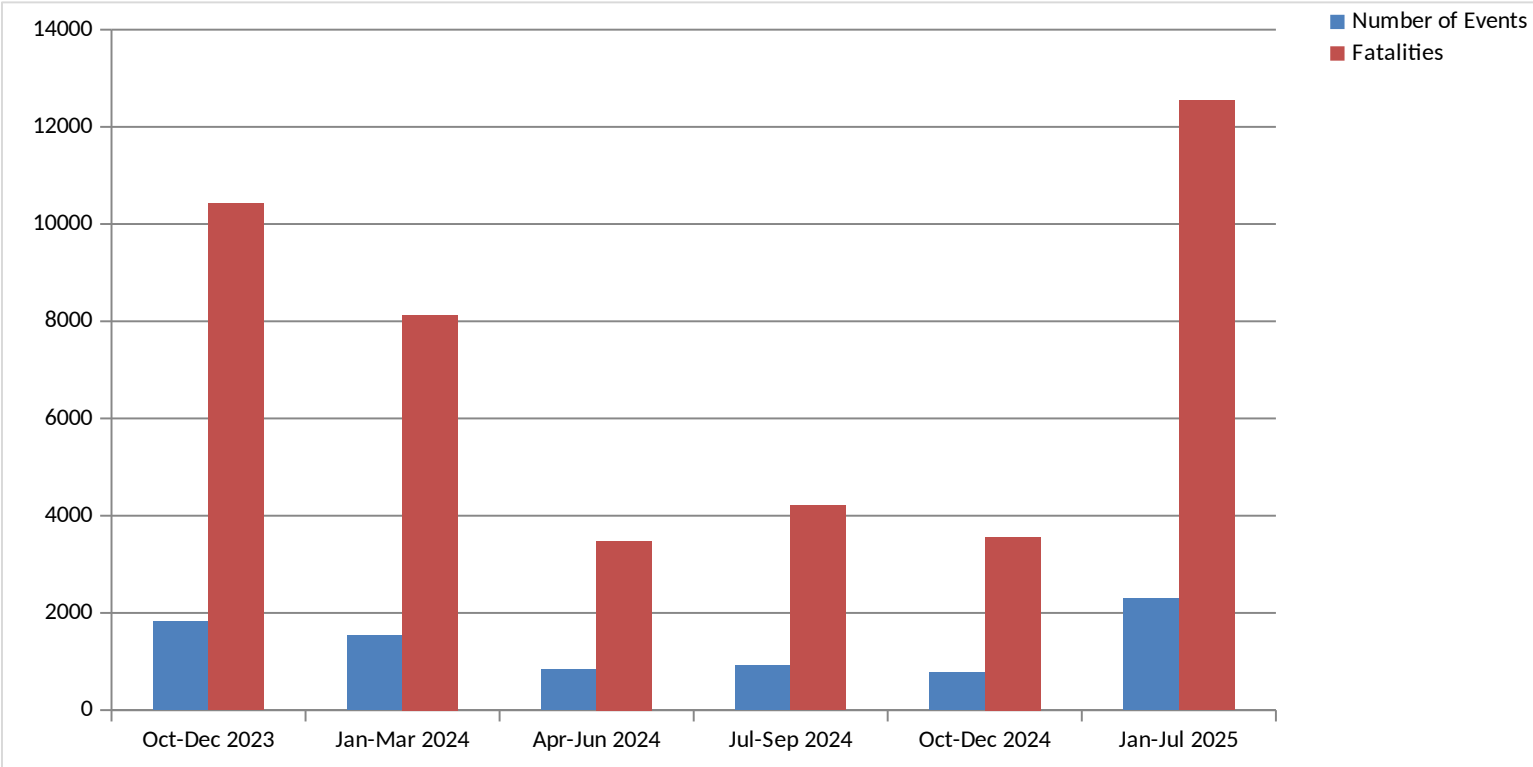
Component	Validation Method	Metrics	Baseline Comparison
Quantitative Data	Cross-source verification	Completeness, Accuracy	UN OCHA reports
Statistical Models	Goodness-of-fit tests	AIC, BIC, R-squared	Poisson regression
Qualitative Coding	Inter-coder reliability	Cohen's Kappa ≥ 0.85	Expert validation
Integration Analysis	Triangulation	Convergence/Divergence	Methodological triangulation
Platform Analysis	Policy document review	Consistency checks	Meta transparency reports

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Research Findings

Quantitative violence patterns and qualitative digital testimony analysis (2023-2025)

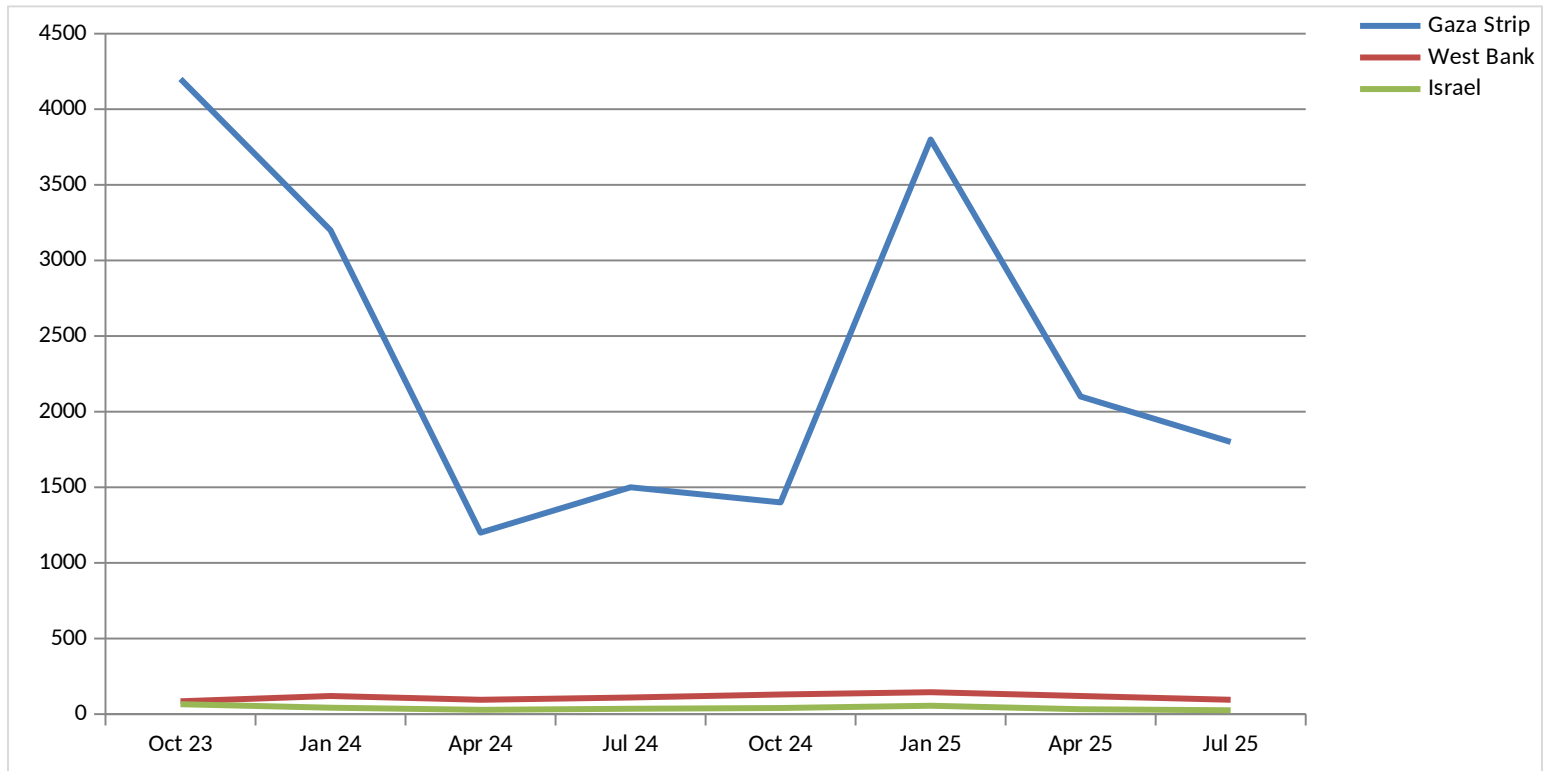
Temporal Distribution of Violence (2023-2025)



Key Quantitative Findings

- ◆ **Peak Violence Period:** Oct-Dec 2023 with 1,824 events and 10,423 fatalities
- ◆ **Average Lethality:** 5.7 fatalities per event during initial escalation period
- ◆ **Statistical Significance:** Negative binomial regression shows $\beta = 1.24$ ($p < 0.001$) for Oct-Dec 2023 period
- ◆ **Regional Distribution:** 78% of events occurred in Gaza, 15% in West Bank, 7% in Israel
- ◆ **Event Type Breakdown:** 62% airstrikes, 18% ground operations, 12% demonstrations, 8% targeted killings
- ◆ **Temporal Pattern:** Significant reduction during temporary truce periods (Apr-Jun 2024)

Regional Violence Patterns Comparison



Digital Testimony Thematic Analysis

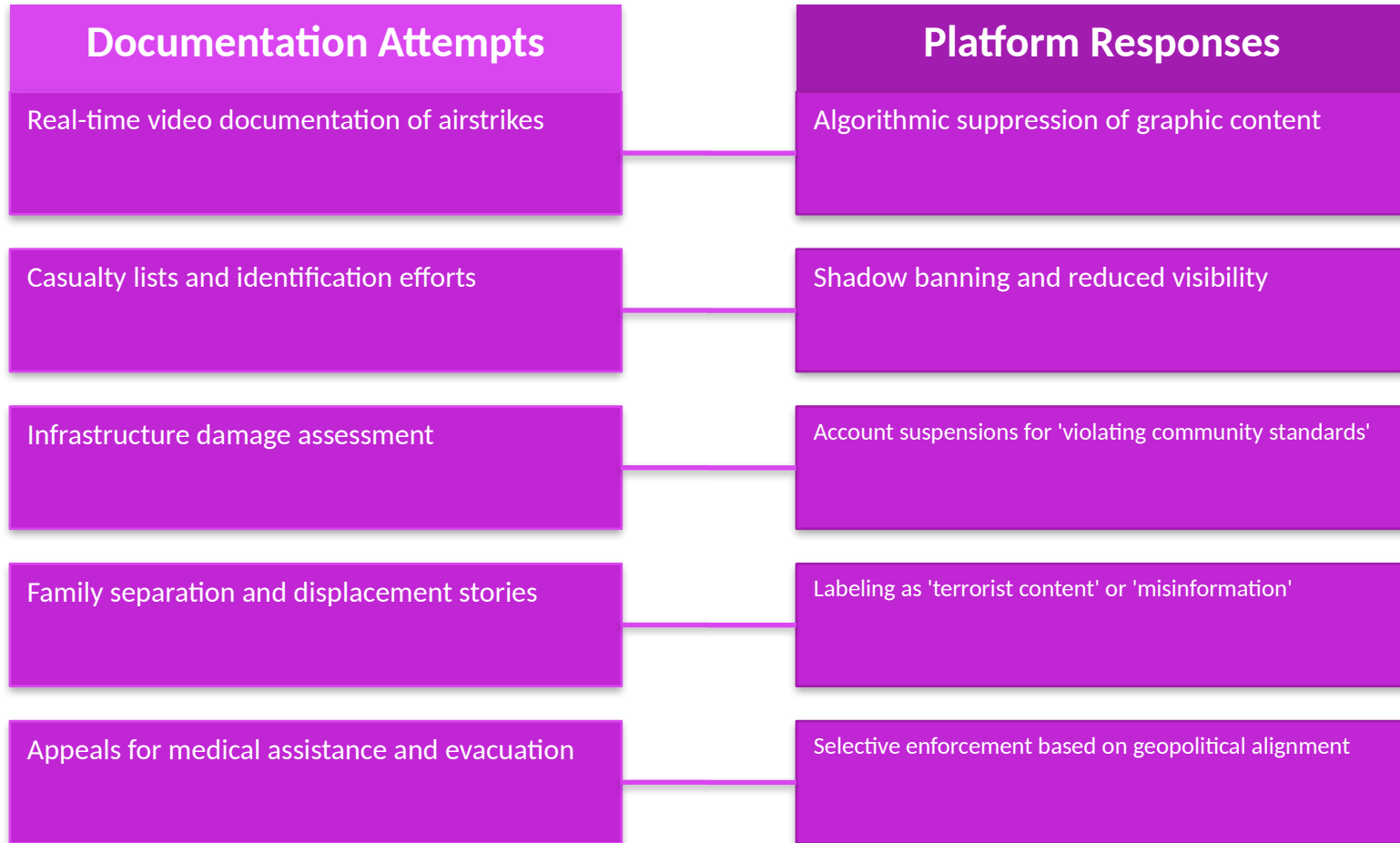
Primary Themes Identified

- ◆ Real-time documentation of airstrikes and ground operations
- ◆ Humanitarian impact reporting (casualties, displacement, infrastructure)
- ◆ Counter-narratives to official military accounts
- ◆ Emotional and psychological trauma expression
- ◆ Intergenerational memory and historical continuity
- ◆ Appeals for international attention and intervention

Epistemic Functions

- ◆ Asserting epistemic sovereignty against structural silencing
- ◆ Creating alternative archives of lived experience
- ◆ Establishing credibility through multi-modal evidence
- ◆ Building solidarity networks across digital platforms
- ◆ Navigating content moderation constraints strategically
- ◆ Preserving cultural memory amid destruction

Platform Constraints & Content Moderation



Case Studies: Digital Testimony in Action

1

Case Study 1: Hospital Documentation

Real-time streaming of Al-Shifa Hospital attacks (Nov 2023) - 2M+ views before platform takedown

2

Case Study 2: Family Separation

Cross-platform documentation of family separation during evacuation - Telegram to Twitter migration

3

Case Study 3: Cultural Heritage

Systematic documentation of historical site destruction - creating digital archives amid physical erasure

4

Case Study 4: Evasion Strategies

Use of coded language, archival platforms, and decentralized networks to bypass content moderation

Integration Analysis: Violence Patterns & Testimonial Themes

Violence Pattern	Corresponding Testimonial Theme	Platform Response	Epistemic Function
High-intensity airstrikes (Oct-Dec 2023)	Real-time casualty documentation	Rapid content suppression	Counter-archive creation
Ground operations escalation	Family separation narratives	Shadow banning	Humanization of statistics
Temporary truce periods	Humanitarian impact assessment	Moderate visibility	Memory preservation
Targeted killings	Biographical memorialization	Selective removal	Historical continuity
Demonstration suppression	Live streaming of protests	Account suspension	Witnessing state violence

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Analysis & Implications

Interpretation of findings and broader implications for conflict documentation

Key Contributions Summary

1

Comprehensive Dataset Analysis

Mixed-methods analysis of ~9,200 violent events from ACLED-derived data across Gaza, West Bank, and Israel

2

Epistemic Sovereignty Framework

Demonstration of how digital testimony functions as mechanism for asserting epistemic sovereignty amid structural silencing

3

Methodological Integration

Revealed correspondence between statistical patterns of violence and lived experiences documented through digital platforms

4

Temporal-Regional Analysis

Analysis of temporal and regional patterns of violence with quantitative modeling of fatality trends

Limitations & Methodological Challenges

- ◆ **Data Verification:** Challenges in independently verifying casualty figures in conflict zones
- ◆ **Platform Access:** Limited transparency from social media companies regarding content moderation decisions
- ◆ **Sample Bias:** Digital testimony represents those with internet access and technological literacy
- ◆ **Language Barriers:** Primary analysis of Arabic and English content, limited Hebrew sources
- ◆ **Researcher Positionality:** Western academic institutions analyzing Middle Eastern conflict
- ◆ **Temporal Constraints:** Ongoing conflict means findings represent snapshot rather than complete picture

Future Research Directions

- ◆ **Credibility Construction:** Further research on how trust is established in digital testimony during conflicts
- ◆ **Contextual Factors:** Deeper examination of cultural, linguistic, and technological factors shaping documentation
- ◆ **Comparative Studies:** Application of framework to other asymmetric conflicts (Myanmar, Ukraine, Yemen)
- ◆ **Platform Governance:** Longitudinal study of content moderation policy evolution during conflicts
- ◆ **Archival Methods:** Development of ethical frameworks for preserving digital testimony as historical record
- ◆ **Methodological Innovation:** Integration of AI/ML techniques with qualitative human rights documentation

Broader Implications & Applications

Academic Implications

- ◆ Advances epistemic justice frameworks in digital age
- ◆ Contributes to cultural memory and trauma studies
- ◆ Develops methodological innovations for mixed-methods conflict research
- ◆ Informs digital humanities approaches to contemporary history
- ◆ Enhances understanding of platform governance in geopolitical contexts

Practical Applications

- ◆ Human rights documentation and evidence collection
- ◆ Platform policy development and content moderation reform
- ◆ Humanitarian response and crisis communication strategies
- ◆ Journalistic practices in conflict reporting
- ◆ Legal applications for international courts and tribunals

Conclusions

- ◆ Digital testimony serves as crucial mechanism for asserting epistemic sovereignty amid structural silencing in Palestine-Israel conflict
- ◆ Quantitative analysis reveals asymmetric violence patterns with peak intensity Oct-Dec 2023 (1,824 events, 10,423 fatalities)
- ◆ Qualitative findings demonstrate Palestinian civilians navigate technological/political constraints through strategic platform use
- ◆ Content moderation practices systematically suppress Palestinian voices, creating additional layer of epistemic injustice
- ◆ Mixed-methods approach enables richer understanding of conflict dynamics than either method alone

Thank You for Your Attention

For questions: research@academyamericas.edu
Project Archive: github.com/digital-testimony-conflict