

Corporate Complicity and Digital Accountability in the Infrastructure of Occupation: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of the Tech for Palestine Boycott Dataset (2023 – 2025)

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Presentation Outline

Overview of research structure and key areas of investigation

Research Agenda

- Corporate complicity in Israeli occupation
- Digital technologies enabling structural violence
- Mixed-methods analysis of boycott dataset
- Corporate accountability frameworks
- Civil society documentation practices

Research Context & Background

- Digital technologies have transformed mechanisms of military control and civilian resistance in Palestine
- Israeli military operations increasingly utilize AI for targeting, biometric surveillance, and cloud infrastructure
- These systems contribute to structural violence affecting Palestinian daily life
- The Tech for Palestine boycott dataset documents 197 technology companies involved in this infrastructure
- Research addresses gaps in traditional corporate accountability through mixed-methods analysis

Motivation & Research Objectives

1

Urgent Imperative

Corporate accountability is a moral and legal imperative given documented human rights violations

2

Research Questions

How is corporate complicity identified? What patterns exist in accountability discourse? How do institutional frameworks influence civil society?

3

Expected Impact

Develop replicable framework for analyzing corporate involvement in conflict zones

Related Work & Literature Review

Previous Approaches

- Traditional human rights documentation focuses on state actors
- Corporate accountability research often examines direct violations
- International law frameworks (Ruggie Principles, OHCHR guidelines)
- Technology ethics literature discusses neutrality vs. misuse

Limitations & Our Contribution

- Limited systematic analysis of digital infrastructure complicity
- Gap in mixed-methods analysis of civil society datasets
- Our work integrates quantitative patterns with qualitative discourse analysis
- Focus on emergent forms of human rights documentation in digital age

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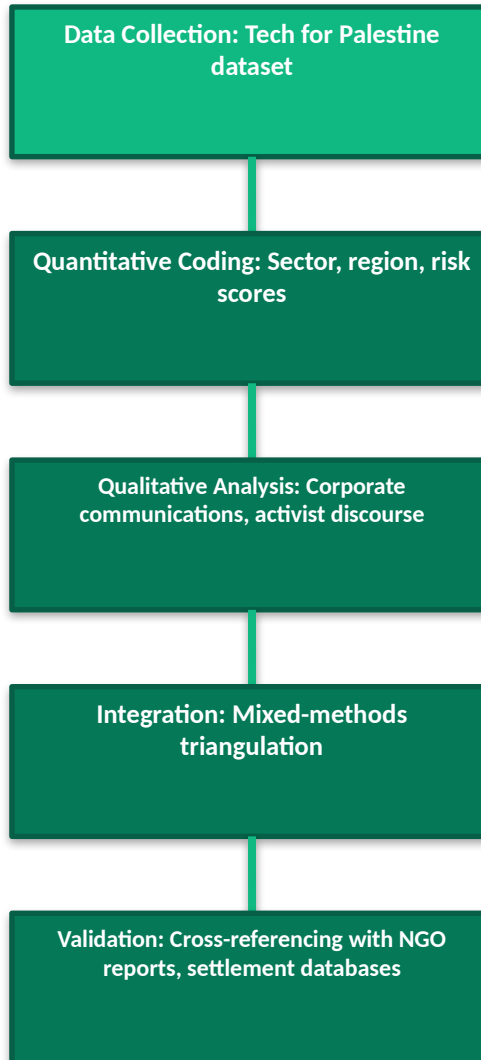
Research Methodology

Mixed-methods design integrating quantitative and qualitative analysis

Research Design & Approach

- Mixed-methods design combining quantitative and qualitative analysis
- **Primary data source:** Tech for Palestine boycott dataset (197 companies, 2023-2025)
- Systematic documentation of companies involved in or enabling infrastructures of control
- Integration of open-source documentation and civil society reporting
- Addresses information asymmetries from proprietary systems and corporate opacity

Detailed Methodology - Part 1



Detailed Methodology - Part 2

- Validation through cross-referencing with Amnesty International (2023) and Human Rights Watch (2024) reports
- Quality assurance through inter-coder reliability checks on qualitative data
- **Methodological contribution:** Systematic application to emergent human rights documentation
- Addresses competing narratives of technological neutrality versus foreseeable misuse
- Examines how digital platforms enable new forms of moral witnessing

Algorithm Design & Quantitative Analysis

- Descriptive statistics including frequency distributions and cross-tabulations
- Correlation analysis using Spearman's rho to assess monotonic relationships
- **Variables analyzed:** Risk scores, NGO mentions, settlement database flags
- Statistical software used for accuracy and reproducibility
- All analyses performed on the documented 197 companies

Experimental Setup & Constraints

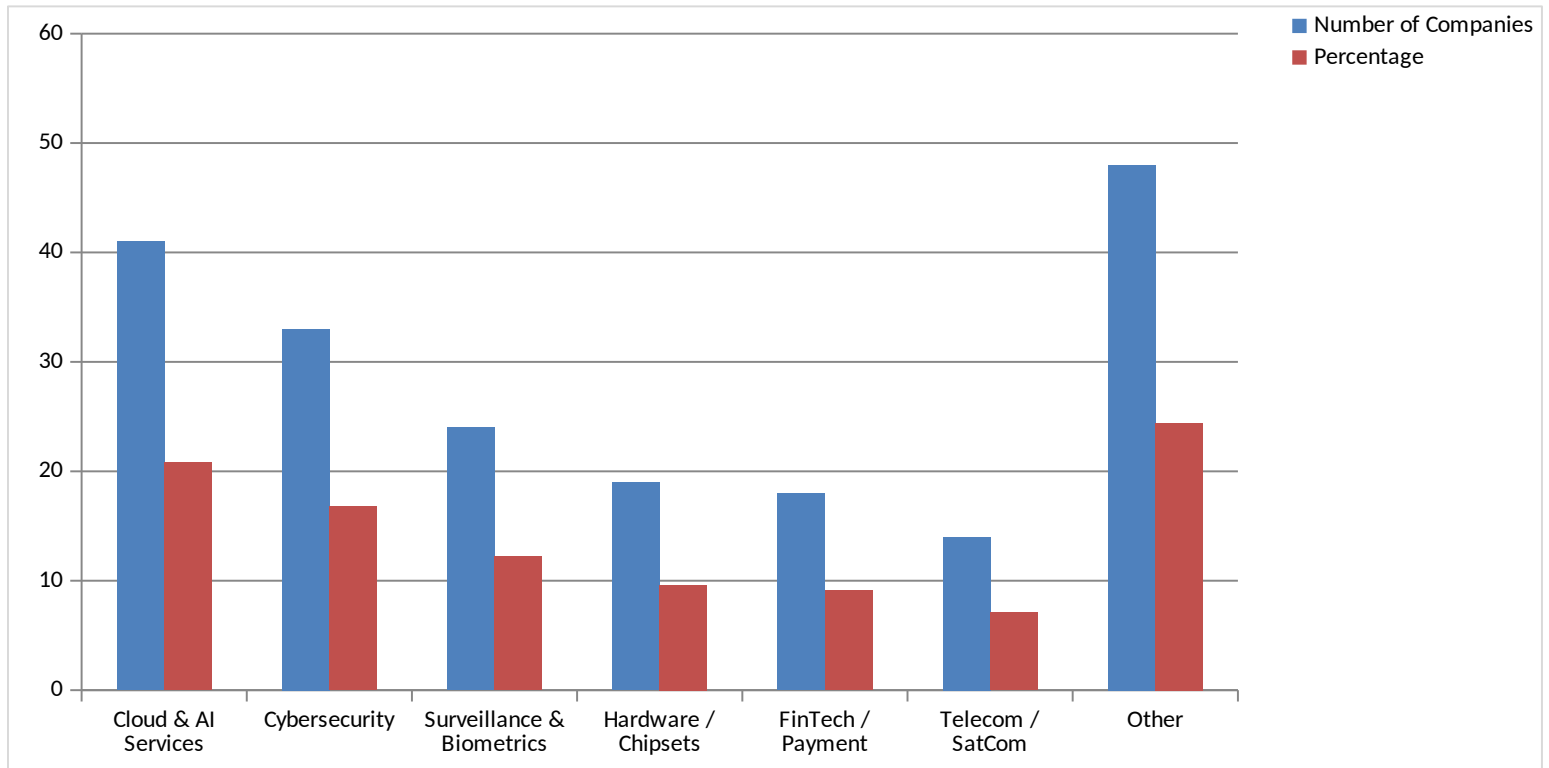
Aspect	Specification	Limitations
Dataset	Tech for Palestine boycott dataset (197 companies)	Limited to publicly documented cases
Timeframe	2023-2025	Evolving landscape may change findings
Data Sources	Open-source documentation, civil society reports	Information asymmetries from corporate opacity
Analysis Scope	Sectoral, geographic, discursive patterns	Cannot assess all potential complicity cases
Validation	Cross-referenced with NGO reports	Relies on accuracy of source documentation

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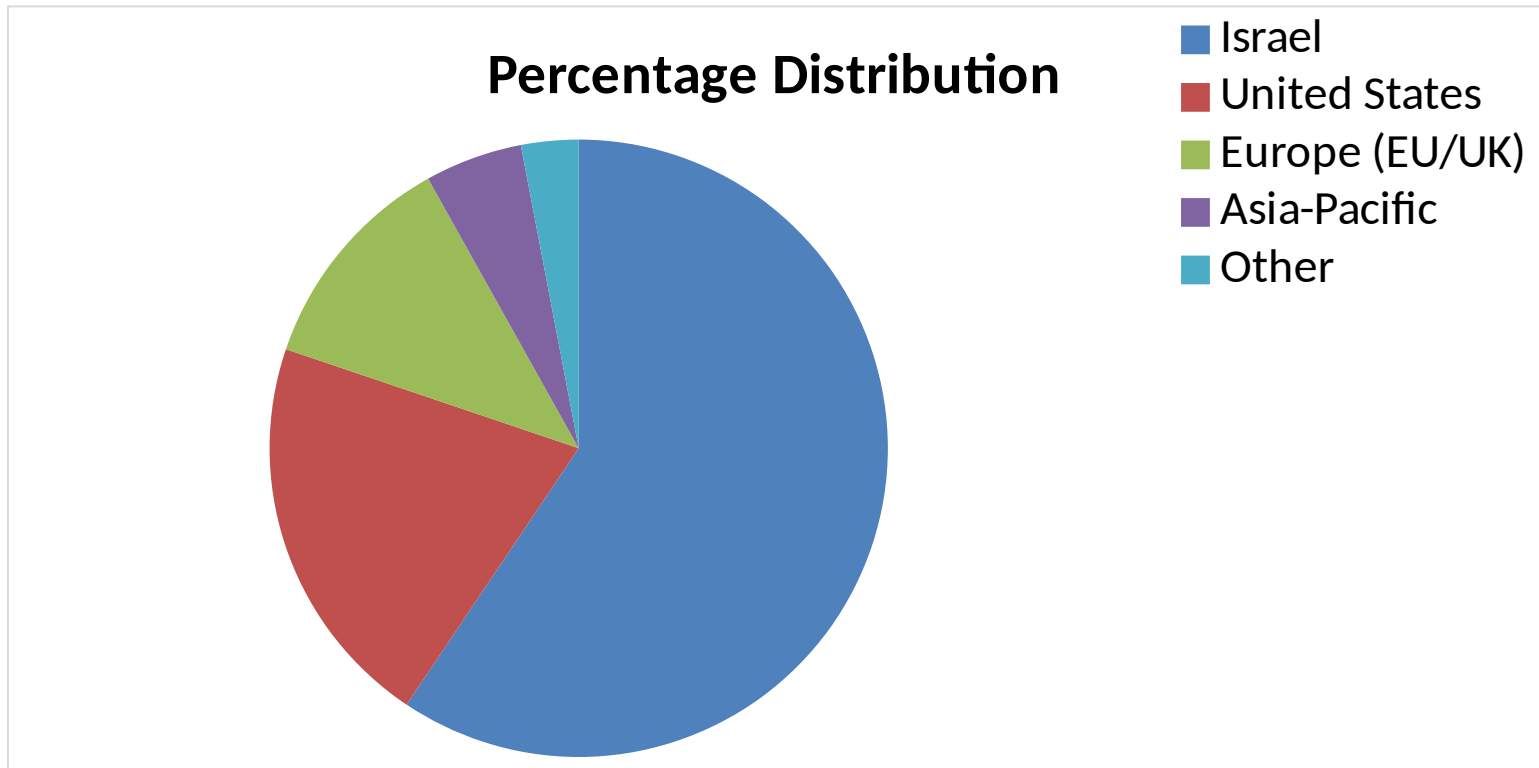
Research Findings

Quantitative and qualitative results from mixed-methods analysis

Key Results - Sectoral Distribution



Key Results - Geographic Distribution



Key Results - Risk Analysis

Region	Count	Percentage	Mean Risk Score (1-5)
Israel	117	59.4%	4.7
United States	41	20.8%	4.0
Europe (EU/UK)	23	11.7%	3.6
Asia-Pacific	10	5.1%	3.5
Other	6	3.0%	3.2

Case Studies: Corporate Involvement Patterns

1

Cloud & AI Services

41 companies (20.8%) provide infrastructure supporting military operations and AI-assisted targeting systems

2

Cybersecurity

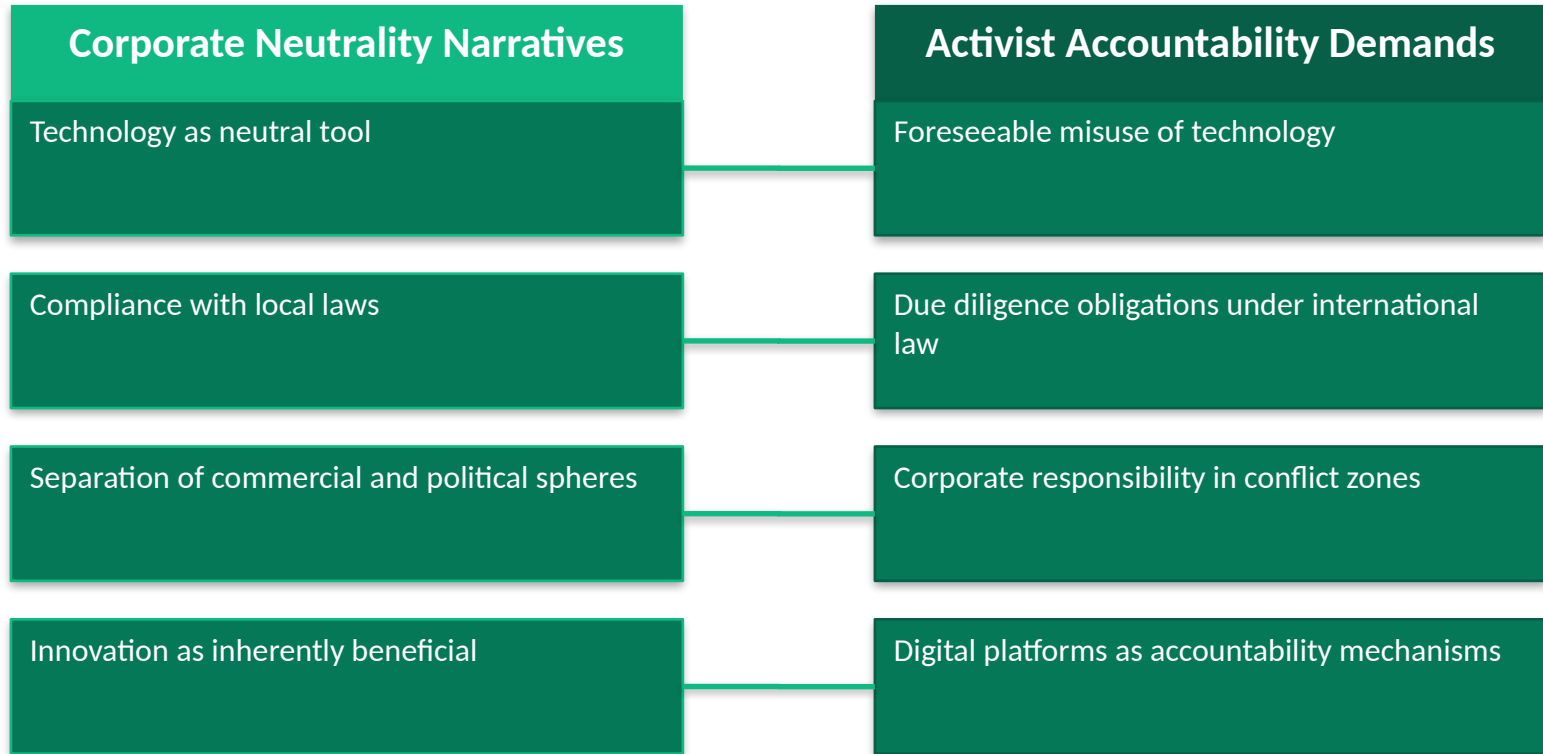
33 companies (16.8%) develop systems for surveillance and population management in occupied territories

3

Surveillance & Biometrics

24 companies (12.2%) create technologies for biometric identification and movement restriction

Qualitative Analysis: Discursive Patterns



Results Discussion & Interpretation

- Cloud and AI services represent largest sector (20.8%), indicating central role of digital infrastructure
- Israeli-headquartered companies show highest mean risk scores (4.7), suggesting proximity correlates with involvement
- Corporate communications frequently deploy neutrality narratives contrasting with activist demands
- Digital platforms enable new forms of moral witnessing in contexts of institutional blockage
- Patterns reveal systematic integration of technology companies into occupation infrastructure

Key Contributions Summary

1

Replicable Framework

Develops systematic framework for analyzing civil society documentation of corporate involvement in conflict zones

2

Empirical Evidence

Provides empirical evidence of sectoral and geographic patterns in technology company involvement

3

Digital Accountability

Demonstrates how digital platforms enable new forms of moral witnessing and accountability practices

4

Methodological Innovation

Systematically applies mixed-methods analysis to an emergent form of human rights documentation

Limitations & Challenges

- Analysis limited to Tech for Palestine dataset (197 companies) - not exhaustive of all potential complicity
- Relies on open-source documentation subject to information asymmetries from corporate opacity
- Proprietary systems and corporate secrecy limit full assessment of technology applications
- Evolving technological landscape may change patterns beyond study timeframe
- Methodological challenges in quantifying qualitative aspects of corporate complicity

Future Work & Research Directions

- Expand analysis to include supply chain relationships and subcontractor networks
- Develop automated monitoring systems for tracking corporate involvement in real-time
- Comparative analysis with other conflict zones and occupation contexts
- Investigate legal frameworks for holding technology companies accountable under international law
- Study effectiveness of different accountability mechanisms (boycotts, divestment, shareholder activism)

Conclusions

- Digital technologies are systematically integrated into occupation infrastructure
- Corporate complicity follows identifiable sectoral and geographic patterns
- Neutrality narratives contrast with foreseeable misuse of technology
- Civil society documentation enables new forms of digital accountability
- Mixed-methods analysis provides robust framework for human rights research

References

- **Amnesty International. (2023). Digital Occupation:** Israel's Use of Technology in the Occupied Palestinian Territories
- **Human Rights Watch. (2024). Automated Apartheid:** AI and Surveillance in Palestine
- OHCHR. (2025). Business and Human Rights in Conflict-Affected Areas
- Ruggie, J. (2011). Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- Tech for Palestine. (2025). Boycott Dataset Documentation
- Additional references available in full research paper

Thank You!

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Project Archive: sciences.bv/digital-accountability