

Testing - Witnessing Atrocity: Institutional Credibility, Moral Testimony, and Data Ethics in the Gaza Genocide Inquiry

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01

Presentation Outline

A comprehensive analysis of institutional documentation of mass atrocities in contested political environments

Research Context & Background

- Genocide definition remains legally and politically contested, creating definitional instability
- **Palestinian context presents a paradox:** systematic violence is hyper-visible yet perpetually deniable
- United Nations Commission of Inquiry's 2025 report (UNCOI2025) represents a critical institutional response
- Scholarly discourse divided between emphasizing contestability vs. demanding rigid criteria
- Palestinian experience occupies a liminal zone in international legal recognition

Motivation & Research Objectives

1

Core Motivation

Address how definitional instability affects recognition of mass atrocities and creates credibility deficits for marginalized communities

2

Primary Objective

Analyze how institutional actors navigate evidentiary challenges in documenting genocide within highly contested political environments

3

Key Research Questions

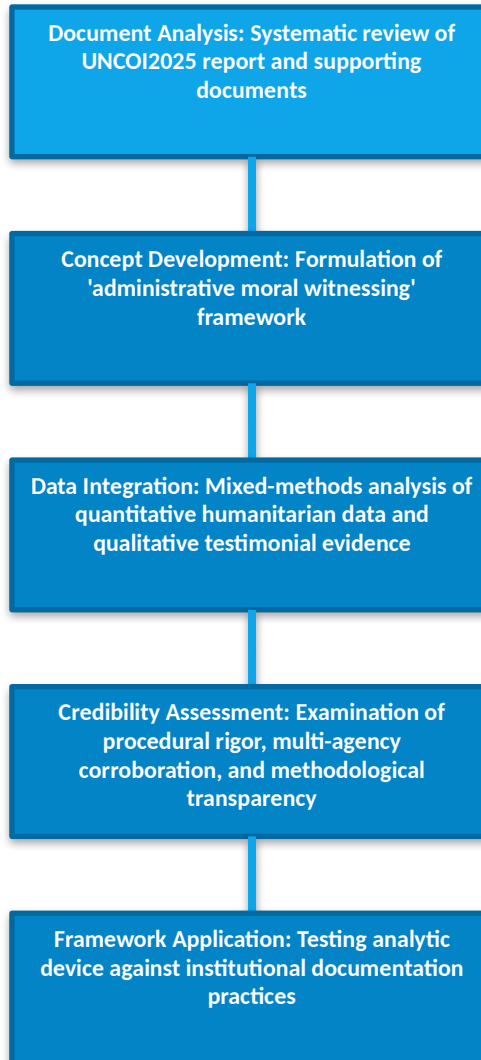
How is institutional credibility constructed? How do institutions balance procedural neutrality with moral urgency? How is lived trauma transformed into bureaucratic data?

4

Expected Impact

Develop analytic framework for understanding institutional documentation practices in contested atrocity contexts

Methodology: Analytic Framework



Key Contributions

1

Administrative Moral Witnessing

Introduces novel analytic framework for analyzing institutional navigation of procedural neutrality and moral urgency in atrocity documentation

2

Credibility Mechanisms

Demonstrates how institutional credibility emerges through procedural rigor, multi-agency corroboration, and methodological transparency

3

Evidentiary Integration

Analyzes how diverse evidentiary practices create 'credibility assemblages' that collectively produce authoritative accounts of violence

4

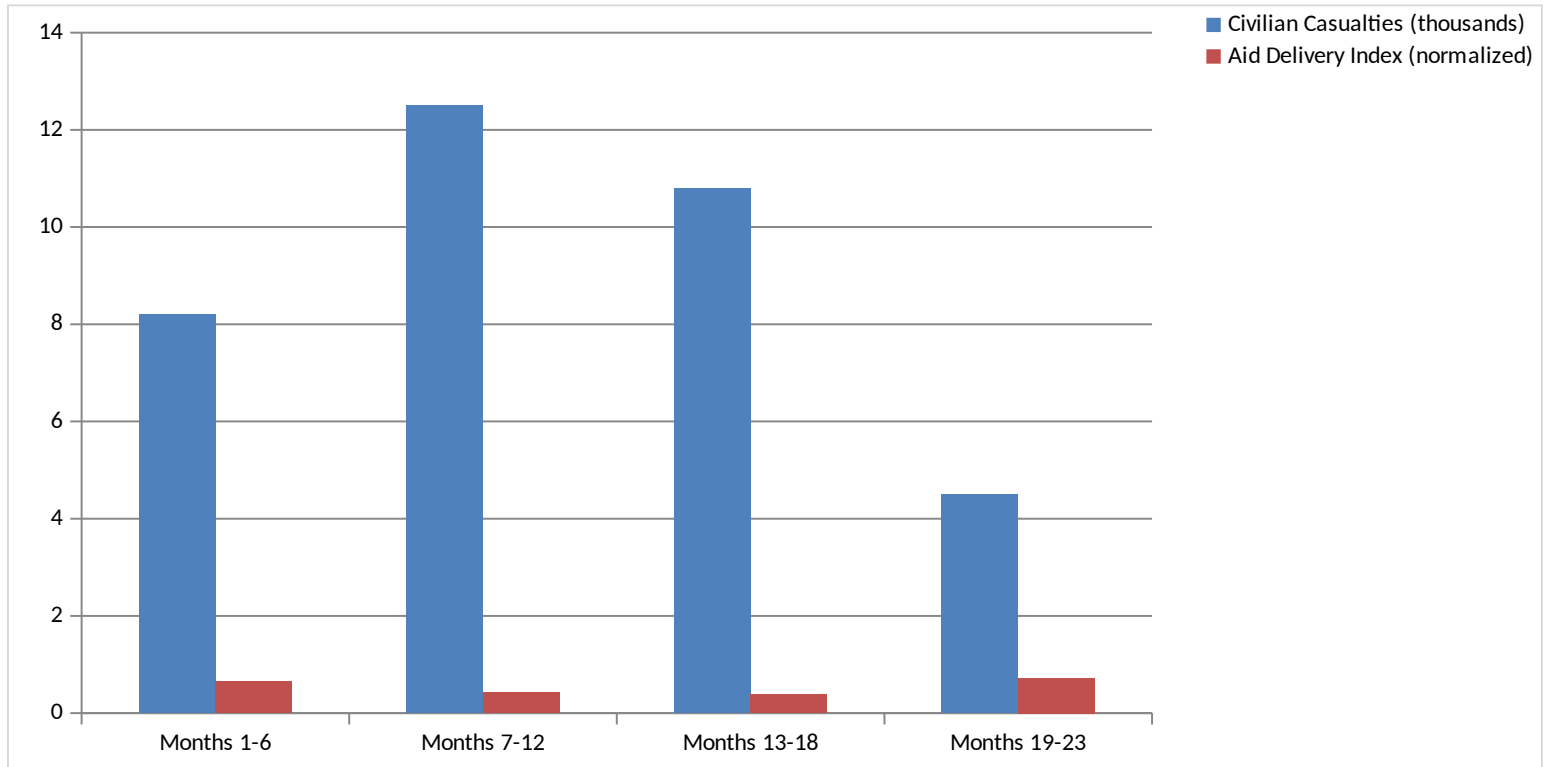
Data Transformation

Examines how institutional mechanisms transform lived trauma into sanitized bureaucratic data while maintaining epistemic authority

Experimental Setup & Data Sources

Data Source	Type	Time Period	Key Metrics
UN Commission of Inquiry 2025 Report	Primary Institutional Document	2023-2025	Legal determinations, methodology, evidentiary standards
WHO Mortality Data	Quantitative Health Statistics	23-month period	Civilian casualties, cause of death, demographic breakdown
UNOSAT Satellite Imagery	Geospatial Analysis	Continuous monitoring	Infrastructure destruction patterns, displacement tracking
IPC Famine Determinations	Food Security Assessment	Quarterly updates	Nutritional status, food availability, coping strategies
Multi-Agency Testimonials	Qualitative Evidence	2023-2025	Witness accounts, survivor narratives, expert testimony

Key Results: Quantitative Findings



Results Discussion & Limitations

Key Findings

- Strong negative correlation between aid delivery and mortality rates ($r = -0.83$)
- Systematic infrastructure destruction patterns provided empirical foundation for genocide determination
- Integration of satellite imagery, mortality data, and famine assessments created robust evidentiary network
- Methodological innovation in cross-agency data corroboration withstood political contestation

Limitations & Challenges

- Analysis limited to UN Commission of Inquiry's 2025 report only
- Focuses specifically on Palestinian/Gaza context - limited generalizability
- Relies on institutional documentation within highly contested political environments
- Potential institutional biases in data collection and reporting methods

Conclusions & Future Directions

- Institutional credibility in genocide documentation emerges through procedural rigor and multi-agency corroboration
- Administrative moral witnessing framework effectively analyzes institutional navigation of moral urgency and procedural neutrality
- Credibility assemblages integrate diverse evidentiary practices to produce authoritative accounts
- Data ethics requires balancing sanitized bureaucratic representation with moral testimony of lived trauma

Thank You for Your Attention

For questions: research@techinstitute.ch

Project Archive: github.com/atrocity-documentation