

Naya Wu

Professor Joshua L Cohen

English 1102

9 October 2020

The Dangers of the Telepather in Criminal Investigation



Although the Telepather has been revolutionary with rebuilding and strengthening relationships from across the globe, the subject of privacy concerns many, especially in the court of law. Lately, many prosecutors are advocating the use of Telepather in criminal investigation, arguing that with the technology, they can decrease the amount of time and effort of each case with more accuracy. This in turn will generate a more effective and just system. The implications of the Telepather in this situation seems promising, but the clash between privacy and security must be seriously reflected before transforming the idea into a reality.

People overestimate the accuracy of their memories. If done correctly, a prosecutor can influence a witness's account their favor. In 2032, a team of scientists showed subjects photoshopped childhood photos of a hot air balloon ride. Even though none of them had ever

ridden a hot air balloon, 50% reported a detailed encounter of it. Another study in 2036 revealed that adding narrative with the picture allowed the subjects to “recall” the false memory at a higher percentage. While a prosecutor could not directly do this to a witness, they can subtly present evidence in ways that frames the crime in their gain. The mind is too unreliable as evidence in crime and therefore should not be used in terms of “accuracy” and efficiency.

If it is not more efficient than the current system, then the use of the Telepather in an investigative sense is just downright invasive. Recently, a case between a parent and child sparked controversy. The parent secretly turned on the child’s Telepather and listened in on their thoughts. The child became enraged and posted a video online detailing the event. Now with over 100 million views, more minors are sharing their own stories.

Furthermore, the 4th amendment of the constitution states that a citizen has the right to privacy of the person and possession. One can argue that the thoughts of a person is considered their possession, hence it cannot be used in a case without consent. In 2016, the FBI asked Apple to unlock an iPhone belonging to a suspect. Apple refused citing that “if the FBI could access this iPhone, nothing would stop them from accessing others.” If this was the verdict for a smartphone, then the Telepather holds too much personal information for the authorities to access it.

The Telepather may also broaden the inequalities within the justice system. Unfortunately, minorities like the black population are incarcerated at a higher rate. Many may use just the thoughts of a black suspect as hard proof that they committed the crime. The justice

system has wrongly convicted suspects with less proof. In 1989, five young men were accused of assaulting a female jogger in Central Park, three of them being of black or latino origins. They were falsely convicted and sentenced to prison. Although later exonerated, the case kindled discussions about discrimination and inequalities in the system. If these men were falsely convicted simply being in the vicinity of the crime, then the Telepather can further aid in false convictions.

As with any other piece of technology, the Telepather itself is neither bad nor good. Once implicated for human good then the morals of its usage needs discussion. The Telepather has done wonders for the world, strengthening communities of all kinds. Nevertheless, the Telepather's involvement in the law may destroy justice and freedom for all. As responsible citizens, we must not let this happen at any cost. Vote against the use of the Telepather in criminal investigation.