

"They Look at Vulnerability and
Use That to Abuse You"

Participatory Threat Modelling with Migrant Domestic Workers

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Migrants Organise

Outline

- Background & motivation
- Methods
- Findings
- Discussion & recommendations

What Is an “Evil Maid” Attack, and What Does It Teach Us?



CHRIS HOFFMAN [@chrisbhoffman](#)

SEP 28, 2020, 6:40 AM EST | 5 MIN READ



Diego Cervo/Shutterstock.com

You’ve secured your computer with [strong disk encryption](#) and security software. It’s safe—as long as you keep it within eyesight. But, once an attacker has physical access to your computer, all bets are off. Meet the “evil maid” attack.

Power dynamics in privacy and security

- Calls for “inclusive privacy & security” & recognition of “differential vulnerabilities”
- Workplace surveillance
- Surveillance of migrants: UK
 - “Hostile environment” policies
 - Loopholes in labour laws

Participatory threat modelling

- Draws on *participatory action research* & *participatory security design*
- Invites participants to define their own threats: *does not focus on a specific type of device or context but rather centres participants' perspectives*
- Online workshops
- Desk-based research in response to participants' questions

Partnership with Voice of Domestic Workers

- Support group run by and for MDWs
- Collaboration on all steps of research project
 - Peer researcher
 - Collaborative data analysis: walkthrough workshop



Migrant domestic workers in the UK



Digital Privacy & Security Guide

For migrant domestic workers [🔗](#)

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Ethics

- Data minimization
- Harm to participants: retraumatisation
- Extractive research & collaboration

Threat model perceived by MDWs

1. government surveillance
2. online scams and harassment
3. employer monitoring

Threat model perceived by MDWs

1. Government surveillance

Effects of NHS data sharing with Home Office: “*[I] hesitated to get [a] COVID test because [I] was living with undocumented people and [I] don't want someone coming here to investigate.*”

Threat model perceived by MDWs

2. Employer monitoring

Divided opinions: *“It’s like a trap, a cage. You see it as your weapon but it’s not really.”*

Physical vs digital privacy: bathroom as *“the only room with lock and with no camera where we feel safer against our male employers.”*

Threat model perceived by MDWs

3. Online scams and harassment

Threats of police reports, suspicious job ads: “*they look at vulnerability and use that to abuse you. Sometimes not just about sex but about money you’re earning.*”

Threat model perceived by MDWs

Various threats as **connected** and **reinforcing**: precarious immigration status makes workers fundamentally vulnerable to other threats like online scams, labour exploitation and interpersonal abuse

Intersectionality & power

- Security research must consider broader social structures like gendered work and racialised border policy
- Vulnerability does not come (only) from insecure technology but from broader social structures
- Community support is a key source of safety (confirms previous research)

Legal & structural reform is necessary for safety

- Re-instating pre-2012 rights for domestic workers
- Ending hostile environment
- More clarity on UK private surveillance law: banning covert surveillance
- Firewalls on data sharing between Home Office & critical services (NHS & crime reporting)

Methodological recommendations

- Build with existing community sources of safety and trust
- Employ participatory action research, but be wary of extractive modes of research
- Create pragmatic resources for participants (context matters)
- Remaining work: translations, advice for employers, further dissemination workshops
- Include users from a variety of background in user studies

Design implications

- Balance the needs of device owners and other stakeholders.
- Minimise opportunities for covert surveillance
- Make privacy settings accessible
- Nudges for ethical device use
- Stop developing harmful surveillance systems

Home » How To Keep A (Legal) Eye On Your Babysitter

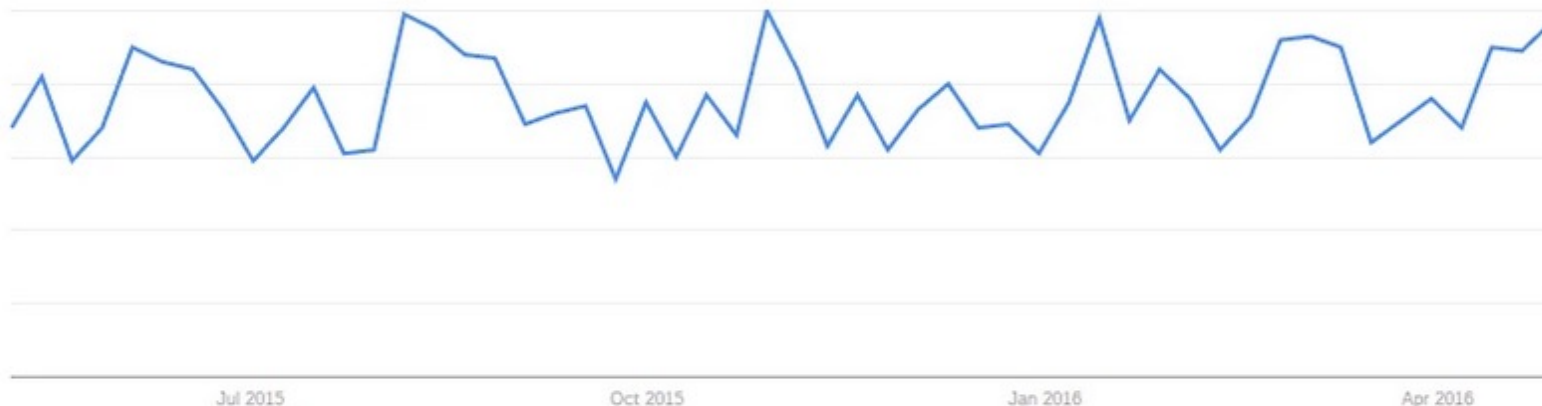
How To Keep A (Legal) Eye On Your Babysitter

Adrian Mudd April 29, 2016

Putting your child in the hands of someone else is a nerve-racking experience. As a parent, your top priority is the safety and wellbeing of your children. You want to know that they're being cared for properly when you're busy at work or simply need to get out of the house from time-to-time, as we all do.

It is actually possible to relax during a well deserved night out without having to worry about what's happening at home. It's not a crime to be protective of your little child and a babysitting cam is a must-have item for mums, dads and carers.

Sadly, there have been many cases of the physical and mental abuse of children that have been revealed by hidden cameras. In this article, you will discover why your child should be monitored, how to decide if you need a home surveillance cam and what to do if you've witnessed untoward behaviour from your babysitter.



From this graph, you can see that the interest in nanny cameras is increasing and continues to rise into 2016 months.

- Audio Recorders
- Buildings and Places
- Cheating Partner
- Counter Surveillance
- Cyber Security
- Deals and Special Offers
- Elderly Care
- Entertainment
- Hidden Cameras
- Listening Devices
- PC and Computer Monitoring
- Phone Monitoring
- Politics
- Private Investigators
- Property Security

Conclusion

- Racism, sexism, labour precarity and border controls as sources of insecurity
- Look to communities as a source of security
- Importance of solidarity & partnership (with not for)

“Instead of becoming victims trapped in hidden surveillance, communities such as those of MDWs can be active participants in creating a safer digital world.” – Marissa Begonia, Voice of Domestic Workers

Any questions?

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