

HOW TO MONITOR WARS USING PUBLICLY AVAILABLE TOOLS

This presentation will introduce ways to monitor wars using social media data collection, video and image geolocation, geospatial data analysis, and the use of satellite imagery. All these techniques will help you investigate specific incidents like a pro, without even having to leave your living room.

1. Social media data collection.

Social media has become a powerful tool for journalists looking to cover ongoing events taking place thousands of kilometers away. By closely monitoring local sources and information aggregators, journalists can virtually transport themselves to the scene and gain access to the latest information. However, it's important to be aware of the potential challenges of using social media as a source, such as the risk of misinformation and the need for verification. A couple of examples of sources to follow regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine: https://t.me/video_posts, <https://t.me/voynareal>, <https://twitter.com/GirkinGirkin>, <https://twitter.com/RALee85>, https://twitter.com/666_mancer.

It's important to note that these are just examples and not a recommendation or proof of reliability. It is always important to verify the data before using it in reporting.

2. Geolocating videos and images.

Geolocating images and videos refers to the process of determining the location where a particular image or video was taken. This can be done by analyzing the metadata embedded in the file, such as GPS coordinates, or by using other tools such as reverse image search or Google Street View. As a journalist, geolocating images and videos can be a valuable tool for verifying the authenticity and location of content, as well as for gaining a deeper understanding of the context in which an event occurred.

Here is a list of basic tools that can be used for geolocating videos:

- Google Earth Pro
- Google Maps
- Yandex Maps
- Baidu Maps
- Overpass turbo

3. How to use geospatial data?

By determining the location where a video was taken, journalists can gain a better understanding of the context in which an event occurred. However, the power of geolocating videos lies not just in analyzing a single video, but in analyzing multiple videos from different locations and perspectives. By piecing together information from multiple videos, journalists can gain a more complete picture of what occurred and a deeper, more accurate understanding of the situation.

Here are a few resources and tools that I have found particularly useful regarding geolocated videos in Ukraine:

- [The Eyes on Russia Map](#) – From The Centre for Information Resilience
- [Geoconfirmed](#) – A crowdsourced geolocation project
- Google Earth Pro – Easily map your data
- QGIS – Map and analyze your data

4. **Satellite imagery.**

Utilizing satellite imagery can be a powerful tool for covering hard-to-reach areas. For example, the Sentinel-2 constellation offers a wealth of free data: the imagery can be used for fire detection, identifying damaged buildings, and tracking naval vessels, providing a unique perspective on events. In areas where on-the-ground information is limited, satellite imagery can be crucial for uncovering the truth. Additionally, commercial providers like Planet offer high-resolution imagery, a valuable asset for uncovering hidden details.

Here are a few resources for satellite imagery:

- Google Earth Pro (Often recent archive images)
- <https://bit.ly/3QU4mHW>
- www.planet.com
- <https://www.maxar.com/>