

Security Machines? The introduction of digital computers into the institutions of national defense in Latin America (1960s to 1980s)

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THIS PROJECT moves at the interface between the history of technology (more precisely: digital history / history of computing) and political history. I have studied the computerization of security systems (military, secret services, police) in Latin America, with a focus on Brazil and Argentina. The focus is always on the moment when computer technology is introduced as a novelty (so these are case studies that examine a few years each, not studies that a single institution traces over many years). In the lecture itself I will present two main parts (of three planned): the debates about the introduction of computer technology into the Argentine military (early 1960s) and the introduction of computer technology into the Brazilian secret service (late 1970s).

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