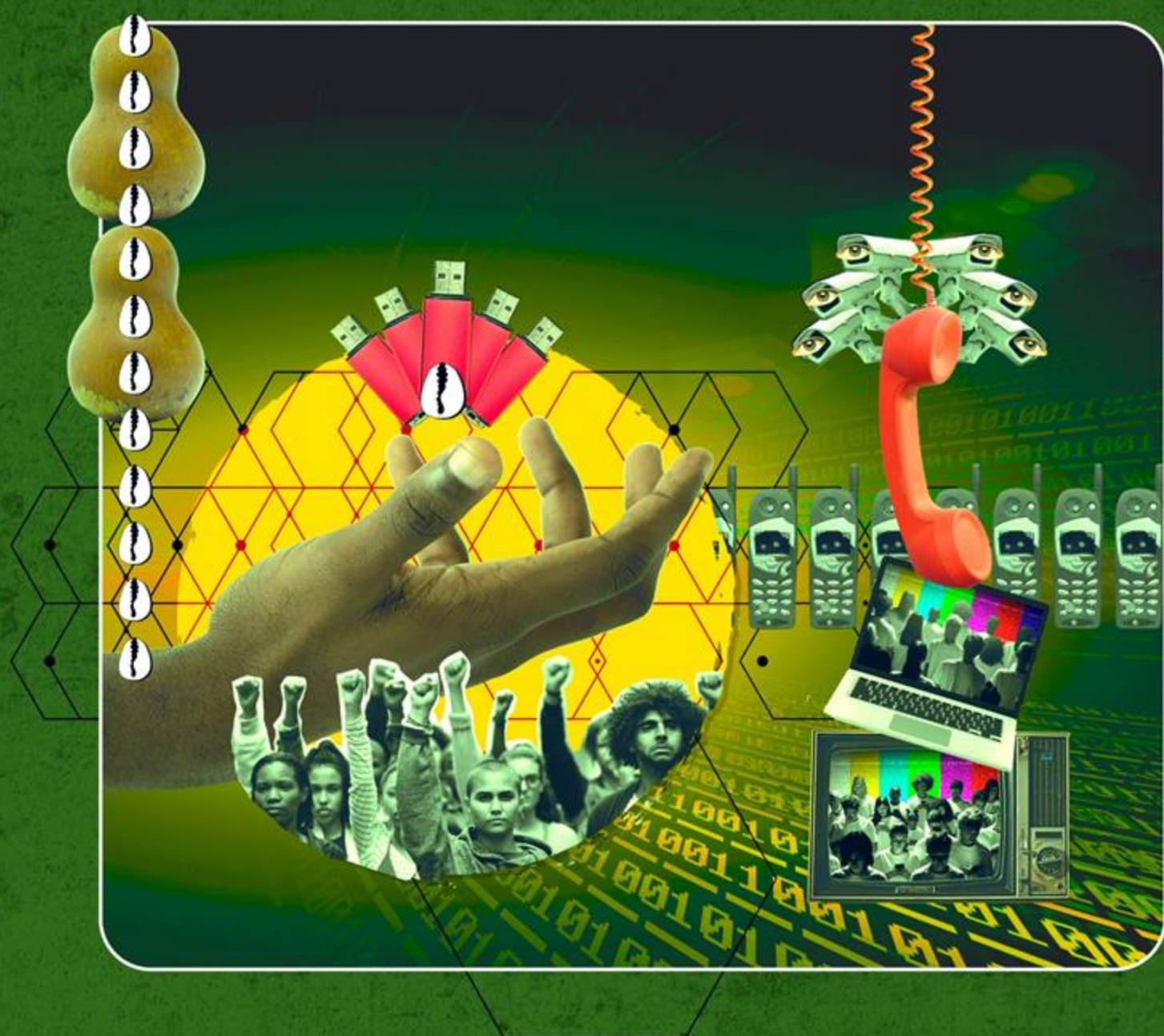
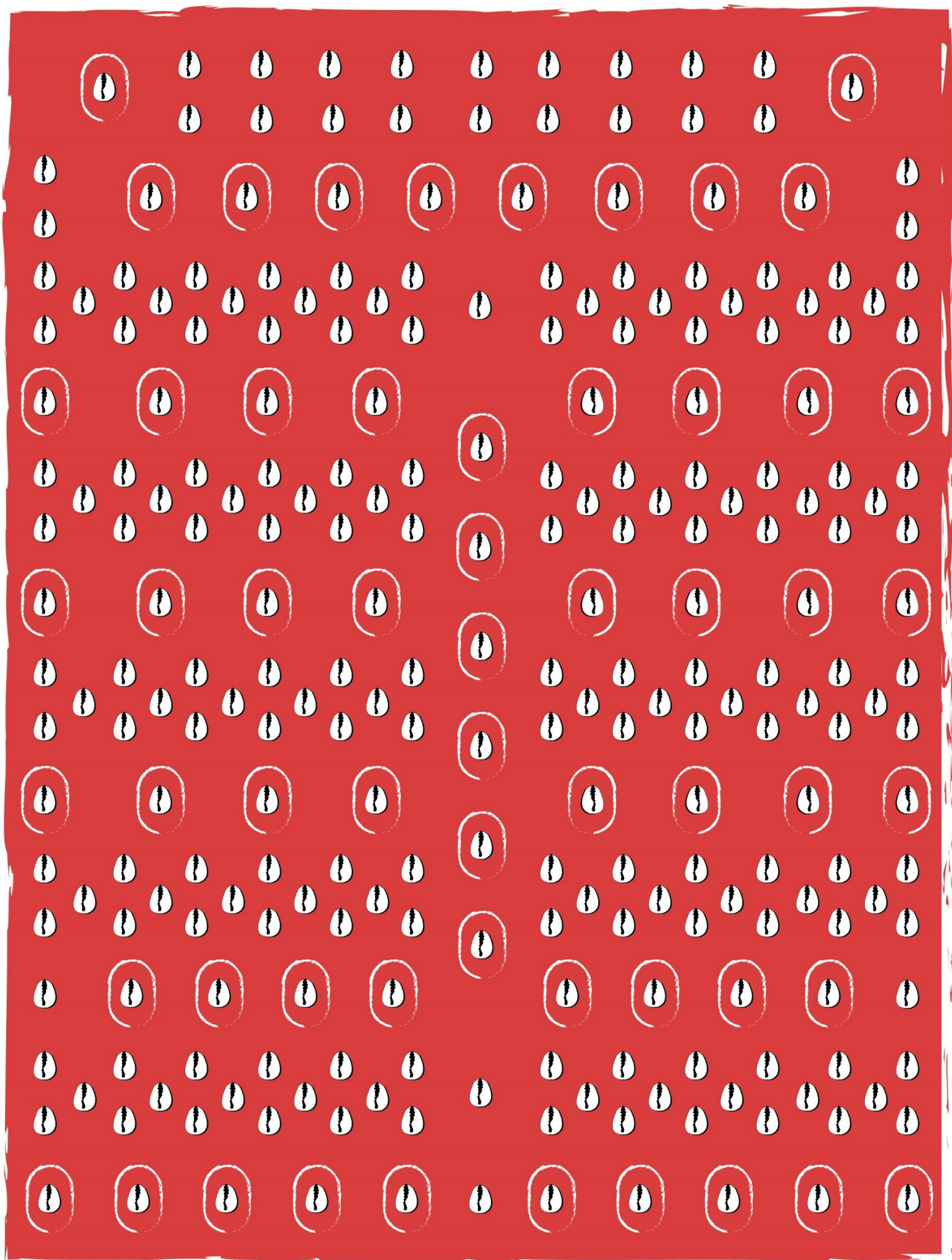


ANTI-RACIST PRIORITIES ON TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

Survey with AfroBrazilian technologists







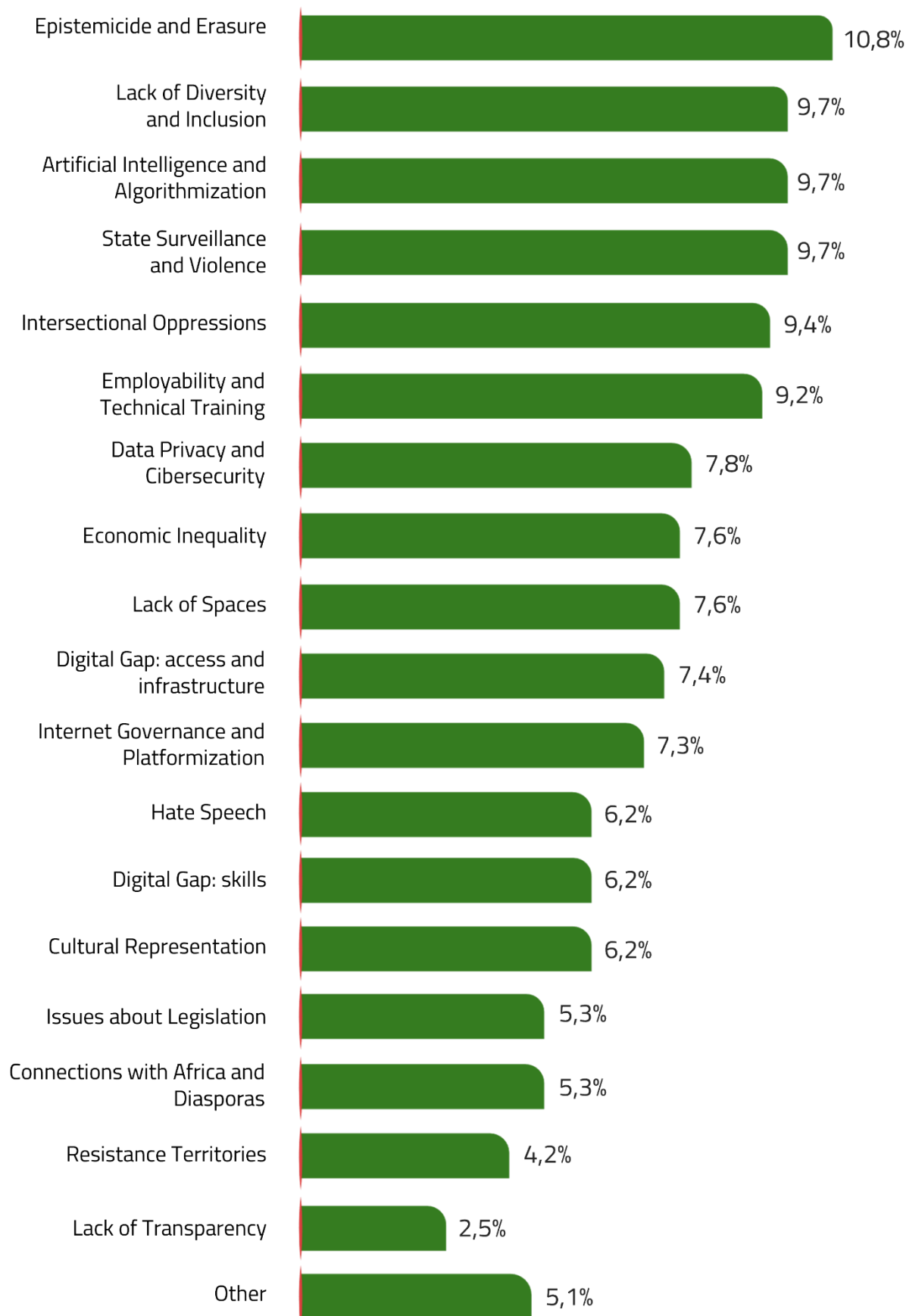
| The **Anti-racist Priorities on Technology and Society** survey was the result of a simple collective question: *what are our consensus, dissensus, disputes and priorities when we talk about racial justice and digital information and communication technologies?* In line with this, we have joined forces to research among our peers, references, and contacts which priorities are these and what can they tell us about the connections between digital technologies, race, and racism in Brazil, based upon Black experts' perspectives.

We consulted the ones who have been thinking about— and acting upon — technology and racial justice in difference sectors: organized civil society, academia and universities, media and press, private and government sectors. The research data was a result of the "*What are your Priorities regarding Anti-racism in Technology/Blackness in Technology?*" question. Each participant was able to provide up to five answers. Between April and September 2021, we applied the "snowball" method: each respondent suggested other people and, in result, 113 Black experts from all five Brazilian regions participated in the survey. Their main concerns are shown in the chart below:



Anti-racist Priorities regarding Technology and Society

[Most prominent issues]



| Epistemicide and Invisibility of Knowledge:

Issues of epistemicide, invisibility and erasure of Black, African-centered, anti-racist contributions about technology are leading the priorities among respondents. Technologies are not neutral, but the invisibility in its power relations, backgrounds and disputes penalize racial justice and the overcoming of impacts of centuries of racism.

| Lack of Diversity and Inclusion:

Black presence in the industry roles as well as in developing, idealizing, analyzing, and managing technologies is sparse and negatively proportional to the size of Black population in countries in the African Diaspora. Experts indicated that lack of diversity and inclusion among technological sectors impairs the Brazilian population, individual and collectively.

| Artificial Intelligence and Algorithmization:

Impacts of emerging digital technologies using algorithmic procedures, artificial intelligence and other kinds of automated decision-making tools based on large-scale data. This pattern

concerns participants who identify these procedures as new ways of manufacturing and intensifying structural racism.

| Surveillance and State Violence:

Intensification in using technologies on behalf of state violence as a way of controlling poor and racialized communities is a big and prominent concern in the survey. Experts are concerned that facial recognition and biometric technologies, when employed by public and private security bodies, serve as an extension of criminal selectivity and imprisonment.

| Technical Training and Employability:

Challenges regarding the need for accessible technical training in order to conquer job opportunities, especially when it comes to programming and software development.

| Intersectional Oppressions:

An intersectional perspective about oppressions that inseparably considers gender, social rank, sexuality, ableism, and other variable identity and embodied politics. A portion of the responses highlighted emphatically the



concept and theory of intersectionality as essential parts of the battle for equality and racial justice.

| Data Privacy and Cybersecurity:

Issues related to the consensual and non-consensual sharing of personal data and the need for promoting citizens' digital safety.

| Economic Inequalities and its Impacts:

Economic disparities in Brazil's intense social and racial stratification are identified in the survey not only as deterrent to the full use of digital technologies but also as enabling to new kinds of exploitation.

| Lack of Spaces:

The need for safe, creative, and diverse spaces so black communities can develop capabilities and alternative outputs outside of the hegemonic restrictions.

| Digital Hiatus - access and infrastructure:

Continuity of digital hiatus upon internet access and communication and information devices — and its

intensification during the pandemic and the economic crisis.

| Internet Governance and Platforming:

Issues such as little Black representation in multisectoral decision-making spaces and internet governance and new dangers brought by the platformization of public services represent an escalation of inequality.

| Hate Speech and Assaults:

Use of virtual environments, especially social media, as a mean to spread hate speeches and racist notes against Black people, and the platforms' lenient responses to it.

| Digital Gap - skills:

Comments on the second level of the digital gap, related to the skills to use the internet and digital devices fully and capably.

| Cultural Representation:

Acknowledging the importance of positively representing blackness and technology through media and cultural circles in general.

| Issues about Legislation:

Notes on possibilities and limitations regarding different legislation items related to internet and data (like Civil Rights Framework for the Internet and General Data Protection Act) or the fight against racism (such a laws on teaching “Afro-Brazilian and Indigenous History and Culture”).

| Connections with Africa and Diasporas:

Barriers to intellectual, political, economic, and cultural approaches involving initiatives and groups from African countries, African-diaspora or other places besides USA and Western Europe.

| Resistance Territories:

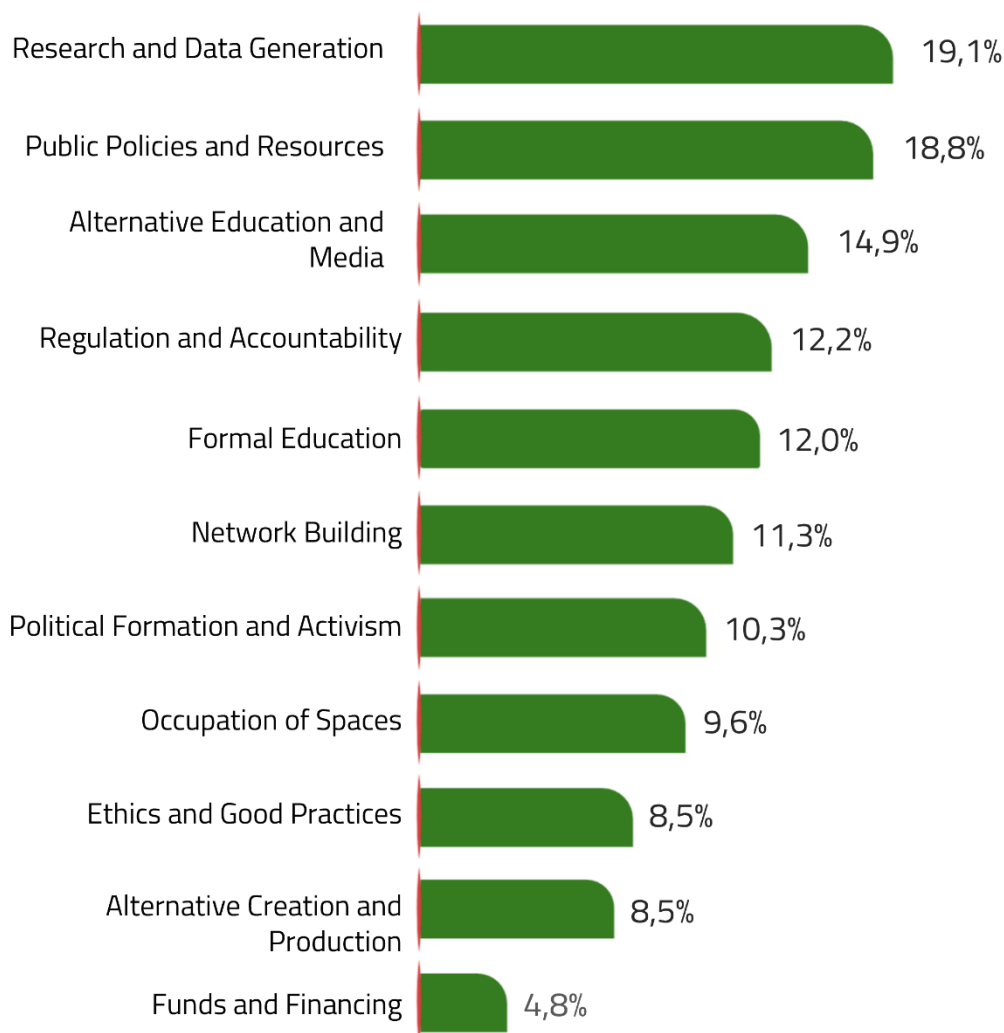
Issues related to black resistance territories like quilombos, slums and peripheries were often mentioned in an articulate and collective way.

| Lack of Transparency:

Lack of information and possibilities to promote transparency in the private and government sectors regarding digital technologies’ implementation, ideation, or management.



Anti-racist Reactions and Remediations in Technology



Reactions and Remediations

Respondents not only highlighted issues and disputes but also indicated means to remedy, confront, or overcome racism's impacts on the relations between technology and society. The most salient category was Research and Data Generation:

| Research and Data Generation:

In line with the main issue of epistemicide, consulted experts indicate the production or visibility of more multimodal knowledge about race, racism, and technology as a main necessity. Not only in terms of academic knowledge, but one generated in a multisectoral way, in diverse formats and stands by intellectuals, collectives,

alternative media and several subjects of enunciation.

| Policies and Public Resources:

Efforts to influence policies about racism's impacts in the technology scene were considered relevant by a portion of participants. A solid mention to the role of policies and resources considers the public issue not only accountable to government, but also as a collective articulation in regards of defining shared social goals which could lessen the disparities.

| Communication and Alternative Education:

Proposals regarding the use of alternative communication means to promote knowledge and information about anti-racism in technology.

| Regulation and Accountability:

The need to establish action boundaries whether regarding private sector or government is considered relevant by good portion of respondents. Specially uncertainties about gathering of personal data, dissemination of systems based on artificial intelligence, and opacity of social media platforms resulting in responses which suggest

certain usages of technology and data should be socially regulated.

| Formal Education:

Basic, academic, and continued education are mentioned by participants who consider the main role of teaching institutions, anti-racists curricula, teacher training, and factors related to overcoming the hiatus when it comes to abilities and technical training, besides the wish for a freeing education.

| Network Building:

Emphasis on collective articulation to exchange knowledge, map professionals and experts, and multisectoral networks mutually supporting one another.

| Political Training and Activism:

For political engagement and strengthening against racism and for activism perspectives and the disputes around state institutions and positions of decision-making, highlighting contributions around achievements by black movements, its groups, and collectives.

| Occupation of Spaces:

Fighting racism in technology through leadership and decision-making positions in different sectors.



| Alternative Creation and Production:

Acknowledging different possibilities for creating and implementing fairer technologies, respondents suggested focus on alternative creation and production.

| Funds and Financing:

Explicit mention to funding for enabling projects, research, and technological inclusion.



CREDITS

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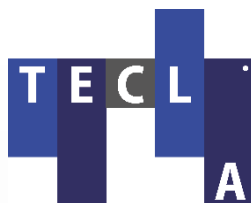
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How to reference?

REDE Negra em Tecnologia e Sociedade. **Anti-racist Priorities regarding Technology and Society**: survey with black experts. Report. Educational Action, 2021.

Supporting Organizations



Tecnologia
(em)
Ação



