

From 1984 to V for Vendetta via Minority Report

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Introduction: Fiction



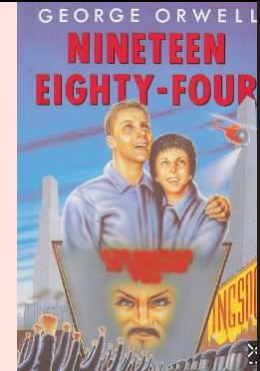
- Big Brother is Watching You
- Demolition Man: RFID
- Gattaca: Genetic Risk and Pre-Determination
- Minority Report: Pre-Crime and Eye-identity
- V for Vendetta (1984 revisited)

Introduction: Fact

- Traffic Cameras/ANPR
- Visual Tracking/Identification
- DNA Database(s)
- The Risk Society
- Anti-Terrorist Rhetoric
- The Presumption of Innocence



Sideline: Identity v Identification



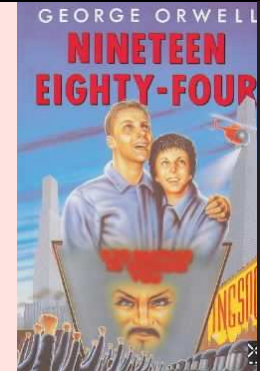
- Much of the infrastructure of a surveillance state requires strong identification facilities.
- Newspeak/Sapir-Whorf hypothesis: identification v identity.
- Airports jumped on the chance to have facial recognition facilities installed post 11th September.
- The UK “Identity Card” should be called an “Identification Card”.
- My Identity/Identities are innate and do not require external verification/validation. Identification is “for a purpose”.

Surveillance in Fiction



- Big Brother watches all through overt and covert “telescreens”.
- Citizens are “lo-jacked” in Demolition Man. Also audio monitoring checks for “verbal morality”. Eyeball scanning as well as RFID chips ensure identification.
- V for Vendetta mirrors Big Brother with “The Eye”, “The Ear”, “The Nose”, “The Hand” and “The Mouth” controlling information input to the populace and processes their output.
- Minority Report: law enforcement and commercial organisations use eye-ball scanning to confirm identification. Pre-Crime denies free will: actuarial justice.
- Your pre-determined genetic risks decide your fate in Gattaca.

Surveillance in Fact: Present



- The UK has the most surveilled population in the world.
- Three weeks to track four men through London, from four “places of origin.”
- ANPR systems attached to traffic cameras.
- Limited manual monitoring and difficult data gathering to central point restricts widespread use/misuse/abuse.
- Individual misuse/abuse is possible and happens (alleged Sefton voyeurs).

Surveillance in Fact: Future



Requests from law enforcement for ability to:

- track individuals and groups;
- identify formation and splitting of groups;
- learn “normal behaviour” and detect deviation;
- capture “identifying high res close-ups”;

and various other things, some less feasible than others

Surveillance in Fact: PETs



- Privacy Enhancing Technologies.
- Remove portions of video feed (e.g. windows of private homes) from live and/or recorded sequences.
- Block internal detail of detected humans/movable objects.
- Only record feed on detection of specific activity.
- Restrict access to feed to authorised personnel.
- Would you be happy to have a camera in the toilet/bathroom?

Justifying Surveillance

- Uses fear of crime to justify CCTV installation.
- No wide scale studies on results. Crime reporting and measuring is chaotic.
- “If you’ve nothing to fear, you’ve nothing to hide.”
- Confuses privacy with secrecy.
- Lack of prevention, use in detection ignores other uses for funds, other avenues to same result.
- Emotive cases used for justification: Bolger, Wells/Chapman.
- Imbalance of power; near-impossibility of detection of transgression by operators. Ignored. Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes?



Regulating Surveillance



- Personal Data? Overturned by *Durant v FSA*.
- Surveillance Commissioners principally engage law enforcement. Consideration of blanket ANPR coverage may be Human Rights violation.
- Pro-active processing raises more questions of security of data.
- Spread of networked systems allows black hat access.
- Spread of commercial systems in semi-public areas largely unchecked.
- Need for a CCTV Act?

Conclusions



- Most fictional surveillance is very good and highly protected.
- In reality, it's not good and isn't well protected from misuse or abuse.
- As capabilities improve, closer regulation will be required. Technological deterministic deployment must be resisted.
- Misuse by authoritarian regimes can be used as a cover by semi-authoritarian regimes (“we’re not Oceania, so our use must be valid”).