

Biometrics, citizenship and border control.

Knitting together a body and a name.



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ESRC Research 'Seminar series on genetics, technology, security and justice. Crossing, contesting and comparing boundaries'.

Seminar 5. Securitisation and forensic genetics. March 24th, 2017.

Argentina's disappeared: separating the body and the name



Art installation *El Siluetazo*, 1983 (left) and commemoration act using silhouettes, 2011, (right).

The detained-disappeared “are sheared individuals; they are bodies separated from their names (...); identities deprived of their voting cards, their citizenship papers.”

Gabriel Gatti. *Surviving Forced Disappearance in Argentina and Uruguay: Identity and Meaning* (2014, 30)



Unidentified bodies at the laboratory of the Argentine Team of Forensic Anthropology.

Border crossings into the EU: land, air and sea: Definitions of the human and production of subjectivities at stake.



Moving from one territorial sovereign to another through the border, “the sovereign authority to include or to exile and the sovereign responsibility to protect become disconnected, in all these moments of rupture, the suture of sovereignty is revealed.”

“The border-crossing subject stitches him/herself into the narrative of belonging, so too does the sovereign state incorporate the subject as a border-crosser than can be accepted or rejected, defining what populations can move.”

Salter, Mark. 2012. “Theory of the / : The Suture and Critical Border Studies”. *Geopolitics*, 17:4, 734-755; 735 – 740.

Logistics of border crossing (land): Melilla.



Self made prosthetic artefacts as
body enhancement in order to
jump the fence.

Sea borders: Greel-Turkish maritime border

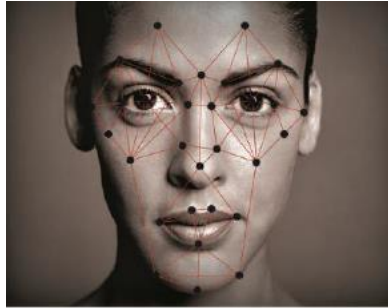
Left: Rescue action by Divers Team (2015)

Right: Boat leftovers on the beach, Chios (2015).

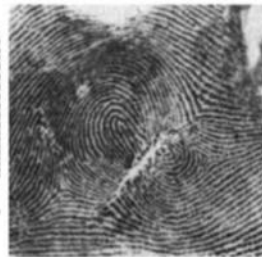
Illegalized border crossers are pushed in zones of exposure to the elements and physiological exhaustion



Air borders: biometric controls in airports



Natural
fingerprint



Scarred
fingerprint



Mutilated
fingerprint



Distorted
fingerprint by



Distorted
fingerprint

Paper documentation is replaced by algorithmic translations of information captured from the body.

Physiologic biometrics

Biometrics

- Registers individual physical markers
- Seeks to establish an identity: *Who is he/she?*
- Verification and authentication:
¿Is this the person he/she claims to be?
- Needs physical contact
- There is knowledge and there can be consent.
- Fingerprints, face or iris recognition, hand geometry, DNA.

Behavioural biometrics

Behaviometrics

- It is based on behavioural patterns
- Aims at predicting behaviour
- Establishes profiles.
- Operates at distance and hidden.
- Does not need explicit cooperation.
There is no knowledge and no consent.
- Gait, walk, heartbeat, temperature.

Biometric controls and the EU

EULisa = *European Agency for the operational management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the area of freedom, security and justice* (Created in 2011)

In charge of the three main informatic systems concerning visas, asylum applications and information exchange:

- Eurodac (European Asylum Dactyloscopy Database)
- Schengen Information System (SIS II)
- Visa Information System (VIS)
- In development: EES (Entry-Exit System), as part of the “smart borders” package.



Brillenrahmen verdeckt Augen

Brillengläser zu dunkel

Spiegelung



Mit Hut

Gesicht verdeckt

Schatten im Gesicht



Kinnfunktion

Kinnbedeckung

Gegenstand im Bild



Mund zu weit offen

Halbprofil

Kopfreigung



Geschlossene Augen

Haare im Gesicht

Blick zur Seite

“The person must look straight to the camera, with a neutral expression and a closed mouth”

Prototype for abc: *automated border control*



Capture of fingerprints on the San Marco ship, Italy, 2013.

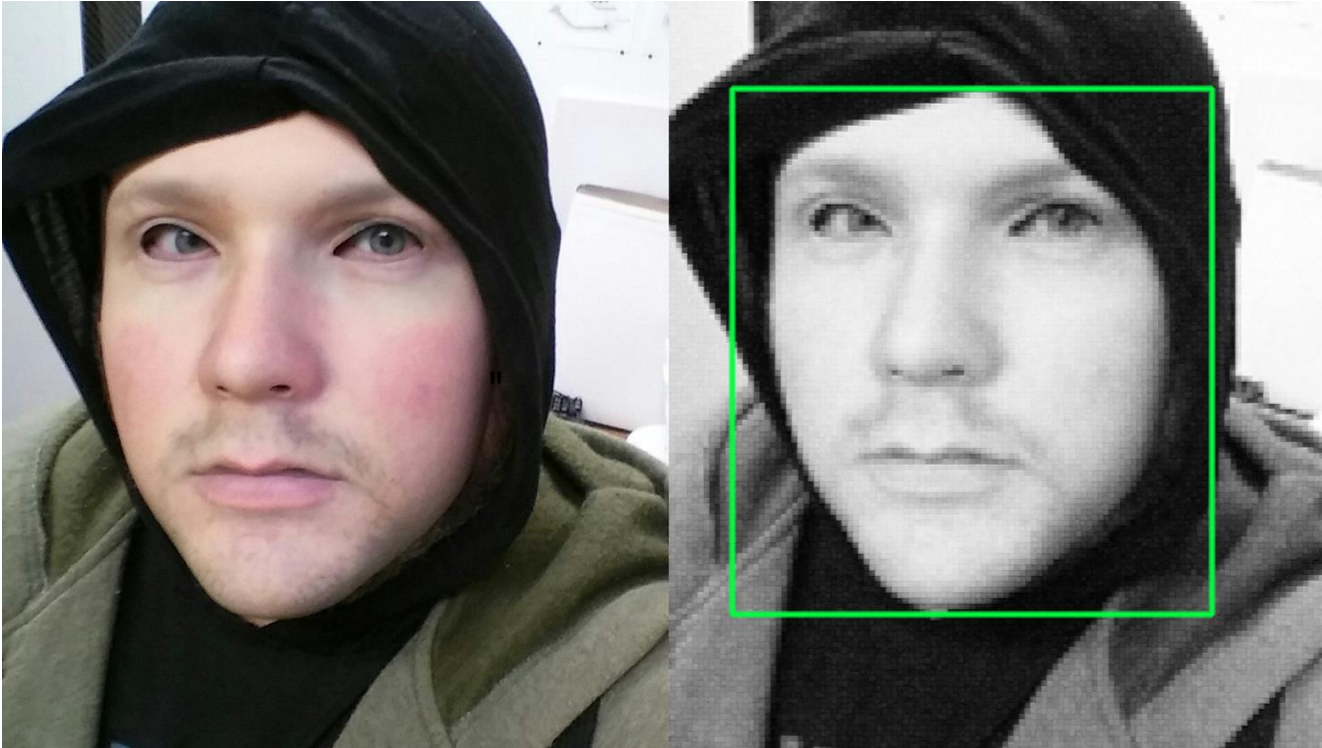


Source: Ch.Heller & Lorenzo Pezzani.
*Ebbing and Flowing: The EU's Shifting
Practices of (Non-) Assistance and
Bordering in a Time of Crisis.* 2016.



Mian Wei. *Identity.*

Leonardo Selvaggio: "URME" (*You are me*)

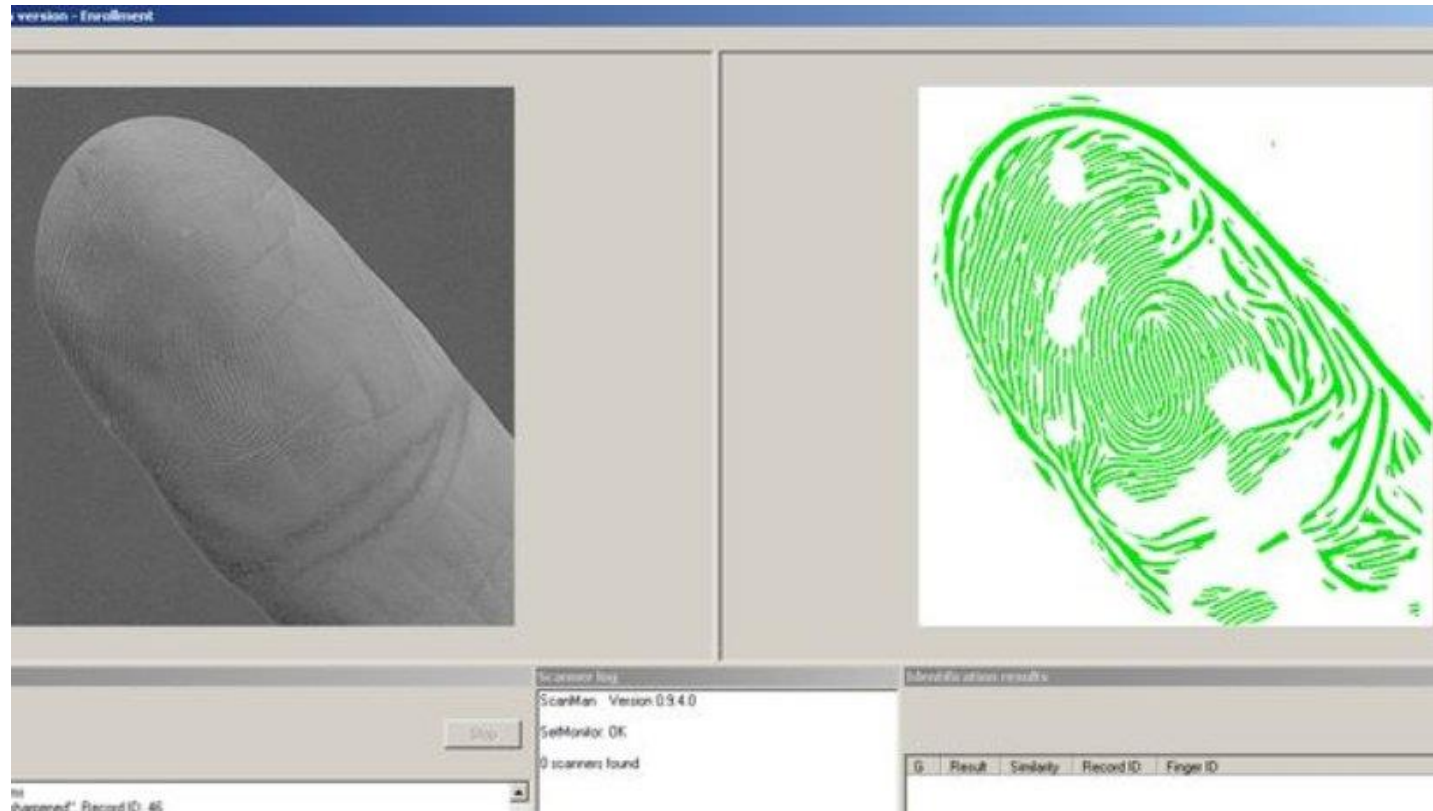


Leonardo Selvaggio. URME.



“The URME Surveillance Prosthetic, if undetected, allows for an individual to temporarily experience and consequently perform White male privilege in public space, while at the same time drawing attention to the very nature of privilege as a component of a patriarchal power structure that excludes the majority of Americans.”

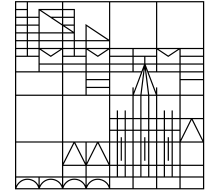
— excerpt from URME Surveillance:
Performing Privilege in the Face of
Automation.



Screen shot from the software VeriFinger with a reconstruction of the fingerprint of Germany's Defense Minister, Ursula von der Leyen © Jan Krissler



“The docks’ worker” (*El estibador*).
Sculpture at the Port of Montevideo,
Uruguay.



Thank you!

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