

Kenneth Lipartito, *Florida International University*



*Technologies of Surveillance:
Tracking People as Economic Subjects*

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136A Baker Hall

In England today, 4.2 million cameras, one for every fourteen people, peer at the public. The average British citizen is caught on camera 300 times per day. To be a citizen in a modern society is to be seen.

But state sponsored surveillance, however powerful, is of secondary significance to the tremendous watching that goes on in the private sector.

Professor Lipartito traces the evolution of the technologies of economic watching from the early credit reporting bureaus of the nineteenth century, through the workplace surveillance methods of the industrial corporation and out into the consumer marketplace of the twentieth century.

The increasingly powerful optics of economic surveillance, as recent financial market disasters should remind us, do not necessarily yield the sort of clear transparency and superior rationality promised by their promoters. Like all ways of seeing and knowing, they rest on unstated assumptions, unexamined categories and struggles of power and control.