

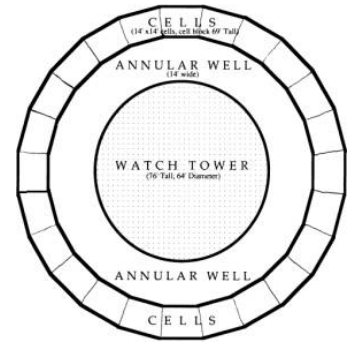
Surveillance:  
Michel Foucault: Panopticism

**Bentham:** architectural model of a panopticon

**Panopticon** – consists of a ring of cells or living quarters looking in on a central tower.

**Cells** - have one window looking inside at a central tower and one window looking on the outside of the ring, with two solid opaque walls on the sides.

**Tower** – can see out but the outside cannot look in.



### Visibility is a trap

Community of the ring is eliminated by the walls making a series of separated individualities.

“Bentham laid down the principle that power should be visible and unverifiable” pg. 303

The Panopticon is a marvelous machine which, whatever use one may wish to put it to, produces homogeneous effects of power. pg. 304

- *those in the tower are as confined as those in cells*
  - o *each cell has freedom to do whatever they want, but cannot interact with each other, however they are on display*
  - o *those in tower can watch, cannot communicate with the cells and will not be on display by others*



“The seeing machine was once a sort of dark room into which individuals may be supervised by society as a whole.” pg. 305

...its aim is to strengthen the social forces – to increase production, to develop the economy, spread education, raise the level of public morality; to increase and multiply. – pg. 305

... the productive increase of power can be assured only if, on the one hand, it can be exercised continuously in the very foundations of society, in the subtlest possible way, and if, on the other hand, it functions outside these sudden, violent, discontinuous forms that are bound up with the exercise of sovereignty. – pg. 305

*-without a singular ruling body*

*Solution:* “Increase the utility of power while practicing the economy of the prince” – pg. 305  
New political anatomy whose object and end are not the relations of sovereignty but the relations of discipline. – pg. 305

*-government regulates economy therefore, disciplines strengthen themselves according to economy to avoid the government infrastructure from complicating its network.*

“Bentham dreamt of transforming into a network of mechanisms that would be everywhere and always alert, running through society without interruption in space or in time.” - pg. 305

- *tower*
  - o *observer never has to worry about their fixed space from what he's observing, nor do they theoretically have a time restraint on how much they record.*

"It programmes, at the level of an elementary and easily transferable mechanism, the basic functioning of a society penetrated through and through with disciplinary mechanisms." – pg. 306  
*-ex. binary code, Turing Machines as elementary mechanisms*

Our society is one not of spectacle, but of surveillance under the surface of images, one invests bodies in depth; **the circuits of communication are the supports of an accumulation** and a centralization of knowledge; the play of signs defines the anchorages of power; it is not that the beautiful totality of the individual is amputated, repressed, altered by our social order, it is rather that the individual is carefully fabricated in it." – 306  
*-information exchange*  
*-the individual supplies information, and demands information to further his knowledge or accumulate more.*

## The Carceral archipelago:

### - Panopticon originally a prison model

"In the classical period, despite a certain common reference to offence in general, the order of the crime, the order of sin and the order of bad conduct remained separate in so far as they related to separate criteria and authorities."

- *Those being watched must recognize authority first*
  - o *What defines authority to those being watched?*

"... the continuity of the institutions themselves, which were linked to one another" – pg. 307

- Categorizes institutions according to their purpose
  - o **Public Assistance** – orphanage, reformatory, penitentiary, disciplinary battalion, prison
  - o **Charitable Society** – convent, schools
- Correction of irregularities
  - o *What is considered normal society? What is recognized as irregular to the authority?*
    - *What is considered normal according to information exchange?*

"There was a sort of disciplinary 'training', continuous and compelling, that had something of the pedagogical curriculum and something of the professional network." pg. 307

- Who is the authority to which information is more valid?
  - o *Public critiques – Blog Culture*
  - o *Wikipedia vs. Encyclopedia Britannica*

"It saves everything including what it punishes – 308

- *Tower records all, in carceral society can inflict punishment, but punishment is then publicized.*

"In short, the carceral archipelago assures, in the depths of the social body, the formation of delinquency on the basis of subtle illegalities, the overlapping of the latter by the former and the establishment of a specified criminality." – 309

- *The delinquency, the reason why it's delinquency, and its punishment are recorded for further cases.*

"The regulations of the disciplinary establishments may reproduce the law, the punishments imitate the verdicts and penalties, the surveillance repeat the police model; and, above all these multiple establishments, the prison, which in relation to them is a pure form, unadulterated and unmitigated, gives them a sort of official sanction."

- *Means to an end policy. In carceral society all methods of surveillance lead to an end result of incarceration. Citizen knows this could be the outcome (according to the discipline of the "law" they've broken.)*

Institution of Rehab

- *...to prevent prison*

"By means of a carceral continuum, the authority that sentences infiltrates all those other authorities that supervise, transform, collect, improve." – pg. 310

"But, in its function, the power to punish is not essentially different from that of curing or educating." – pg. 310

- *Both can be monitored by some sort of authority*

"By operating at every level of the social body and by mingling ceaselessly the art of rectifying and the right to punish, the universality of the carceral lowers the level from which it becomes natural and acceptable to be punished." – pg. 310

- *As information is exchanged among disciplines, the criteria changes to what's acceptable to punish for.*

## The Norm

"... an increasing difficulty in judging, as if one were ashamed to pass sentence; a furious desire on the part of the judges to judge, assess, diagnose, recognize the normal and abnormal and claim the honour of curing or rehabilitating." – pg. 310

"The judges of normality are present everywhere. We are in the society of the **teacher-judge, the doctor-judge, the educator judge, the 'social worker' – judge**" – pg. 311

- *All forms of authority, where those being cured, judged, or taught entrust themselves on someone they consider authority.*
  - o *"...each individual, wherever he may find himself, subjects to it his body, his gestures, his behaviour, his aptitudes, his achievements." – pg. 311*

## Carceral example has objectified human behaviour.

"But, if they have been able to be formed and to produce so many profound changes in the episteme, it is because they have been conveyed by a specific and new modality of power: a certain policy of the body, a certain way of rendering the group of men docile and useful. This policy required the involvement of definite relations of knowledge in relations to power; it called for a technique of overlapping subjection and objectification; it brought with it new procedures of individualization." – pg. 311

- *Knowledge becomes power*
  - o *Recognition of what knowledge is also becomes power.*

"When it is a question of altering the system of imprisonment, opposition does not come from the judicial institutions alone; resistance is to be found not in the prison as penal sanction, but in the **prison** with all its determinations, links and extra-judicial results; in the prison as the relay in

a general network of disciplines and surveillances; in the prison as it functions in a panoptic regime." – pg. 312

- *A discussion of what's being recorded and communicated between disciplines (in the tower) makes system of imprisonment more complicated.*

...the growth of disciplinary networks, the multiplication of their exchanges with the penal apparatus, the ever more important powers that are given them, the ever more massive transference to them of judicial functions; **now, as medicine psychology, education, public assistance, 'social work' assume an ever greater share of the powers of supervision and assessment, the penal apparatus will be able, in turn, to become medicalized, psychologized, educationalized;**

- *authority becomes homogenized as stated in beginning.*

"...the problem lies rather in the steep rise in the use of these mechanisms of normalization and the wide-ranging powers which, through the proliferation of new disciplines, they bring with them."

*\*\*Individuals begin to have their place as authority, they are monitored but they are monitoring each other in the privacy of their own computer. They are taking in each others information and correcting what is considered wrong according to their learning or their specialized discipline. The Panoptic example creates questions on what is considered the 'Norm', what defines a community, what defines an authority overlooking a community, and how it relates to the individual.*