

# THE DIGITAL PRISM

Transparency and Managed Visibilities  
in a Datafied World



MIKKEL FLYVERBOM

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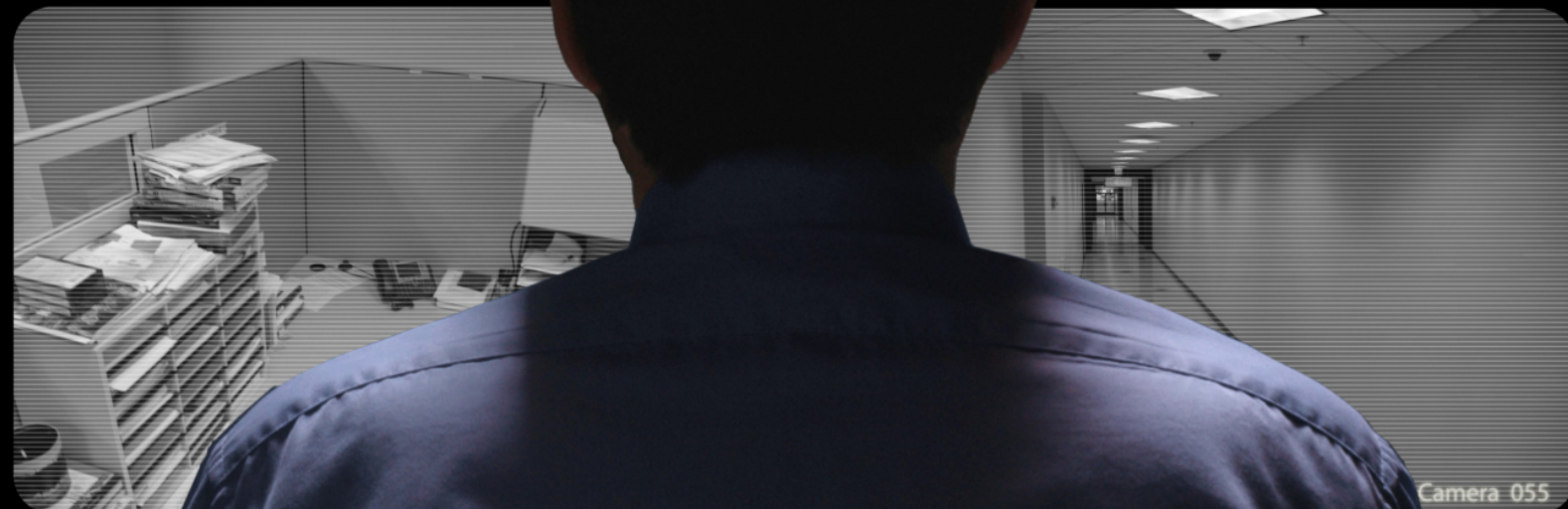
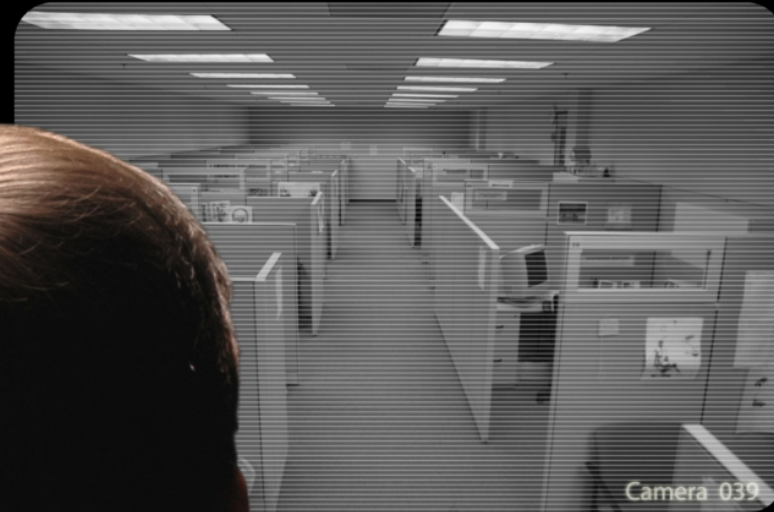
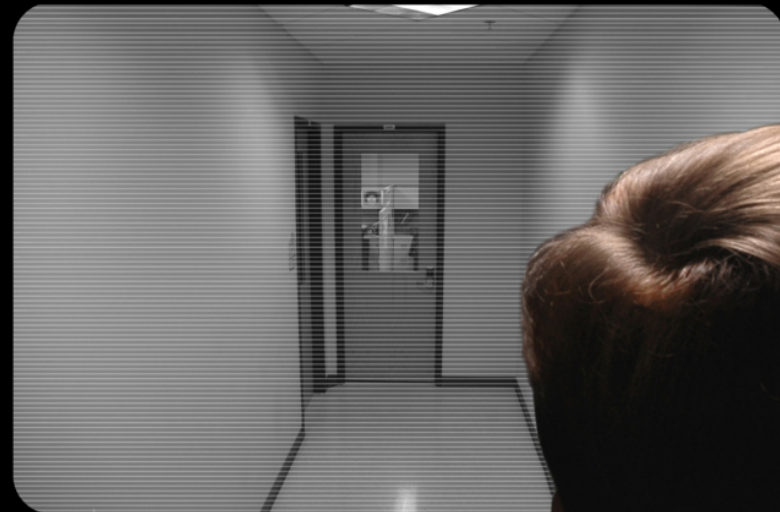
Professor of Communication & Digital Transformations  
Department of Management, Society and Communication  
Copenhagen Business School  
[mf.msc@cbs.dk](mailto:mf.msc@cbs.dk) / [@flyverbom](https://twitter.com/flyverbom)

















# DIGITAL TRANSFORMATIONS

- Digital technologies and infrastructures as societal backbones
- Digitalization and datafication – data as new resource and driver
- Innovation, connectivity and democracy, but also manipulation, surveillance and new forms of injustice
- New communication spaces – human, organizational and societal transformations

See and know everything – management of visibilities as central dynamic

# TRANSPARENCY AS RECIPE

- 'Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman'
- Disclose information = see things as they really are = trust, control and better conduct
- Focus on quantity and quality of transmitted information
- Transparency projects as windows opened on reality

Problematize the equation between more information and societal progress

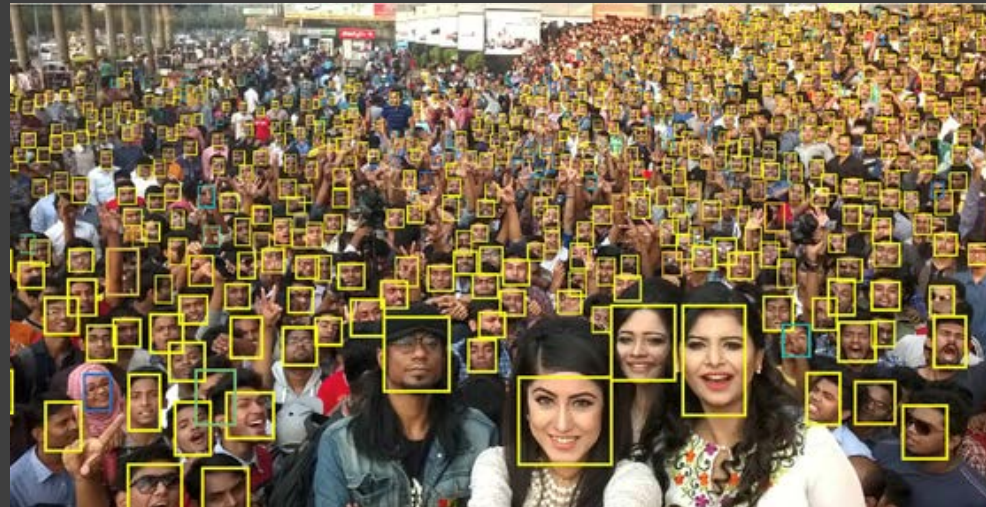
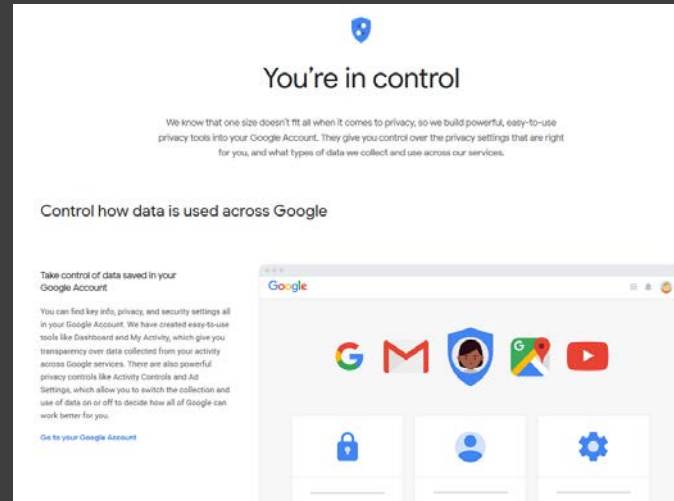


# VISIBILITY MANAGEMENT

- Critical investigation of digital transformations & transparency
- Extension of visibility as a 'category for the social sciences' (Brighenti, 2007)
- Vocabulary to understand 'new territories of power' associated with 'the entanglement of the digital, the informational and the governmental' (Walters, 2012)
- Intersections of seeing, knowing and governing in digital spaces
- Prisms, refractions, information control and social ordering

What happens when digital exposure is default?

# HUMANS UNDER SCRUTINY





# ORGANIZATIONS GONE TRANSPARENT



Transparency and  
Voice at Google



Passion, Not Perks



# SEEING THE WORLD



So that's my update on how we're thinking about the next big changes we want to make in the world, connecting everyone, understanding the world, and building the knowledge economy. We made a lot of progress this quarter and I want to take a moment to thank everyone who works with our company and everyone who is a part of our community for all that they do to make Facebook great.

A photograph of a chalkboard filled with handwritten mathematical equations in white chalk. The equations are complex, involving fractions, square roots, and various mathematical symbols. Some of the visible equations include  $\sqrt{\frac{P(1-p)}{n}} \approx \sqrt{\frac{w(1-w)}{n}}$ ,  $P(1-w-p) < t_p \sqrt{\frac{P(1-p)}{n}}$ , and  $\frac{1}{2} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} (w \pm \sqrt{4t_p^2 \frac{w(1-w)}{n}}) = w$ .



# LIFE IN THE DIGITAL PRISM

- Visibility management as fundamental social phenomenon: recognition and control
- Way to understand human, organizational and societal transformations propelled by digitalization and datafication
- Governance of and by digital traces: what to do about datafied predictions, 'reality business' and social ordering?

In and out of sight? Managing visibilities and guiding attention as essential dynamics