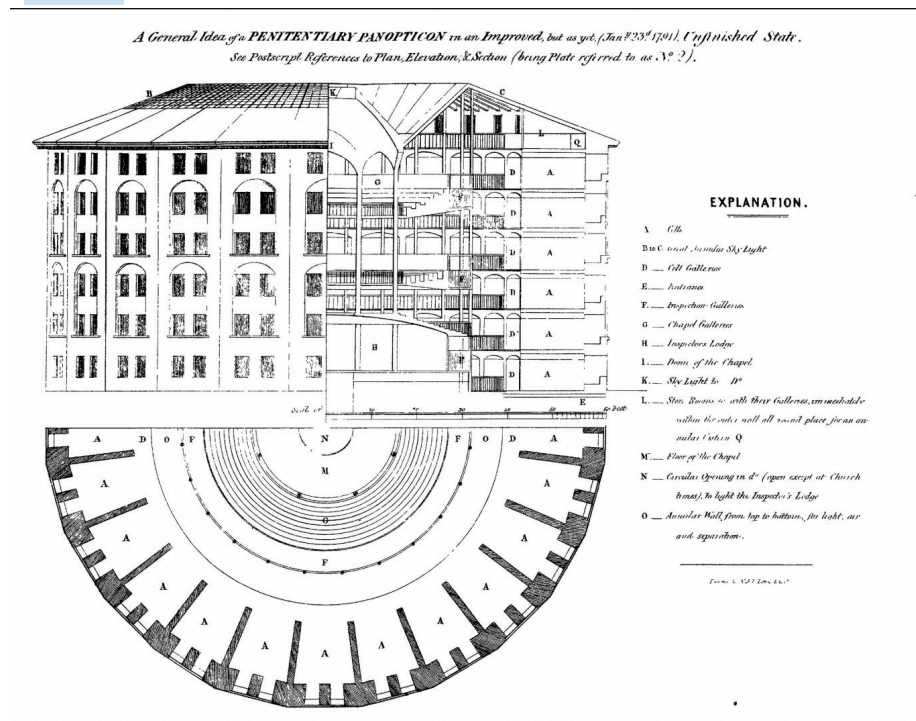


Cogito Circle Meeting #8: “Panopticism” from *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/auto-icon/panopticon#:~:text=Though%20Jeremy%20Bentham%20is%20credited,with%20his%20younger%20brother%20C%20Samuel>

-The Panopticon: originally created by English philosopher Jeremy Bentham in 1790s:



-Follows the ‘**central inspection**’ principle: prison visitors could observe the convicts, but the convicts could only look at the inspectors gallery.

-Bentham tried to convince the British govt. To BUILD the panopticon (which obviously did not work)... he wanted to be the ‘inspector.’

“In his mind, the Panopticon scheme was thwarted by politicians liable to manipulation by ‘sinister interests’, and motivated him to set out a radical programme of reform of the legal, political, and ecclesiastical establishments during the final decades of his life.”

Lines to look at:

“And, in a very case, enclosed as he is in the middle of this architectural mechanism, is not the director’s own fate entirely bound up with [the panopticon]?... ‘By every tie I could devise,’ said

the master of the Panopticon, 'my own fate has been bound up by me with theirs' (Bentham 177)" (Foucault 8).

Questions:

-Why did Bentham consider the Panopticon to be not only a way to surveil prisoners, but also to perform other societal happenings as well?

-If the Panopticon was never built, why should we discuss it?

-How does the concept of the Panopticon apply to modern surveillance technologies and digital privacy concerns?

-Are there alternative models of societal organization that achieve similar goals without resorting to constant surveillance and control?

-We are under constant surveillance by ourselves

-Can we ever escape from this social prison?

A system that doesn't have some sort of enforcement mechanism, \

-Discussion of objectivity – subjectivity broadens in scope

Notes:

-Prisoner's Dilemma:

-Religion parallel: self-enforced surveillance that is carried out by an organized institution

-Elite capture: an institution that manipulates a group's ideology in the case of their own interests

-Core difference between prisoner's dilemma and panopticon: actions and consequences in the prisoner's dilemma are dependent on the prisoner's actions. But in the Panopticon, you are the sole subject of surveillance.

-Combination of isolation and the natural human tendency to avoid risk, as well as social pressure, is what prevents

-If the prisoners had any information about the guy in the tower, they

-Three-prong method on eva