

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55561-6 - The Simulation of Surveillance: Hypercontrol in Telematic Societies

William Bogard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*The simulation of surveillance: hypercontrol in telematic societies* is a novel exploration of the imaginary of perceptual control technologies at the beginning of the twenty-first century. From virtual reality to computer profiling, artificial intelligence to genetic mapping, William Bogard constructs a “social science fiction” of how the revolution in simulation technology fundamentally reconfigures and intensifies the role of surveillance in war, work, sexuality, and private life. Increasingly, simulation is becoming a preferred means of supplementing the eyes and ears of the authorities in information societies, enabling forms of control which operate more efficiently in advance of problems, but which also hyperrealize our experiences of time, space, agency, and society itself. Push a button, enter a code, and go anywhere, be anyone or anything. *The simulation of surveillance* offers sustained critique of the imaginary in which control breaks free of its prior limits – an imaginary of unmediated perception, the effects of which we see everywhere in fantastic systems for the relentless conversion of objects, events, and people into information.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55561-6 - The Simulation of Surveillance: Hypercontrol in Telematic Societies

William Bogard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## The simulation of surveillance

---

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55561-6 - The Simulation of Surveillance: Hypercontrol in Telematic Societies

William Bogard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

### Cambridge Cultural Social Studies

---

*General editors:* JEFFREY C. ALEXANDER, *Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles, and*  
STEVEN SEIDMAN, *Department of Sociology,*  
*State University of New York, University of Albany*

#### *Editorial Board*

JEAN COMAROFF, *Department of Anthropology,*  
*University of Chicago*

DONNA HARAWAY, *Department of the History of*  
*Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz*

MICHELE LAMONT, *Department of Sociology,*  
*Princeton University*

THOMAS LAQUEUR, *Department of History, University of*  
*California, Berkeley*

Cambridge Cultural Social Studies is a forum for the most original and thoughtful work in cultural social studies. This includes theoretical works focusing on conceptual strategies, empirical studies covering specific topics such as gender, sexuality, politics, economics, social movements, and crime, and studies that address broad themes such as the culture of modernity. While the perspectives of the individual studies will vary, they will all share the same innovative reach and scholarly quality.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55561-6 - The Simulation of Surveillance: Hypercontrol in Telematic Societies

William Bogard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# The simulation of surveillance

---

Hypercontrol in telematic societies

---

William Bogard

*Whitman College*



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55561-6 - The Simulation of Surveillance: Hypercontrol in Telematic Societies

William Bogard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521555616](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521555616)

© Cambridge University Press 1996

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1996

Re-issued in this digitally printed version 2010

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Bogard, William, 1950–

The simulation of surveillance: hypercontrol in telematic societies / William Bogard.

p. cm. – (Cambridge cultural social studies)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 55081 5 (hc) ISBN 0 521 55561 2 (pb)

1. Computer simulation. 2. Virtual reality (Computer science).

3. Computers and civilization. I. Title. II. Series.

QA76.9.C65B64 1996

303.3'3 – dc20 95-14611 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-55081-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-55561-6 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55561-6 - The Simulation of Surveillance: Hypercontrol in Telematic Societies

William Bogard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

---

For Michael and Ann

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55561-6 - The Simulation of Surveillance: Hypercontrol in Telematic Societies

William Bogard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

... this state of not being observed would begin to torment him after a while, much more than the knowledge of being observed bothered him earlier, because not being watched would make him feel not worth noticing, not being worth noticing would make him feel disrespected, being disrespected would make him feel insignificant, being insignificant would make him feel meaningless, and, he imagined, the end result might be a hopeless depression, and he would have to conclude that other people suffered as much from not being observed as he did, that they, too, felt meaningless unless they were being observed . . .

Friedrich Dürrenmatt, *The Assignment*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55561-6 - The Simulation of Surveillance: Hypercontrol in Telematic Societies

William Bogard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## *Contents*

---

Introduction	<i>page</i> 1
1 A social science fiction	6
2 Surveillance, its simulation, and hypercontrol in virtual systems	25
3 Social control for the 1990s	54
4 Sensors, jammers, and the military simulacrum	78
5 Simulation, surveillance, and cyborg work	98
6 Privacy and hyperprivacy	125
7 Sex in telematic societies	153
Epilogue “Hugh”	179
<i>Notes</i>	184
<i>References</i>	195
<i>Index</i>	203