

What is in a Name?  
Identity-Regimes from 1500 to the  
2000s

Who in here has no name?

#nymwars  
(past and present)



Luther



1545-1563



Columbus landing in San Salvador

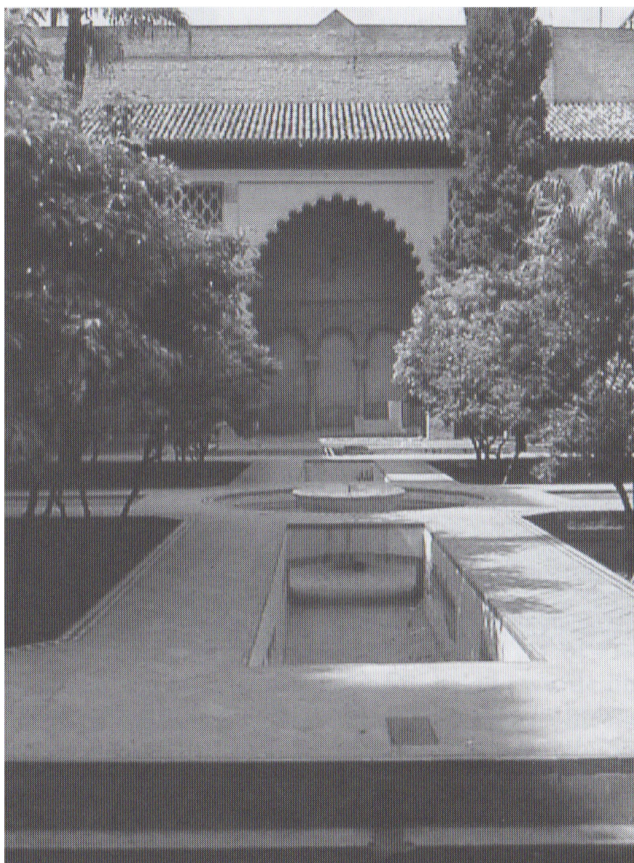


Phillip II



Libro registro de pasajeros a Indias. Bernhard Siegert 'Papiere & Passagiere' (2006)





Trust Center ca. 1560

Casa de la Contratacion Sevilla

Bernhard Siegert 'Papiere & Passagiere' (2006)



Westphalian Peace



Joseph II

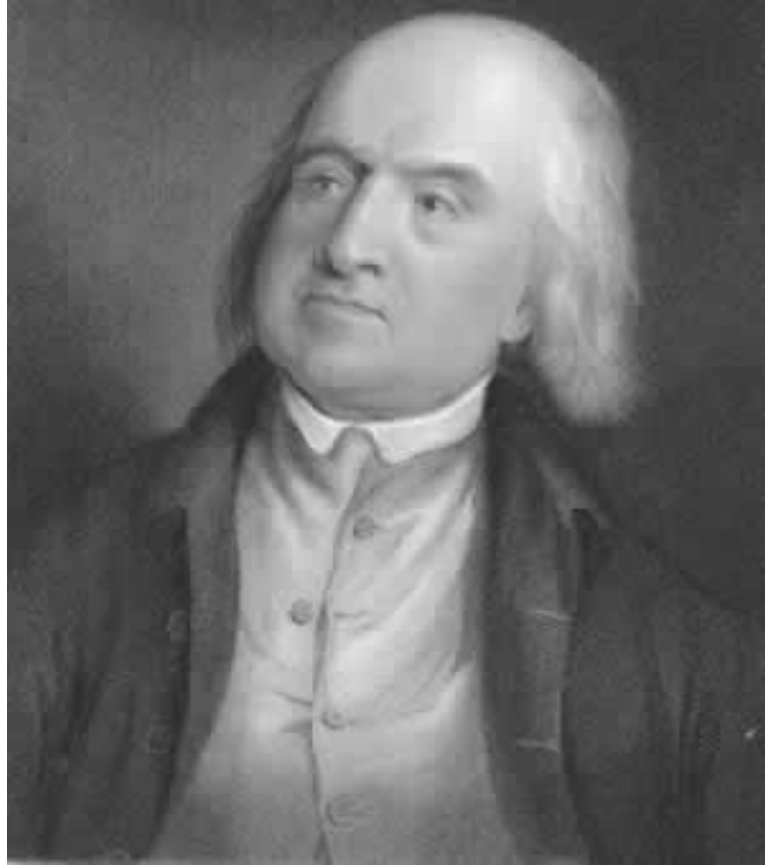


Anton Tantner 'Ordnung der Häuser, Beschreibung der *Seelen* – Hausnummerierung und Seelenkonskription in der Habsburgermonarchie' (2004)



„The legislative authority will establish for all inhabitants, without distinction the manner in which births, marriages, and deaths will be certified; and it will designate the public officials who will receive and maintain these files.“

French Constitution 1791



Jeremey Bentham

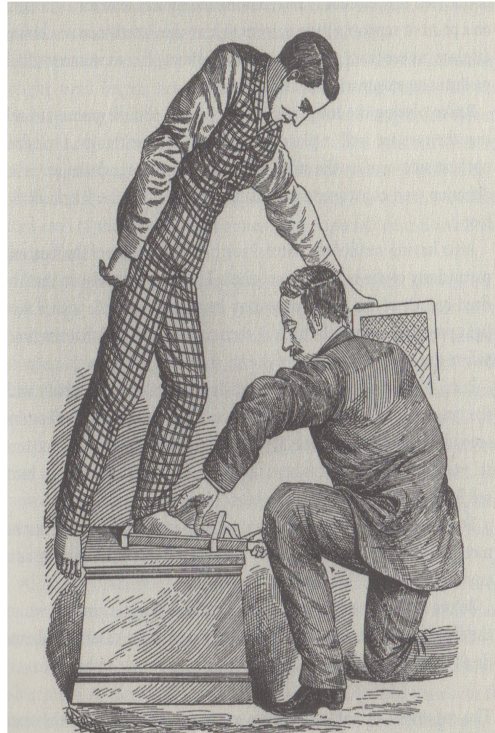
„It is to be regretted that the proper names of individuals are upon so irregular a footing. Those distinctions, invented in the infancy of society to provide for the wants of a hamlet, only imperfectly accomplish their object in a great nation.”

Jeremey Bentham

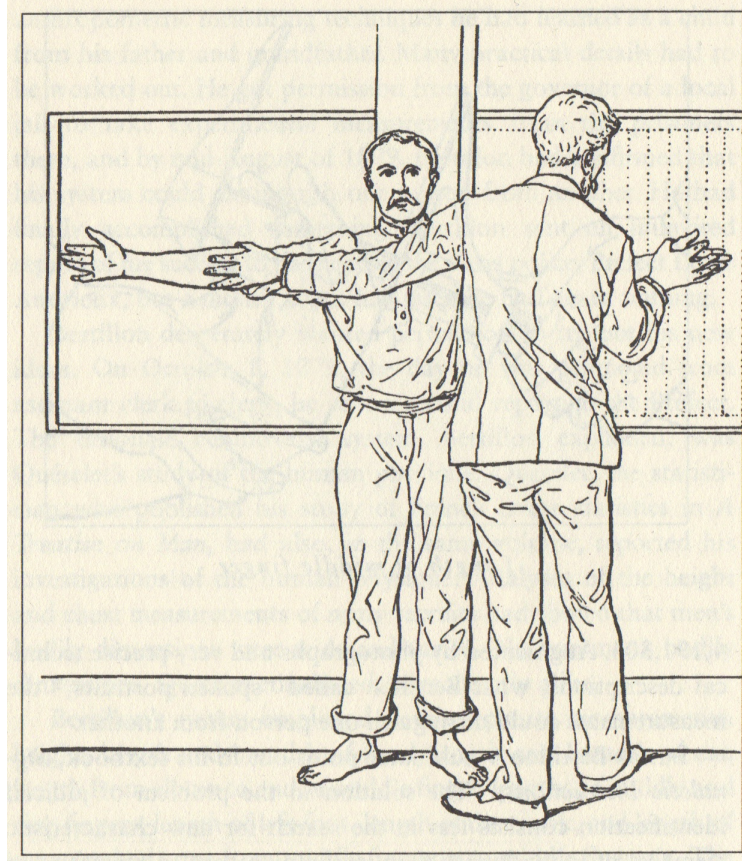


„a new nomenclature (. . .) so arranged, that, in a whole nation, every individual should have a proper name, which should belong to him alone.”

Jeremy Bentham



Bertillonage - Simon Cole 'Suspect Identities' (2001)



Bertillonage

Height,	1 m	80.8	Head, length	19.5	L. Foot,	25.4	Color of LEFT EYE,	Circle, <i>yel</i>	Age, 23 year
Eng. Hght.		6.4	" width	15.2	L. Mid. F.	12.4	Periph. Z.		
Data, A,	1 m	85.0	Cheek,	13.9	L. Lit. F.	9.7		<i>Sl Blue</i>	Born in
Frank,		95.7	Rgt. Ear length	6.5	L. Fore A.	49.3	Pecul.		<i>Ohio</i>
Curv.,			Rgt. Ear width						

REMARKS RELATIVE TO MEASUREMENTS

<b>DESCRIPTIVE.</b>									
Incl.	<i>low</i>	Profile Ridge	<i>low</i>	Rgt. Ear Border,	<i>Reg</i>	Complexion,	<i>Fair</i>		
Hght.	<i>in low</i>	Base	<i>low</i>	Rgt. Ear Lobe,		Mous.		Beard,	
Width,	<i>med</i>	DIMENSIONS.		Teeth,		Weight,	<i>167</i>	Build,	<i>Slender</i>
Pecul.		Length	<i>long</i>	Projection	<i>med</i>	Chin,	<i>Dimple</i>	Hair,	<i>D Chest</i>
		Breadth	<i>med</i>						
		Pecul.							

FROM RECORDS OF NATIONAL BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Bertillon Index Card – Simon Cole ‘Suspect Identities‘ (2001)

Cic, r, of 1b e, ml. 2d f. m.g.

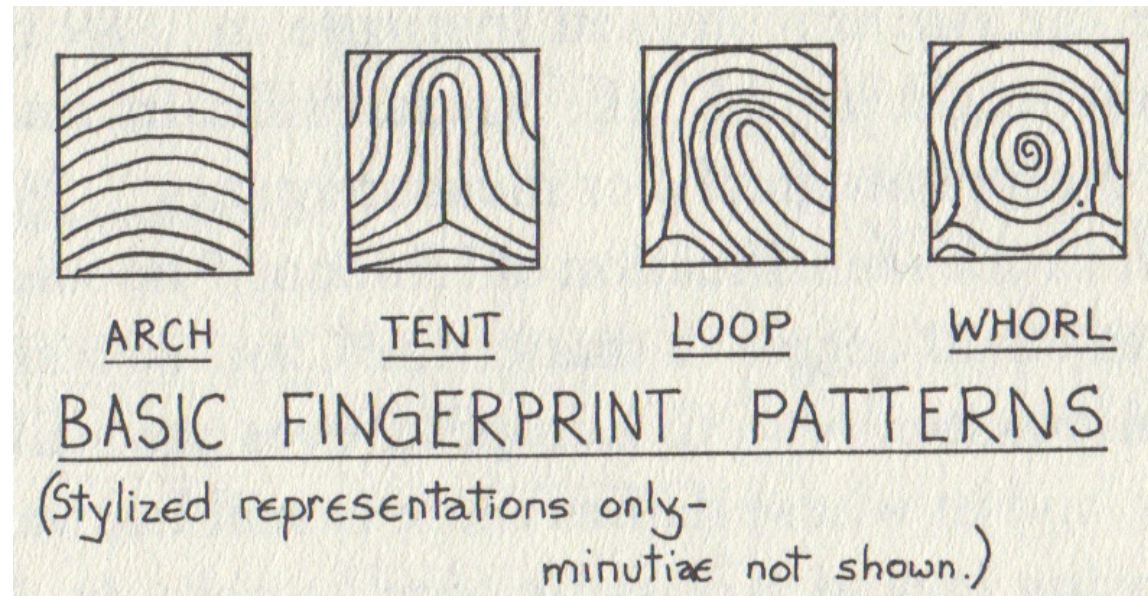
Bertillonage

„looked bewilderingly homogenous“

Simon Cole ‘Suspect Identities‘ (2001)

„British officials responsible for disbursing pensions could not tell one Indian from another“

Simon Cole ‘Suspect Identities‘ (2001)



Simon Cole 'Suspect Identities' (2001)



WOWOWOWO

„5/17 R/U OO/II 19/8”



Juan Vucetich

„origin and civil evolution of each person, that is, birth, marriage, death, judicial sentencing, divorce, nullification of marriage, description including scars and defects, and change of name”

Juan Vucetich 1901

„Every Number would be the individual himself; it would be the civil person of every man, By it, a person would be known, given rights and held responsible for his actions.“

Reyna Almandos 1924

„contradictory desires of government to control movement and to encourage international mobility“

Mark Salter 'Rights of Passage' (2003)

„(Nation States) have monopolized the authority to restrict movement vis-'a-vis other potential claimants, such as private economic or religious entities. Such entities may play a role in the control of movement, but they do so today at the behest of states”

John Torpey 'Coming and going' (1998)

„I am not claiming that states and the state system effectively control all movements of persons, only that they have monopolized the authority to restrict movement vis-à-vis other potential claimants, such as private economic or religious entities“

John Torpey 'Coming and going' (1998)







## De-naming

Slaves

Totalitarian Institutions

**What is in a name?**

## **What is in a name?**

1. Naming and identity regimes emerges in economic, military, colonial, social-welfare, migratory contexts

## **What is in a name?**

2. Names are not a matter of choice – they are mandatory in modern nation states

## **What is in a name?**

3. The reference of the law is the body

Identity Regimes seek to close the gap between body and document

see: Valentin Groebner “Who are you” (2007)

## **What is in a name?**

4. Identity is duplication – controlled duplication with registers

Identity regimes are means of monopolizing the registers

Valentin Groebner “Who are you” (2007)

## **What is in a name?**

5. Identity systems are media systems changing as media change



**To govern is to address**



Biometrics in India

New York Times 2011/09/02





# NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR TRUSTED IDENTITIES IN CYBERSPACE

Enhancing Online Choice, Efficiency,  
Security, and Privacy

APRIL 2011



<http://www.nist.gov/nstic/>

In the name there is always somebody else – the question today is:

can we choose who this somebody else is?

THANK YOU

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Pictures Wikipedia unless otherwise noted

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