

Impact Factor: **2.8**

5-Year Impact Factor:

Contents

... More

Abstract

This article offers a security phenomenological analysis of the security phenomenon expressed. With reference to the *security dispositif* de Foucault, the results is aimed at enabling the circulation of the client should a kidnap event occur. As such, it is a personalized private provision of security premised upon the promotion of an individual's capacity to circulate in the future. Using the story of a kidnap event, the article analyses the micro-practices through which a population of 'kidnapping prospects' is created, the underwriting process through which prospective clients undergo a security audit, and the forms of security that derive from this *dispositif*. It argues that the value of the concept of biopower for security analysis is its potential for explaining problematics that are not circumscribed to a fixed referent object but relate to the emergent features of the changing character of the human being.



Get full access to this article

View all access and purchase options for this article.

Get Access 

1.

1 This term has been commonly translated into English as 'apparatus of security'. Here, the term *security dispositif* will be used for want of a better translation. For a wider description of the concept, see Deleuze (1999: 159).

2.

- 2 Angie Wong (2004) has noted that ‘in fact, one condition of kidnapping policies is that the insured must not tell anyone they have coverage. According to Mack Rice Jr. of Marsh & McLennan, an insurance brokerage firm, the policies themselves are handled like top-secret documents. “When we issue a policy, you are given a number,” Rice says. “We don’t even put the company name on the file.”’
- 3.
- 3 Data taken from Gigerenzer (2002: 5) and originally provided by the Control Risks Group.
- 4.
- 4 Information provided in these two paragraphs is based on the author’s experience as a risk and security adviser for an energy corporation operating in South America between 2000 and 2002. For a general view on corporate security risk assessment and risk management, see, for example, Roper (1999).
- 5.
- 5 Michel Callon (1998) has argued that markets are also the result of constructive activities.
- 6.
- 6 Deductibles are a way of controlling what the industry knows as ‘moral hazard’. If the client has something to lose when making a claim, it should restrict its claims to legitimate events.
- 7.
- 7 An argument is made by Dillon & Lobo-Guerrero (2006) in which circulation, connectivity and complexity have become the quasi-transcendentals of contingency that determine the biopolitical imaginary of species being.
- 8.
- 8 ‘Tom Hargrove’s improvised kidnap diary, day 325 of 334, 1994, somewhere in Colombia’; cited by Kroll (2006: 1); emphasis added.
- 9.
- 9 Leon Valencia is, at the time of writing, an analyst for the Colombian NGO Corporación Nuevo Arco Iris.
- 10.
- 10 Different approaches to biopower and biopolitics have emerged in recent years with the work of Giorgio Agamben, Paul Virno and Antonio Negri. The approach set out in this article differs from theirs and subscribes to a notion of biopower premised upon the promotion, enhancement and protection of forms of life rather than the subordination of the concept to sovereign forms of power or to class systems. Elaboration of this point, however, would require a separate article.

References

Abrahamsen, Rita & Michael Williams, 2006. ‘Privatisation, Globalisation and the Politics of Protection in South Africa’, in Jef Huysmans, Andrew Dobson & Raia Prokhovnik, eds, *The Politics of Protection: Sites of Insecurity and Political Agency*. London: Routledge (34—47).

[Google Scholar](#)

Bigo, Didier, 2003. ‘Editorial — Les entreprises de coercition para-privées: des nouveaux mercenaires?’ [Introduction: Para-Private Coercion Companies: The New Mercenaries?], *Cultures & Conflits* 52(4): 5—10.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Bodie, Zvie & Robert Merton, 1999. *Finance*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

[Google Scholar](#)

Bogardus, John, 2003. *Spreading the Risks: Insuring the American Experience*. Chevy Chase, MD: Posterity.

[Google Scholar](#)

Briggs, Rachel, 2001. 'The Kidnapping Business'. London: The Foreign Policy Centre; available at <http://fp.c.org.uk/fsblob/46.pdf> (19 November 2006)

[Google Scholar](#)

Callon, Michel, 1998. *The Laws of the Markets*. Oxford: Blackwell.

[Google Scholar](#)

Campbell, David, 2005. The Biopolitics of Security: Oil, Empire, and the Sports Utility Vehicle. *American Quarterly* 57(3): 943—972.

[Crossref](#)

[Web of Science](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Chubb, 2006. 'Executive Protection Portfolio Kidnap/Ransom & Extortion Insurance'; available at <http://www.w.chubb.com/businesses/csi/chubb819.html> (accessed 19 November 2006).

[Google Scholar](#)

Clark, Geoffrey, 1999. *Betting on Lives: The Culture of Life Insurance in England, 1695—1775*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

[Google Scholar](#)

Clayton, Thomas, 2005. 'Companies Expanding Abroad Must Protect Employees', *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*; available at <http://www.allbusiness.com/northamerica/united-states-california/523842-1.html> (accessed 19 November 2006).

[Google Scholar](#)

Control Risks Group (CRG), 'Incident Response Website', available at <http://www.crg.com/Default.aspx?page=412> (19 November 2006)

[Google Scholar](#)

Daston, Lorraine, 1988. *Classical Probability in the Enlightenment*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

[Google Scholar](#)

Deleuze, Gilles, 1999. 'What Is a Dispositif?', in Timothy Armstrong, ed., *Michel Foucault: Philosopher*. New York: Routledge.

[Google Scholar](#)

Dickson, Gordon C. A. & John T. Steele, 1984. *Introduction to Insurance*, 2nd edn. London: Pitman.

[Google Scholar](#)
Dillon, Michael, 2005. 'Cared to Death: The Biopoliticised Time of Your Life', *Foucault Studies* 1(2): 37—46.

[Google Scholar](#)

Dillon, Michael, forthcoming. 'Governing Through Contingency: The Security of Biopolitical Governance', *Political Geography* 8(3).

[Google Scholar](#)

Dillon, Michael & Luis Lobo-Guerrero, 2006. 'The Biopolitical Imaginary of Species Being and the Freedom To Underwrite in the Molecular Age', paper presented at the workshop 'Mapping the Bioeconomy', Lancaster University, 27 April.

[Google Scholar](#)

Easen, Nick, 2004. 'Kidnapping and Ransom on the Rise', CNN; available at <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/02/19/biz.trav.kidnap/index.html> (accessed 19 November 2006).

[Google Scholar](#)

Ericson, Richard & Aaron Doyle, 2003. 'Risk and Morality', in Richard Ericson & Aaron Doyle, eds, *Risk and Morality*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press (1—10).

[Google Scholar](#)

Ericson, Richard; Aaron Doyle & Barry Dean, 2003. *Insurance as Governance*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

[Google Scholar](#)

Ewald, François, 1999. 'Genetics, Insurance and Risk', in Tony McGleenan, Ulrich Weising & François Ewald, eds, *Genetics and Insurance*. Oxford: BIOS (17—34).

[Google Scholar](#)

Foucault, Michel, 1994. 'The Political Technology of Individuals', in James D. Faubion, ed., *Michel Foucault: Power*. London: Allen Lane/ Penguin Press (403—417).

[Google Scholar](#)

Foucault, Michel, 2003. *Society Must Be Defended*. London: Penguin.

[Google Scholar](#)

Foucault, Michel, 2004. *Naissance de la biopolitique [The Birth of Biopolitics]*. Paris: Hautes Etudes/Seuil Gallimard.

[Google Scholar](#)

Foucault, Michel, 2007. *Security, Territory, Population, 1977—1978: Lectures at the College de France*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

[Google Scholar](#)

García Márquez, Gabriel, 1996. *Noticia de un Secuestro [News of a Kidnapping]*. Barcelona: Grijalbo Mondadori.

[Google Scholar](#)

Gigerenzer, Gerd, 2002. *Reckoning with Risk: Learning How To Live With Uncertainty*. London: Penguin.

[Google Scholar](#)

Hacking, Ian, 1975. *The Emergence of Probability*. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press.

[Google Scholar](#)

Hacking, Ian, 1986. 'Making Up People', in Thomas Heller, Morton Sosna & David Wellbery, eds, *Reconstructing Individualism*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press (222—236).

[Google Scholar](#)

Hacking, Ian, 2003. 'Risk and Dirt', in Richard Ericson & Aaron Doyle, eds, *Risk and Morality*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press (22—47).

[Google Scholar](#)

Hendriks, Fredrick, [1661/1850] 2000. 'Cleirac's Notes on Kidnap and Ransom Insurance in Seventeenth-Century France', cited in Fredrick Hendricks, ed., 'Contributions to the History of Insurance', reprinted in David Jenkins & Takau Yoneyama, eds, *History of Insurance*. London: Pickering & Chatto (37—38).

[Google Scholar](#)

Kroll, 2006. 'Kidnap for Ransom', brochure; available at <http://www.kroll.com/library/brochures/Kidnap%20for%20Ransom.pdf> (accessed 21 May 2007).

[Google Scholar](#)

Norwich Union, 2006. 'Pay as You Drive Insurance'; available at <http://www.norwichunion.com/pay-as-you-drive/> (accessed 19 November 2006).

[Google Scholar](#)

Olsson, Christian, 2003. 'Vrais procès et faux débats: perspectives critiques sur les argumentaires de légitimation des entreprises de coercition para-privées' [True Trials and False Debates: Critical Perspectives on the Legitimizing Discourses of Para-Private Military Companies], *Cultures & Conflits* 52: 11—48.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Petersen International Underwriters (PIU), 2002. 'A Kidnap and Ransom Insurance Plan: The Epic Plan 1'; available at: http://www.piu.org/applications/Epic_050106.pdf (accessed 20 May 2007).

[Google Scholar](#)

Poitras, Geoffrey, 2000. *The Early History of Financial Economics, 1478—1776*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

[Google Scholar](#)

Power, Michael, 1997. *The Audit Society: Rituals of Verification*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[Google Scholar](#)

Power, Michael, 2003. 'Risk Management and the Responsible Organisation', in Richard Ericson & Aaron Doyle, eds, *Risk and Morality*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press (145—164).

[Google Scholar](#)

Power, Michael, 2004. *The Risk Management of Everything: Rethinking the Politics of Uncertainty*. London: Demos.

[Google Scholar](#)

Rabinow, Paul & Nikolas Rose, 2006. 'Biopower Today', *Biosocieties* 1(2): 195—218.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Rice, Anita, 2005. 'Captive Market', *BBC News Magazine*; available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/4650840.stm> (accessed 19 November 2006).

[Google Scholar](#)

Roper, Carl, 1999. *Risk Management for Security Professionals*. Woburn, MA: Butterworth—Heinemann

[Google Scholar](#)

Smith, Robert Sidney, 1941. 'Life Insurance in Fifteenth-Century Barcelona', *Journal of Economic History* 1(1) 57—59.

[Crossref](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

Trenerry, C.F., 1926. *The Origin and Early History of Insurance, Including the Contract of Bottomry*. London: P. S. King & Son.

[Google Scholar](#)

Vranckx, An, 2001. 'Private Security Services in the Colombian Context'. Antwerp: International Peace Information Service; available at http://www.ipisresearch.be/publications_report.php (accessed 19 November 2006).

[Google Scholar](#)

Wong, Angie, 2004. 'Insurers Meet Rising Demand for Kidnap and Ransom Insurance', Columbia News Service, 15 March; available at <http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/studentwork/cns/2004-03-15/644.asp> (accessed 19 November 2006).

[Google Scholar](#)

Similar articles:



Restricted access

[Kidnap & Ransom Insurance: A Rapidly Growing Benefit](#)

Show Details ▾



Restricted access

[Underwriting Security](#)

Show Details ▾



Restricted access

[Kidnapping in Taiwan: The Significance of Geographic Proximity, Improvisation, and Fluidity](#)

Show Details ▾

[View More](#)

Sage recommends:

SAGE Knowledge

Entry

[Kidnapping](#)

Show Details ▾

SAGE Knowledge

Book chapter

[Power](#)

Show Details ▾

SAGE Knowledge

Book chapter

[Personal Security](#)

Show Details ▾

[View More](#)

You currently have no access to this content. Visit the [access options](#) page to authenticate.

[Download PDF](#)

Also from Sage

CQ Library

Elevating debate

Sage Data

Uncovering insight

Sage Business Cases

Shaping futures

Sage Campus

Unleashing potential

Sage Knowledge

Multimedia learning resources

Sage Research Methods

Supercharging research

Sage Video

Streaming knowledge

Technology from Sage

Library digital services