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Seeing Like a Citizen: Understanding Public Views of Biometrics

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Abstract:	<p>Despite its controversial history and the significant diffusion of biometrics from institutional settings such as border control and policing, to everyday use in commerce and personal devices, biometrics is now being re-positioned as a neutral means to safeguard identity in the digital world. Given this proliferation of uses we argue that understanding perceptions of biometrics amongst ordinary citizens is necessary and long overdue. Situating our analysis in the wider context of the views of governmental and biometric industry experts, we deploy Q-methodology in combination with political discourse analysis to examine the range of positions that have crystallized in ordinary discourse on issues arising from the use of biometrics for identification. Our analysis uncovers four distinctive configurations that put into question a simplistic trade-off between security and privacy that dominates government and industry discourse, and underlines the importance of going beyond a narrow view of technology 'users' to understand the political and social concerns that arise with and shape the uses of technology in contemporary society</p>

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Seeing like a citizen:

Understanding public views of biometrics¹

Introduction

In 2004, Giorgio Agamben (2004), a renowned political philosopher, cancelled an academic visit to New York, refusing to go through US border-control procedures involving extensive use of biometrics. More than a decade later, refusing to travel does not protect one from being biometrically identified; the use of biometrics now extends far beyond policing and border control into multiple areas of everyday life. More physiological features are being used as biometric identifiers to identify people across physical and digital contexts. Fingerprints and retina scans are incorporated into personal devices such as laptops and smart phones, and their use is being explored in the banking industry. Face recognition is extensively employed in on-line social networks (Authors 2017); and new forms of biometrics, such as gait and brainwave analysis, are used in consumer electronics to help cultivate healthier lifestyles.

In this article, we examine public views of the use of biometrics for identity management. Our aim is to bring the voices of the lay public back into a debate that has been dominated by security experts and technical policy reports that take little notice of public views. We seek to capture and analyse citizen reflection on this complex policy issue, and to make visible the distinct patterns into which ordinary views of the use of biometrics crystallise (Danielson et al., 2012). We focus on the

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3 growing use of biometrics in everyday contexts, as well as in institutional settings
4 (e.g. border control, policing). As these new technologies are rapidly altering the
5 economy of rights and duties in society, the need for direct engagement with citizens
6 increases (Callon et al., 2009). We use Q-methodology in conjunction with political
7 discourse analysis (PDA) to capture the full range of viewpoints on the varied uses of
8 biometrics in public life. This combination of methods allows us to provide a unique
9 perspective on public views of biometrics. In contrast to survey methods, we do not
10 seek to collect and aggregate individual views on biometrics. Rather, the combination
11 of discourse analysis and Q method allows us to capture specific subject positions
12 (Foucault) drawn from the available range of discourses on a topic, with which
13 individuals can identify. Thus, using Q method we analyse both the breadth of debate
14 on an issue (concourse), and the distribution of preferences and the distinctive
15 patterns in which they coagulate, situated within the context of the wider discourses
16 generated by actors such as governments, policy-making and civil society
17 organisations. This approach further enables us to move beyond the technological
18 aspects of biometrics to broader concerns over digital citizenship in a context in
19 which citizens as right-bearers are affected by an ever-more widespread use of
20 biometrics in public and private life.

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42 Our approach significantly departs from existing academic research in this
43 domain. The post 9/11 rapid introduction of biometrics into border control settings
44 linked them to controversial efforts to restrict civic rights in Western democracies in
45 the light of terrorist threats (Bigo, 2005; Magnet, 2011; Muller, 2004), and more
46 recently, in the context of immigration policy. As a result, debate has centred on the
47 trade-off between the need for security and the right to privacy. Despite the fact that
48 even in democratic societies security often trumps privacy, remarkably little effort has
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3 been put into challenging the usefulness of these trade-offs for structuring debate and
4 policy-making. Concentration on input from security experts, in the wake of an
5 almost complete lack of research on the views of ordinary citizens (Fischer, 2009;
6 Callon et al., 2009, p.9) and on individual views on privacy (e.g. Madden and Rainie,
7 2015), has led to a lack of research that situates citizens' views on the uses of
8 biometrics in wider contexts that would foster more active engagement with the lay
9 public in policy making (Omand, 2010, p.73). Similarly, a large number of industry-
10 led studies on biometrics analyse public opinion on biometrics (IBIA), focuses largely
11 on the user-acceptance of specific technologies, without seeking to understand the
12 impact of technology transfers from a security to an everyday context (see Authors,
13 2017).

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27 In our view, these problems can be attributed to the implicit assumption, by
28 both proponents and critics of biometrics, that the public is not sufficiently informed
29 to negotiate conflicting demands arising from the impact of technological change on
30 their lives (Lanier, 2014). By contrast, we start from the presupposition that citizens
31 are capable of expressing nuanced views that allow for sophisticated engagement with
32 the range of issues at stake here. In this respect our work falls within a wider turn to
33 the 'everyday' and a focus on 'vernacular' constructions of security (Vaughan-
34 Williams and Stevens, 2015), whilst seeking also to go beyond a securitization frame.
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Our study makes visible how citizens understand biometrics and their uses across a
range of situations, without reducing them to zero-sum trade-offs between security
and privacy, on the one hand, or treating them as isolated technologies on the other.

Our approach is further distinctive in the emphasis it places on how
'biometrics' is understood and given meaning in and through available discourses that
shape what biometric technologies may legitimately be used for, what the role of the

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3 state and the private sector in the use and promotion of biometrics is, and what the
4
5 legitimate scope for contestation around these uses are. In this respect, our approach
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7 resonates strongly with work on the co-production of technologies and their
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9 embedding in social identities, institutions and discourses (Jasanoff, 2004). In seeking
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11 to understand citizens' views on the uses of biometrics we need to know how
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13 biometrics are represented in wider institutional discourses, and what 'specific
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15 assumptions, judgments, contentions, dispositions, and capabilities' these discourses
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17 embody (Dryzek and Niemeyer, 2008, pp. 481-2). Drawing on political discourse
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19 analysis (PDA) (author 2009), we start from the supposition that discourses –
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21 understood as the meanings and practices associated with a given domain that
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23 together denote a particular way of apprehending the world, 'enabling those who
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25 subscribe to it to interpret bits of information and put them together into coherent
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27 stories' (Dryzek, 1997, p.8) - both enable and constrain thought, speech and action -
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29 what we say as well as what we do (Author, 2000). They are constitutive of horizons
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31 of meaning, and offer positions with which individuals and groups may identify, and
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33 that may be contested (Author, 2012).
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37 Our findings indicate a broad spectrum of citizen views on biometrics that
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39 goes beyond the aforementioned security vs. privacy trade-off. Views crystallise into
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41 four nuanced subject positions, reflecting awareness of the technological possibilities
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43 of biometrics but also of the political issues at stake in their deployment in various
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45 contexts. Each of these positions draws on wider discursive representations of
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47 biometrics in public discourse - analysed in the next section - but represent a
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49 distinctive perspective crystallised around a specific combination of concerns. In this
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51 respect, our work contributes to policy analysis (March and Olsen 1995, p.6; Fischer,
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53 2009, p.248) that emphasizes the importance of discursive practices, in addition to
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3 more formal rules, in shaping the frameworks within which citizens, experts and
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5 officials act.
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9 **Discursive representations of biometrics**

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11 The documentation of individual identity has historically been closely linked to
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13 practices associated with citizenship, and continues to be so. Governments use a
14
15 variety of bureaucratic, obligatory practices to turn their populations into ‘legible
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17 people’ (Scott, 1998; Noiriel, 2001) However, the establishment of such ‘regimes of
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19 representation’ (Caplan & Torpey, 2001, p.8) is not straightforward. ‘Identity’ is
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21 difficult to stabilise even in the most regimented systems of documentation (Caplan,
22
23 2001, p.51). It requires a rigorous set of bureaucratic procedures to record and
24
25 maintain identity-related information. At the same time, it is political as it constitutes
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27 people as political subjects with specific rights and duties, and involves moments of
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29 resistance from individuals and social groups, for instance, contesting the specific
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31 categories of information, included in or omitted from the official documentation of
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33 identity (LSE, 2005; Molokotos-Liederman, 2007).
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37 With industry, governments engage in practices that govern the complex ways
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39 in which individuals and groups behave their producing and consuming activities
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41 (Tully, 2008 II, 3; Author, 2014). From a governmental perspective, biometrics are
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43 portrayed as technological solutions that aid the streamlining of mechanisms for
44
45 collecting, codifying and verifying citizen identity (Mansfield, 2003; Home
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47 Office/UK Border Agency, 2010; Home Office, 2002; IPSC, 2006; Misuraca and
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49 Lusoli, 2010). The technological excellence of biometrics constitutes the core
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51 argument in favour of their use in a growing number of government activities ranging
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53 from border control to the collection of social benefits (Magnet 2011; Liberty Global,
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3 2012). Here biometric technologies are used to stabilize personal identity in two
4 ways: as a means of accurately verifying subjective claims of identity, and as a means
5 to eliminate discrepancies between identity tokens, used as proofs of such claims, and
6 government apparatuses that curates formal identification systems. This is achieved
7 by tracing individual identity back to physiological signs (fingerprints, iris, voice, and
8 so on) through a process that transforms the body into an identity token against which
9 subjective claims of identity can be read (Van der Ploeg, 1999). Focussing
10 identification procedures on the human body allows individuals to be identified
11 without the need for written documents such as passports and identity cards, and is
12 argued to safeguard formal identification systems from human error as it automates
13 every stage of the process. As the IBIA (2013, p.1) argues: ‘What makes modern
14 biometric use highly effective is technology that enables precise measurement
15 coupled with computational power that allows measurements to be ... converted to
16 unique and secure identifiers that are easily used to determine and protect a person’s
17 true identity.’ To this end, biometrics promise to establish procedures that can
18 irrevocably identify citizens, granting them access to their rights and preventing them
19 from claiming benefits to which they are not entitled.

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40 Representations of biometrics in industry discourses (BI, 2013; IBIA, 2013 &
41 the Joint Research Centre EU) also emphasize the infallibility of these technologies,
42 portraying biometrics as the endpoint of a long evolutionary path of identification
43 technologies. An IBIA (2013, 1) white paper on biometrics exemplifies this trend:
44 ‘Contrary to popular belief, biometrics is not new ... Man has used biometrics
45 throughout recorded history to uniquely identify individuals, starting with the first
46 handprint “signatures” of authors of paintings on cave walls over 30,000 years ago.’
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54 Older practices (i.e. using thumbprints) are retrospectively recast as biometrics; a
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3 Homeland Security & Defense Business Council (2011) document similarly starts
4 with a historical account of the use of biometrics to prevent fraud in 1882. This
5 strategy seeks to alleviate fears that more advanced technological solutions will alter
6 underlying social practices; biometrics are portrayed as ‘merely’ automating historical
7 forms of identification. The biometrics industry further annexes other images to this
8 evolutionary view: new technologies are presented as ‘neutral,’ able to counter threats
9 in the digital world and even to empower users (Ernst & Young, 2011; Accenture,
10 2006). Driven by the need for convenience, the idea of biometrics as a value-neutral
11 tool underwrites the diffusion of biometrics into contexts far beyond border control.
12 Biometrics are presented as the ‘natural’ solution to the trouble people have with
13 remembering multiple passwords.
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26 The use of technology that purports to read the truth from a body is not simply
27 a bureaucratic choice. It is a political issue of some significance. This is why
28 academic research has been very critical of governmental policies (Agamben, 1998;
29 Aradau, 2008). Transforming the body into a series of digital signs that can be
30 combined with other data in order to profile the population, changes our bio-political
31 relationship with the state (Agamben, 2004; Fisher, 2015). Hence, it is argued that
32 biometrics compress complex social relationships, reducing identity to a series of
33 algorithms that can irrevocably identify a person without having to rely on cultural
34 cues, deemed inefficient and possibly erroneous (Muller, 2004). As bodies become
35 ‘biometrifiable’ citizenship is increasingly stripped of its symbolic and cultural
36 attributes (Magnet, 2011, p.280), leaving us with a purely instrumental conception of
37 what it means to belong to a specific state and its allocated territory. The politics of
38 population movements is gradually transformed into a bureaucratic exercise (Amoore,
39 2006; Bigo, 1998), and techniques initially reserved for ‘deviant’ social groups, such
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3 as fingerprinting, are now migrated to larger parts of the population, becoming normal
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5 practice (Jumb et al., 2015).
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8 9 **Beyond governance as control**

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11 These approaches and critiques fall short in two important respects. First, focussing
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13 on biometrics exclusively as governmental technology to control populations offers
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15 limited scope to make sense of the proliferation of biometrics in everyday life. It
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17 specifically fails to address the incorporation of biometrics into consumer devices and
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19 on-line media (Authors 2017), which is at the root of growing societal excitement
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21 about new technologies and the new forms of social and political interaction they
22
23 foster (Bennett and Segerberg, 2013). The focus of existing research on identity as a
24
25 formal transaction between citizens and the state, where biometrics are primarily
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27 examined in contexts such as borders and where safety is of primary importance (Aas,
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29 2006, p.144), do not capture these new developments. However, it is precisely such
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31 uses that require scrutiny regarding their repercussions for citizenship as they expand
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33 the use of biometrics to everyday contexts. They raise significant issues concerning
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35 the boundaries between politics and bureaucracy, the actors to be held accountable
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37 when collecting biometric information and the economy of rights and duties shaping
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39 citizenship in digital environments.
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44 This brings us to the second sense in which existing analyses, critical or not,
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46 falls short. Arguably more fundamentally, extant work typically rests on a passive
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48 view of subjectivity: citizens are viewed as objects of state policy, rather than active
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50 participants who are able to consent, contest, and change identity management
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52 practices (incorporating all of the ways in which we identify ourselves online and in
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54 everyday life). In this we concur with Vaughan-Williams and Stevens (2015) on the
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3 importance of understanding citizens' views in relation to policy rhetoric. Our
4 approach further allows us to see how citizens draw on available discourses and
5 construct a range of clearly discernable positions on biometrics that undercuts the
6 security/privacy dichotomy.
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11 Our approach challenges both the limited focus of the domains in which
12 biometrics are deployed, and the passive view of subjectivity on which it rests. We
13 focus on more recent developments of biometrics, including their use in personal
14 devices (such as phones and laptops) and in commerce (e.g. workplace time-clocks
15 and methods of access), as well as on traditional uses of biometrics. In addition to this
16 wider empirical lens, we also seek to 'bring citizens back in.' Existing user research
17 tends to concentrate narrowly on the usability of specific technologies. (For a critical
18 overview, see IMPRINTS 2014, pp.7-9.) By contrast, we are interested in the views
19 of users as citizens rather than narrowly as general users of commercial products. This
20 leads to an analysis of wider issues associated with biometrics, to consider how
21 citizens understand, respond to and shape their environments, how they view the
22 relation between security and privacy, and what their demands are in terms of
23 accountability and consent, in both commercial and non-commercial contexts.
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40 Hence, our focus is on the ways in which ordinary citizens actively make
41 sense of and challenge the views expressed by dominant authorities, as well as on the
42 need to take these views into consideration in the policy-making process. Combining
43 Q method and PDA allows us to capture empirically the distinctive subject positions
44 articulated by citizens, drawn from these wider discursive representations of
45 biometrics. As noted earlier, in contrast to survey methodologies our analytical focus
46 is on the discursive positions articulated by ordinary citizens against the backdrop of a
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3 horizon of meanings generated by actors such as governments, policy-making and
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5 civil society organisations.
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8 9 **Research design and method**

10 11 12 *Combining Q-method and discourse analysis*

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15 Q methodology, first introduced in political science by Dryzek and Berejikian (1993),
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17 is now widely used in public administration and policy studies to understand how
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19 government policies are perceived by public servants who implement them (Jeffares
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21 and Skelcher, 2011), as well as by citizens as their recipients (Willis and Jeffares,
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23 2011). The benefits of the method lay in its logic of abduction (Watts and Stenner,
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25 2005), also shared by PDA (Glynos and Howarth, 2007), which favours the
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27 generation of themes by the research subjects rather than the analyst, endeavouring to
28
29 make visible the primary ways in which themes are ‘interconnected or otherwise
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31 related by a group of participants’ (Brown, 1980 & 1993). This procedure fits well
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33 with our emphasis on the discursive representations of biometrics and the need to
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35 understand the particular meanings given to biometrics in different contexts and by
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37 different actors. To capture the way in which particular meanings are woven together
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39 into distinctive positions, we draw on the discourse theoretical account of
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41 ‘articulation’ developed by Laclau and Mouffe. When discursive elements are
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43 articulated together, the meanings of all the elements are altered as a result (Laclau &
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45 Mouffe, 1985). It follows that views of ‘biometrics’ will differ depending on the
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47 wider discursive contexts of use in which they are inserted. The use of Q
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49 methodology helps us to reveal the dominant viewpoints on biometrics as articulated
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51 by ordinary citizens in a systematic, holistic fashion (Brown, 1993; Watts and
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3 Stenner, 2012, p.42). This is achieved ‘by modelling subjects in terms of their
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5 reactions to a set of statements about a given domain’ (Dryzek and Berejikian, 1990,
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7 p.50). In this way the method enables us to trace the manner in which specific subject
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9 positions are crystallized from an available horizon of meanings, revealing the ways
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11 citizens collectively make sense of biometrics and their uses.
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14 The use of this combination of methods adds value both to Q methodology
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16 and to PDA. The theoretical resources of PDA furnish Q method with a more
17
18 sophisticated understanding of both the breadth of discussion, and the actors’
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20 viewpoints on the topic under discussion. PDA makes visible the fact that the
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22 concourse is not simply a given set of discrete statements, but a discursive horizon
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24 that shapes and sets limits to what can be done within a given terrain. As noted above,
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26 on this account ‘biometrics’ is not simply a neutral terrain of techniques deployed for
27
28 the purposes of identity management. How it is understood depends upon the precise
29
30 meanings attributed to, and practices associated with it, by a wide range of actors,
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32 including governments, commercial and civil society organisations. PDA also
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34 provides Q method with a theoretically robust understanding of subjectivity. Q
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36 method rejects the behaviourist view that subjectivity is something merely mental or
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38 inner, unrelated to the world (Watts and Stenner, 2012, p.19). PDA supplements this
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40 work with an account of subjectivity as discursively constituted, rather than as given.
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42 Drawing on Foucault, we take ‘subject position’ as incorporating ‘both a conceptual
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44 repertoire and a location for persons within the structure of rights for those that use
45
46 that repertoire. As Davies and Harre (1990, p.46) put it,
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51 Once having taken up a particular position as one’s own, a person inevitably
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53 sees the world from the vantage point of that position and in terms for the
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3 particular images, metaphors, storylines and concepts which are made relevant
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5 within the discursive practice in which they are positioned.
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7 The factors extracted by Q method – the common or shared meanings crystallizing
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9 from the analysis – constitute specific subject positions, that is, places from which
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11 individuals can speak and act.² Conversely, Q method supplements PDA by providing
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13 a robust scientific method with which to capture empirically and analyse
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15 quantitatively the dominant social viewpoints with which individual can identify.
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20 *Research design: establishing the concourse and Q sample*
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22 Jeffares and Skelcher summarise the essence of Q methodology as follows: ‘each
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24 participant in the sample (the P sample) sorts a series of statements (a Q sample)
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26 representative of the breadth of debate on an issue (the concourse) into a distribution
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28 of preference (a Q sort) from which statistically significant factors are derived and
29
30 then interpreted’ (Jeffares and Skelcher, 2011, p.1253).
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33 The starting point for any Q study is the selection of statements to be ordered
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35 by participants. These statements need to be representative of the wider horizon of
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37 discourses – the concourse - on the chosen topic of inquiry; Stephenson (1988, p.9)
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39 appropriately describes this as the ‘cultural heritage’ forming ‘the fertile soil from
40
41 which new subjectivity grows’. The concourse reflects the volume of discussion on
42
43 this topic (Brown, 1986, p.58; Watts and Stenner, 2012, p.34) that may include
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45 interviews with relevant participants (Jeffares, 2011, p.1257), focus groups, analysis
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47 of academic, media and other texts (Dryzek and Berijikian, 1993). Our concourse is
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51 ² Watts and Stenner (2012, 42) equates individual Q-sorts with expressions of subject
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53 positions. In our view, the factors extracted as a result of the analysis represent
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55 subject positions in the sense in which Foucault uses the term.
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3 formed by the available representations of biometrics in institutional discourses,
4 including governmental, industry, civil society and academic discourses – discussed
5 above. We analysed government reports from the Department of Homeland Security,
6 the UK Cabinet Office, the Home Office as well as committees from both Houses, EU
7 commissioned documents and reports, industry promotional material and white
8 papers, think tank reports, civil society reports on surveillance and privacy, press
9 articles and finally academic literature on biometrics, surveillance, identity and
10 privacy (see Appendix A). This allowed us to select statements capturing the specific
11 language in which discourses on biometrics are articulated. The concourse consisted
12 of 170 statements related to various uses of biometrics for digital identification. The
13 next stage consisted in narrowing these statements down into our Q sample.
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26 The use of classification matrices as heuristic devices for selecting statements
27 is well established in Q studies (e.g. Jeffares and Skelcher, 2011; Sullivan, Williams,
28 and Jeffares 2011). We adapted Dryzek and Berekian's classification scheme,
29 combining the types of argumentative claims made - definitive (concerning the
30 meaning of terms), designative (concerning questions of fact), evaluative (concerning
31 something's worth) or advocative (concerning what should or should not exist) - with
32 the identified discourse elements (1993, 51). The discourse elements identified do not
33 constitute categories defined in *a priori* fashion by the researcher; rather they are
34 themes that emerged from the collected materials. The elements we identified are:
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46 1. **Identity** refers to a focus on the use of the human body for identification. It
47 also covers issues related to the assurance of individual identity through biometric
48 technologies.
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2. **Empowerment** captures issues relating to data usage and control of data. It also includes issues relating to the ease of use of biometric technologies, seen as a means to empower citizens.
3. **Security** contains statements on the use of biometrics for border control and policing. Issues revolve mainly around the safety of biometrics as digital records, their ability to irrevocably identify individuals and their effectiveness in battling identity fraud and terrorism.
4. **Accountability** explores the types of actors (e.g. government, industry) that should be held accountable of the various issues of biometrics. The possibility of function creep arising from the collection of biometric data is a key concern.
5. **Surveillance** focuses on the possibility to monitor public spaces without consent as well as the intrusiveness of biometric technologies in work settings and in private activities.

Once the matrix was created all the statements were classified into the various categories through an iterative process. Initially, each researcher classified the statements on her own. Classifications were compared until a consensus was reached. In selecting the 50 statements for the Q sample, we were mindful of obtaining a balance between the plurality of themes and types of argument, and avoiding duplication of meanings and issues.

Research design: the P-sample and sorting

In deciding on the number of participants, we followed the standard guideline of 40-60 participants. Our selection rationale focused on using individuals representing mobile respondents, in tune with current developments in technology, politics and society in general. Our P sample consisted of 60 student respondents, including 30

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3 respondents from UK/EU and Overseas (non-EU) countries each, and an equal gender
4 distribution.³ For the sorting stage, an on-line tool POETQ, reflecting the card-based
5 process, was used. This facilitated participation and increased responses making the
6 sorting process less time consuming (Jeffares and Skelcher, 2011). Participants ranked
7 the 50 statements from +5 (most agree) to -5 (most disagree) using a forced ranked
8 distribution (inverted pyramid shape). On completion of the Q-sorts, the participants
9 were asked to comment on how they ranked the statements especially the ones at +/-5
10 and +/-4. These explanations contributed to selecting the factor solution but also to
11 interpreting the subject positions represented by each factor.
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24 *Factor analysis*

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26 The responses (Q-sorts) were correlated and then analysed through a by-person factor
27 analysis that reveals correlated groups of statement preferences. We used PQMethod
28 2.33 (Schmolck, 2014) to carry out the statistical analysis. Participants with a loading
29 of 0.36 and above were flagged for a varimax rotation to maximize the loading in
30 each factor. The choice of the varimax rotation ensured that the factors selected as the
31 final solution only contained Q-sorts that were highly correlated with each other and
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40 ³ The broad selection of participants also worked against an overly northern-
41 hemisphere focus. As is common practice, respondents were offered an incentive to
42 participate in the study. The Q sort was administered to participants in a PC lab,
43 ensuring completion of the sort under similar conditions. The availability of specific
44 technologies at the time (2013) are not particularly crucial, as the design of the study
45 was not limited to a focus on existing technologies, but rather on the possibilities for
46 empowerment, scrutiny etc. opened up in principle by biometric identification
47 technologies.
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3 that were uncorrelated with the remaining Q-sorts (Brown, 1993). We selected four
4 factors as our final solution as this offered a nuanced view of citizens, favouring a
5 context-driven assessment of the use of biometrics. (In a three factor solution this
6 detail was lost offering instead indications of possible acceptance of biometrics
7 according to circumstances.) All factors had eigenvalues greater than 1.0 and at least
8 one Q sort loaded significantly on the factor. Table 1 presents the factor correlations,
9 the number of Q sorts significantly loading on each factors and the level of variance
10 explained by each factor.
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22 **Table 1** [here]
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26 The four factors together explained 47% of the study variance.⁴ They were selected as
27 the best solution since they revealed views on the topic which showed how existing
28 dilemmas (wholeheartedly rejecting vs uncritically accepting biometrics) in public
29 discourse were overcome in practice. At this stage the task of the researcher is that of
30 interpretation, of ‘understanding the character of these synthesized factors based on
31 the placing of statements’ (Jeffares et al, 2011, p.1258). Table 2 below presents the
32 resulting factor arrays: a single Q sort per factor is configured to represent the ‘ideal’
33 viewpoint expressed by the particular factor. The statements used to create these
34 ‘ideal’ Q sorts are those that statistically distinguish the discourse from other factors
35 at the $P < 0.01$ or 99% confidence level.
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53 ⁴ Anything around 35-40% is considered a sound solution on the basis of common
54 factors (Watts and Stenner, 2012, p.105).
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3 **Table 2** [here]
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7 **Results – The factors**
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9 The analysis of the Q sorts identified four distinctive discursive configurations or
10 subject positions relating to the use of biometrics for managing digital identities.
11 These viewpoints represent particular articulations of the elements present in the
12 existing discursive horizon. Theoretically this reflects the relational conception of
13 meaning underpinning PDA: each element does not have an inherent, essential
14 meaning, but gains its meaning from the way in which it is combined with other
15 elements (Howarth, 2009, p.311). This is particularly clear in our analysis that shows
16 that while each of the four subject positions display a concern with privacy, they
17 significantly diverge on other issues. There is only one statistically significant
18 consensus statement (41) referring to the possibility of linking personal data from
19 various databases through biometric identifiers. This shows a concern with the use of
20 biometric data that is shared across all citizen viewpoints. The participants, depending
21 on their understanding of biometrics, arranged the rest of the statements differently,
22 revealing an interesting variety of views on the uses of biometrics. These views range
23 from the overtly sceptical *Privacy Advocates* (Factor A) who express serious concerns
24 about the use of biometrics for identification to *Casual Adopters* (Factor D) who
25 espouse an easy-going instrumental use of biometrics, treating them as a
26 technological solution to a variety of identity-related issues. Between these two
27 viewpoints, there are *Conservative Techies* (Factor B) and *Safety Champions* (Factor
28 C) who express more nuanced views on biometrics. *Conservative Techies* focus
29 primarily on uses of biometrics that allow them to safeguard their personal devices
30 (e.g. smartphones, laptops) while *Safety Champions* favour uses of biometrics for
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3 access control to secure places. Below we outline each factor, representing a version
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5 of views on biometrics. Numbers in parentheses refer to the statements & their
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7 weightings.
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11 *Factor A: Privacy Advocates*
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14 With each new development in biometric technology, users have less control over
15
16 their data, not knowing when, where and why it is used (31: +4). People can be
17
18 identified without their consent, and quite often, without their knowledge (42: +4).
19
20 Remote biometrics, like face and gait recognition (3: +2), intensify this lack of control
21
22 on behalf of citizens raising concerns about bodily integrity too. Privacy, as we know
23
24 it, is coming to an end (7: +5, 50: +1). People are caught in a world where nothing is
25
26 forgotten as personal data can be linked irrevocably to individuals (38: +1). When it
27
28 comes to the management of digital identities, the body should not be seen as a
29
30 natural password (4: 0). On the contrary, people should be in control of how their data
31
32 is collected, stored and used (37: +3). Most importantly, they must have the right to
33
34 opt-out from services, preventing collection of personal information (1: +3). Intrusive
35
36 uses like biometric time clocks in industry or face recognition in social media (5: -3,
37
38 19: -4) affecting individual freedom (44: +4) should be avoided. To counterbalance
39
40 state surveillance, citizens need to be more active. They have the right to record
41
42 police action on their smart phones and to circulate it on social media (32:+1). They
43
44 should also use any device, such as privacy visors, that protect them from
45
46 unauthorized identification while in public (30: 0). Finally, government arguments in
47
48 favour of biometrics for efficiency and convenience need to be carefully scrutinized
49
50 (35: -5). The promotion of more individualistic models of social life, as all devices
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3 will be bound to their owner, undermines community (14: 0) and paves the way for
4
5 increased monitoring of the population (28: -3, 26: -3).
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9 *Factor B: Conservative Techies*
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11 Our bodies are like natural passwords that we all carry with us at all times (4: +5),
12
13 making biometrics a good alternative to the growing number of identification
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15 paraphernalia, such as PINs, that people need to memorise (6: +3). Biometrics seem
16
17 to be a great way to safeguard personal devices (e.g. mobile phones) from loss or theft
18
19 (12: +2). Moreover, they can be used in time clocks to allow companies to have better
20
21 control of their labour force (5: 0). However, people should be wary of the possibility
22
23 of extensive profiling. It is for this reason that biometrics should not be used in
24
25 domestic settings (18: -3) since they have the potential to disclose sensitive
26
27 information about their users' habits. The same applies to the use of face recognition
28
29 software in mobile devices and social media (43: -3). However, biometrics are still
30
31 seen as a particularly promising technology for security purposes. They are not
32
33 infallible, since they involve a range of human decisions (23: +4), but, they do help
34
35 governments to effectively lock foreign nationals into their identity (28: 0). Given
36
37 this, citizens should be supportive of instead of jeopardizing biometric technologies
38
39 by recording police action during demonstrations (32: -3) or altering their facial
40
41 features with headwear (30: -5). Biometrics are not about state surveillance (45: -3).
42
43 There is strong legislation against linking personal data from different databases (15: -
44
45 1) for unrelated purposes. Finally, negative connotations accompanying certain
46
47 biometrics (e.g. fingerprints) or concerns over community life (14: -5) should not
48
49 become an obstacle to more efficient applications (8: -4).
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3 *Factor C: Safety Champions*
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5 Biometrics can be useful as long as personal data is well protected (49: +5). They
6
7 strengthen safety and are convenient. Their use should be embraced instead of
8
9 thinking that biometrics spell an end to individual privacy (50: -4). This is a
10
11 widespread view that needs to be contested since it is highly inaccurate (48: -3).
12
13 Securely identifying individuals is particularly important in border control. As a
14
15 result, digital passports will need to include more biometric information (27: +3), and
16
17 people should be willing to have their personal data shared internationally to speed up
18
19 immigration processing in an increasingly globalised world (22: +2). Data sharing
20
21 among governments does not mean that states lose control over citizens' data (16: -2)
22
23 nor that the process is insecure (23: -4). However, people need to be alert to the
24
25 possibility of having their personal data linked for unrelated purposes (15: +4).
26
27 Governments need to be accountable too. For this reason, it is a good thing that
28
29 protesters can record police action during demonstrations (32: +3) and post the videos
30
31 on social network sites. It endows citizens with a sense of empowerment over state
32
33 operations. Biometrics can also be used in domestic settings as they provide solutions
34
35 to several safety concerns involving children and the elderly (18: 0). Crucially,
36
37 biometrics facilitate improving authentication in social networking sites (19: 0) and
38
39 increase safety on the Internet. To promote such uses of biometrics, fears over bodily
40
41 integrity and loss of consent (3: -2) should be addressed. Biometrics should not be
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43 seen as tracking mechanisms (50: -4) reducing privacy (13: -5) and undermining
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45 community (14: -5) but as technologies for increasing security in a changing world.
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52 *Factor D: Casual Adopters*
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3 People worry more about convenience and security of transactions than issues of
4 privacy (13: +5). This does not mean that biometrics jeopardize privacy (1: 0). This is
5 quite an inaccurate view which is unfortunately widely held (48: +4). Biometrics are
6 technological solutions to a number of identification problems; a swipe of the hand
7 may provide faster and more secure identification procedures (25: +3) since asking
8 people to remember multiple passwords rarely works. Biometrics help governments to
9 securely identify mobile and versatile populations. Linking people irreversibly to their
10 identities is crucial in a globalised world (26: +3). To this end, biometric resident
11 permits can be an answer to immigration problems (26: +3). In tandem with border
12 security, biometrics provide efficient solutions to problems pertaining to identity theft
13 and fraud in financial transactions (10: +2). It follows that people should be willing to
14 use their fingerprints or face to identify themselves in institutions such as banks.
15 Finally, biometrics can be fun too. Face recognition software in mobile devices can be
16 quite useful in several social settings (43: +2). People should embrace such
17 innovations instead of worrying about their impact on their careers, credit held and
18 families (46: -3). Biometrics is a reliable technology (9: -5) which endows people
19 with more control over their personal data (31: -1). Contrary to popular
20 understandings, it safeguards individual identity without undermining community (14:
21 -5).

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46 We now turn to a deeper analysis of these configurations so as to develop a clearer
47 sense of the subject positions they encapsulate and what they mean in terms of our
48 understanding of emerging contemporary conceptions of digital citizenship.
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Citizens' voices: emerging viewpoints

How people and institutions handle privacy and security concerns ... will determine the new boundaries for citizens everywhere... What seems like defined debates today over privacy and security will broaden to questions of who controls and influences virtual identities and thus citizens themselves (Schmidt and Cohen, 2013, p.34 & p.81).

Digital citizenship is typically defined as the norms of appropriate, responsible behaviour with regard to technology use. In our view, digital citizenship above all relates to the ability of citizens to *give voice* to their concerns about this range of issues and to carve out distinctive positions on key topics. In a world where biometric forms of identification are used ever more extensively, policy-makers can no longer ignore public views on issues of accountability and empowerment, as well as the regulation of uses of personal data. Indeed, governments and industry are beginning to give attention to developing more user-centric tools of interaction. However, even here the role of the citizen is too narrowly circumscribed as 'users,' focusing almost exclusively on ease of use, rather than on more robust measures to enable citizen control over the collection and use of their data. The four discursive positions emerging from our research also suggest, contrary to expert views, that there is no simple zero sum trade-off between privacy and security. Our claim is that the four positions identified indeed encapsulate the wider held views of ordinary members of society, prefiguring the possible configurations around which different conceptions of digital citizenship may increasingly form.

Privacy Advocates understand their digital identities as a set of 'digital traces' (Schmidt and Cohen, 2013, pp.55- 6). They are conscious of the fact that digital interactions leave behind identifiable permanent markers of activity, and that the state

1
2
3 and corporations engage in extensive and potentially illegitimate collection and use of
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5 personal data. They are particularly concerned about the fact that they do not have
6
7 control over this process and that there exists little by way of mechanisms of consent
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9 through which these interactions are managed. Ours is the first generation of humans
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11 to have an indelible record of our activities. Privacy Advocates are concerned about
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13 this ‘data permanence’ (Schmidt and Cohen, 2013, pp.55- 6). As a result, they are the
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15 citizens who ‘have the self-awareness to closely manage their online identities and the
16
17 virtual lives they lead’ (Schmidt and Cohen, 2013, p.36). They are likely to insist on
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19 more user-centric designs, incorporating mechanisms of meaningful consent, so as to
20
21 enable informed regulation of the collection and use of personal data. They are also
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23 the group most likely to demand ‘the right to be forgotten’, now inscribed in
24
25 European and Californian law. As one respondent argues: ‘I have the right to be
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27 forgotten, to be free, and unfollowed’.

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31 These concerns are supplemented by an understanding of privacy as both an
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33 individual right and a societal good. Privacy Advocates are troubled by the linkage
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35 between specific biometric identifiers and particular individuals that may limit shared
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37 usage of goods (e.g. laptops and cars accessed by fingerprints) and undermine a sense
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39 of community.⁵ This linkage also raises questions of bodily integrity given that
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41 contemporary biometrics are not simply neutral technologies that we can use without
42
43 any further impact on our lives. Rather, Privacy Advocates recognise that they
44
45 contribute to and redefine our senses of self. One respondent put it thus: ‘This is a
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47 violation of human rights. It violates personal space and goes above and beyond the
48
49 call of the state. If we start processes like this we will all eventually become robots.’

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53 ⁵ Apple recently responded to this concern by allowing users of iPhones to register
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55 more than one fingerprint on a device, enabling multiple users of a single device.
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3 This response echoes with public resistance to the use of full-body scanners at
4 airports. In addition to expressing safety concerns, the public raised cultural and
5 ethical concerns with regard to their use (Grabell, 2012). Digitized visualization
6 dissecting the body and projecting ‘fragmented and reduced elements of a person,’
7 poses ‘profound new questions of the political geographies of bodily boundaries’
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14 (Amoore and Hall, 2009, p.46).

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16 Privacy advocates also problematise biometrics as intrusive. They reject most
17 uses of biometrics since they consider them as forms of surveillance - by either the
18 state or by private corporations - using fallible technologies. Privacy once lost cannot
19 be recouped. Hence the urgent need to introduce mechanisms to safeguard control and
20 accountability. While a considerable amount of progress has been made with regard to
21 ‘privacy by design’ (Nissenbaum, 2004), work in this area is often based upon a
22 narrow view of ‘user’ simply as ‘consumers’ of technology, rather than as citizens
23 concerned with the reach of states and corporations into their lives. These wider
24 concerns of Privacy Advocates resonate strongly with the positions advocated by
25 many civil society organisations, such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation, that
26 campaign to limit the collection of biometrics, as well as other organisations such as
27 the Biometrics Institute that provides guidance on good practice in the collection, use
28 and storage of biometric data (Lynch, 2012). While such specialised civil society
29 organisations have long been critical of the way in which the state, industry and social
30 media use biometrics, the wider public is now starting to engage with the range of
31 new issues raised by biometrics. Artistic techniques – such as the use of face-painting
32 to bedevil face recognition technologies (DIS Magazine, 2013) – are reasonably
33 common and the public has begun to express annoyance with the use of new
34 technologies such as google glass in public spaces. Privacy Advocates are most
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3 strongly in favour of *sousveillance* - surveillance from below' (Mann, Nolan and
4
5 Wellman, 2003) - as a legitimate strategy to counter excesses by authorities.

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7 Deploying technologies generally reserved for state use to call-out figures of authority
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9 abusing their power is now becoming commonplace, and are likely to be used more
10
11 extensively, by marginalised groups, but also by those who are worried about the ever
12
13 more extensive use of biometrics to record information about our public activities.

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16 *Conservative Techies* also view the body as a way to identify oneself. In
17
18 contrast to Privacy Advocates, their views are closer to that of the biometrics industry
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20 in positively framing the human body as a set of unique attributes for identification
21
22 that people carry with them all the time. Central to the constitution of biometrics as
23
24 the identification technology par excellence, especially in industry discourses, is the
25
26 idea that body parts are unique and unchangeable. This property of biometrics is
27
28 almost always stated in a 'factual' way in industry reports that propose biometrics as
29
30 the logical solution to our increasing need to securely assert individual identity
31
32 (Tistarelli, Li and Chellappa, 2009). Bodies are portrayed as 'natural passwords' as
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34 they contain information that is unique and cannot be removed from its bearer.
35
36 Conservative Techies share the prevailing view in the biometrics industry that such
37
38 technologies are privacy enhancing as they protect personal data from theft. An Ernest
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40 & Young (2011, p.2) report puts it thus: biometric technology can help guard against
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42 attempts to establish fraudulent multiple identities. As a Conservative Techie puts it:
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44 'First technology, then security must be perfected – when this is done, then I would
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46 feel that the benefits would make it worth having a biometric ID.'

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50 Conservative techies are also distinctive in that they are content that
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52 biometrics is used for security purposes and, in particular, for the state to use them 'to
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54 lock foreign nationals into their identities.' They also express the strongest view in
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3 favour of iris recognition, as it does not have the criminal associations of
4 fingerprinting. These views resonates strongly with widespread discourses that
5 implicitly attribute the ills of society to the presence of ‘foreigners’ and ‘immigrants,’
6 as well as with state practices focusing on the control of immigration and refugees.
7
8 Lynch (2012, p.3), for instance, argues that undocumented people living in the USA
9 are ‘uniquely affected by the expansion of biometrics collection programs’. Similarly,
10 a key trigger in the adoption of biometric technologies in the EU includes the need to
11 be able to identify individuals securely and efficiently to minimize security risks (in
12 particular terrorism), illegal immigration, unwanted ‘bogus’ asylum seekers,
13 ‘overstayers’ (European Commission, 2011, p.3) and ‘benefit migrants’, while also
14 needing to ensure easier travel for ‘trusted travellers’ (US DHS), ‘genuine visa
15 applicants’, citizens, as well as ease the movement of citizens and their benefits
16 within the EU. These views reflect the UK Home Office (2013, p.5) argument that
17 biometric residence permits ‘make it easier for individuals to prove their identity,
18 immigration status and entitlements’, as well as industry suggestions that it is
19 necessary to safeguard society through biometrics from ‘cyberwolves’ (Accenture,
20 2006).

21
22 Working with a strong public/private divide, Conservative Techies oppose the
23 integration of biometrics into personal devices and utilities in the home (e.g. a fridge
24 that records the eating habits of household inhabitants) since this is viewed as too
25 intrusive into private life. They are, however, not opposed to it being deployed in the
26 workplace (e.g. in time-clocks). Here the value of efficiency is placed alongside that
27 of traditional security, with biometrics seen as technologies that could secure both.
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29 This strong divide between what is acceptable in private as opposed to in public is
30 underwritten by an absence of scepticism about the potential misuses to which
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3 biometric data collection are subject, and little awareness of the complexities of the
4 potential trade-offs between security and privacy. Conservative Techies are not
5 worried about data linkage. A 'having it all' attitude - 'securing' public spaces while
6 protecting the home from intrusion - results from this trust in traditional authorities.
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11 The third configuration, *Safety Champions*, entails a transactional view of
12 identity. Identity here is seen as the information we use to identify ourselves in
13 formal, institutional settings, and technologies are viewed as neutral instruments
14 deployed in the service of identifying oneself. Like Conservative Techies, Safety
15 Champions are content with biometrics at the border. Yet, their transactional
16 understanding of identity is supplemented with a serious concern over safety in
17 private spaces. To this end, they view biometrics primarily as a means to ensure
18 access control over secure spaces such as the household or virtual spaces (e.g.
19 accounts for on-line social networks). This echoes an argument prevalent in the
20 biometrics industry where biometrics are promoted as tools enabling privacy and
21 safeguarding individual identity. As Accenture (2006, p.3) suggests: 'Simply keying
22 in some personal data - which can be stolen in a phishing scam ... - is no longer
23 enough to assure identity and deter fraud.' As the value of personal data increases,
24 people become more aware of the need to safeguard information linked to their
25 identity. Given this, biometric identifiers - 'something we are' and something we
26 cannot 'leave behind' - are primary means for establishing digital safety. Safety
27 Champions echo this view in their emphasis on digital safety in a wide range of
28 spheres. It is particularly evident in their belief that the government should play a role
29 in the reduction of fraud, an argument which forms one of the key drivers of
30 developments in e-government. A report by the European Commission (Maghiros et
31 al., 2005, p.7) suggests that: 'Modern economics require increasing levels of mobility
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3 on the part of the workforce ... physical identity is increasingly being replaced ... by
4 its digital equivalent... Biometric technologies seem to offer a solution for stronger
5 identification.' However, Safety Champions are rather more sceptical of the potential
6 consequences of commercial uses of existing biometric technologies and their
7 implications for privacy, suggesting that under these circumstances, 'privacy as we
8 know it would be a thing of the past'.
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16 This healthy scepticism - in contrast to Conservative Techies - is also present
17 in the position of Safety Champions on the possibilities of misuse of data once
18 collected. Concerned about loss of privacy and bodily integrity as well as issues of
19 consent and accountability, they are in many respects closer to Privacy Advocates
20 than to Conservative Techies, advocating the use of *souveillance* and other
21 mechanisms to keep governments accountable. They are less interested than
22 Conservative Techies in the use of biometrics in personal devices, and hence do not
23 share what we call the 'enjoyment factor', which is most prominent in those
24 identifying as Causal Adopters. However, they positively engage with uses of
25 biometrics to safeguard potentially vulnerable sectors of the population, such as
26 children and the elderly. Far from being tools of surveillance, on this view, biometrics
27 are regarded as technologies that increase security in a changing world.
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42 Here an interesting shift is present in regard to trust in a progressively more
43 complex world: as biometrics increasingly encompass personal uses, they become
44 constitutive of how people build their relationships around technological devices and
45 their ability to verify identity (Dardy, 1990). Trust, rather than being the outcome of
46 reciprocal exchange of information between people, is technology-based, echoing the
47 corporate slogan of a leading French biometric company Morpho (2013): 'Creating
48 trust around the world'. The need to protect one's identity is also increasingly coupled
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3 with the need for convenience valued by Safety Champions: ‘I always forget the
4 password that I set. It costs time to remember it while I can always bring my body
5 with me. It's convenient in my point of view.’ Biometrics, it is argued, solve this
6
7 problem. This is a view that is taken to its extreme by Casual Adopters.
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11 *Casual Adopters* hold the most encompassing view of digital identity. For
12 them, it is the sum of all available information about an individual. Echoing a widely
13 held view that ‘privacy as we know it is a thing of the past’ (Accenture 2014) those
14 who identify with this position believe that privacy is no longer tenable, and
15 positively celebrate the technologies with which we live today. Like Safety
16 Champions, they believe that they can provide their personal data to governments, as
17 long as there are appropriate safeguards in place. Uniquely, they also express trust in
18 the technological infrastructures in place for handling personal data, echoing industry
19 and governmental discourses that portray biometrics as ‘merely’ technical. As we
20 have seen, governments and industry have developed an intricate web of discourses
21 promoting biometrics through arguments around technological progress and
22 neutrality; the idea of biometrics as value-neutral means to secure identified ends
23 propelled the diffusion of biometrics to contexts far beyond border control. Equally
24 constitutive of this development has been the emerging commitment by the biometrics
25 industry to address privacy concerns accompanying biometrics. This has been done
26 by seeking to develop applications that allow users to control their biometric data, and
27 through adopting professional codes of conduct and privacy charters (IBIA, 2014).
28 The latter occurred largely as a result of pressure by civil society organizations such
29 as the Biometrics Institute (2013) that developed Privacy Guidelines ‘to provide a
30 universal guide for suppliers, end users, managers and purchasers of biometric
31 systems’. The argument for neutrality supports the idea – core to the views espoused
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3 by Casual Adopters - that once technical issues are addressed and privacy checks are
4 done, all problems are solved. This, precisely, is what is assumed by those promoting
5 their use: once the public is made aware of the need to use biometrics - through the
6 deployment of justifications based on security, safety, efficiency, technological
7 prowess and other reasons - they will appear to be neutral, even natural and above all,
8 unproblematic technologies.
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18 **Conclusion**

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20 Given these distinctive views on digital identity and their relation to privacy and
21 security, it is not the case, as widely argued, that the public is unable to form and
22 express views on the complicated issues that arise in the wake of the ever more
23 widespread use of biometrics in everyday life. It is also clear that everything depends
24 on contextual articulations between biometrics and the other key factors identified:
25 citizen views on security; on the use of biometrics in public, personal and domestic
26 spaces; on whether individuals are concerned with data collection, usage and sharing;
27 whether they think governments and industry should be held accountable and are
28 responsible for the use of citizens' personal data. The results of our research provide a
29 first snapshot of the distinctive positions that have crystallized thus far. Given the
30 rapidity of change in the use and diffusion of biometrics, these distinctive positions as
31 identified in our research are likely to become more prominent in public debate.
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46 It is crucial that we remain cognizant of the fact that the processes of
47 articulation giving rise to each of the discursive positions are deeply political in
48 nature: they are not determined, even as they are shaped by ongoing developments in
49 our contemporary world. The diffusion of biometrics will continue to challenge and
50 complicate our conceptions of the boundaries between politics and bureaucracy, as
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3 well as of our conceptions of accountability in an ever more highly digitized world. It
4
5 is notable that there currently are relatively weak concerns about the uses of large-
6
7 scale personal data for commercial use. This is likely to become an area of greater
8
9 concern as the public becomes aware of the commercial value of 'big data' that trades
10
11 largely on aggregation and analysis of data that is collected for different purposes and
12
13 without consent. The uses of biometrics in personal devices are likely further to blur
14
15 the divide between what is considered private and what is considered public, and thus
16
17 available for scrutiny. Together, these will shape our conceptions of what it means to
18
19 be a responsible citizen in a digital environment. It is crucial that citizens are
20
21 consulted in the development of new regulations as well as in the development of
22
23 novel technologies and mechanisms for such consultation.
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27 Using a combination of Q-methodology and political discourse analysis, we
28
29 have been able to show how distinctive viewpoints crystallise out of wider discourses
30
31 on biometrics. These wider discourses - articulated by both governmental
32
33 organisations and the biometrics industry - have tended to remain trapped in an
34
35 apparent zero-sum trade-off between security and privacy. The viewpoints uncovered
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37 in our research shows how citizens have moved beyond a zero-sum game, taking up
38
39 more complex positions that shape whether and in what contexts the use of biometrics
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41 are acceptable.
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Seeing like a citizen – Tables

Table 1

Discourse	A	B	C	D	Variance explained (%)	Number of coefficients >0.36
A	1.000	0.1962	-0.0209	-0.0429	25	30
B		1.000	0.4436	0.4226	9	8
C			1.000	0.3888	7	5
D				1.000	6	3

Table 2: Factor arrays: Factor q-sort values for each statement

Statements	Factors			
	A	B	C	D
1. As companies become better able to monitor our every move, consumers who want to maintain their privacy should be given the option to opt out.	+3	2	+1	0
2. Biometrics, such as iris scans, can produce medical information, allowing people subsequently to be profiled according to their current and potential health status.	0	+4	-1	0
3. Remote biometrics, using face or gait recognition, defies many of our deeply ingrained values concerning bodily integrity, freedom from arbitrary inspection, and requirements for consent.	+2	-1	-2	0
4. Our bodies are like natural passwords or identity cards that we all carry with us at all times and that we can never leave at home.	0	+5	+1	+1
5. Industry should embrace biometric time clocks – based on hand	-3	0	-2	-1

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5					
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7					
8	6.	We need to find a better alternative to all this traditional			
9		identification paraphernalia such as cards, passwords and PINs.	-1	+3	+2 +2
10					
11					
12	7.	In the wrong hands, biometrics have the potential to violate			
13		privacy.	+5	+5	+5 +3
14					
15					
16					
17	8.	Iris scanning is more acceptable than fingerprint recognition,			
18		since it does not have criminal associations.	-1	-4	+1 -2
19					
20					
21	9.	Biometric identification relies on technology that is far from			
22		proven.	-1	+1	-3 -5
23					
24					
25					
26	10.	Customers are likely to be willing to lodge two fingerprints and			
27		their facial image with their bank, if it means protection against	0	+1	0 +2
28		banking fraud.			
29					
30					
31					
32	11.	If my phone had a secure palm recognition app to securely			
33		authenticate my identity, I'd be happy to use to connect with	-2	0	0 0
34		banks and other organisations.			
35					
36					
37					
38					
39	12.	Mobile phone owners should be prepared to download gait			
40		recognition software on their phones to prevent others accessing	-1	+2	+1 -2
41		their information in the event of theft or loss.			
42					
43					
44					
45					
46	13.	People worry more about convenience and security of transactions			
47		than issues of privacy.	-1	-2	-5 +5
48					
49					
50	14.	Using biometrics means that I can't lend my car, phone or laptop			
51		to a friend or relative nor can they lend me theirs. It undermines	0	-5	-5 -5
52		community.			
53					
54					
55					
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15. We need to be wary of the possibilities of linking our personal data from one database to another for unrelated purposes.	+3	-1	+4	+3
16. Decentralized global uses of biometric technologies mean that nation states no longer have exclusive control over citizens' data.	1	-1	-2	-1
17. It would be nice to be able to carry my biometric credentials in a piece of personal jewellery.	-4	-2	-1	-1
18. Biometric technologies supply simple solutions to domestic problems, from access control to secure use of kitchen appliances.	-1	-3	0	-2
19. We urgently need improved authentication to social networking sites; biometrics can help here.	-4	-1	0	-1
20. We need technologies that can prevent people holding fraudulent multiple identities.	0	+2	+4	+4
21. The digital format of biometric records will make this information subject to serious security risks.	+2	+1	-3	-3
22. As a trade-off for faster immigration processing, passengers should accept a system where more of their personal data is shared internationally.	-4	0	+2	1
23. No biometric technology is fully secure since it involves a range of human decisions, especially in settings such as border control.	+2	+4	-4	+2
24. Counter-terrorism officials cannot predict terrorism or identify terrorists by a biometric sample alone.	+2	-2	0	-2
25. Asking people to remember multiple passwords rarely works. Whether we like it or not, a swipe of the hand may be the answer.	-2	+1	+2	+3
26. In a globalised world, the state's task of giving stable identities to	-3	0	+1	+3

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2				
3	mobile and versatile populations becomes extremely difficult.			
4				
5	Biometric residence permits is thus part of the answer.			
6				
7	27. Digital passports of the future will need to include more biometric			
8		-2	0	+3 +1
9	information to prove who we are.			
10				
11	28. Biometric identifiers need to be used to effectively and securely			
12		-3	0	-1 -4
13	lock foreign nationals into one identity.			
14				
15				
16	29. People suffering from Alzheimers should be implanted with RFID			
17				
18	chips containing their biometric information to help their families	-3	+3	+3 -3
19				
20	track them in case they get lost.			
21				
22				
23	30. If CCTV can now identify us through face recognition, we should			
24				
25	be allowed to use headwear, such as glasses called “privacy	0	-5	-3 -3
26				
27	visors”, to maintain our privacy.			
28				
29				
30	31. With each new development in biometric technologies, users are			
31				
32	getting less control over their data, in terms of knowing when,	+4	+2	0 -1
33				
34	where, and why it is used.			
35				
36				
37	32. It is a good thing that protesters can use their smartphones to			
38		+1	-3	+3 0
39	record police action during demonstrations.			
40				
41	33. It is worrying that all this extra information generated by			
42				
43	biometric systems can potentially be further used for unintended,	+5	+3	+1 +1
44				
45	unauthorized, purposes.			
46				
47				
48	34. Facial recognition technology reduces the consumer’s ability to			
49				
50	thwart unwanted tracking since it doesn’t require any personal	0	-1	-2 -1
51				
52	devices.			
53				
54	35. Government needs to adopt biometrics in order to reduce fraud,	-5	+3	+4 +4
55				
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3	cut costs and enable them to offer faster, more convenient			
4	services.			
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7	36. Biometrics information stored on travel documents and the			
8	processing of such information should respect national data	+3	+1	+3 +2
9	protection laws, human rights and cultural practices.			
10				
11				
12				
13				
14	37. It is worrying that all this central storage is seemingly irreversible;			
15	the owner of biometric data should be able to control his/her data.	+3	-1	0 -1
16				
17				
18				
19	38. I don't like the fact that biometrics links my personal data			
20	irrevocably to me. I feel I won't have the right to be forgotten.	+1	-4	+2 -4
21				
22				
23	39. If advertising boards have face recognition technology it is			
24	important that notices are used to alert consumers.	+1	-1	+1 +1
25				
26				
27				
28	40. Border control should take into account objections of passengers			
29	who find whole-body scanning a humiliating experience.	0	-2	-1 0
30				
31				
32	41. Multiple searches of databases with the unique biometric			
33	identifiers can result in an excessive collection of personal	+1	+1	+2 +1
34	information pointing to an individual.			
35				
36				
37				
38				
39	42. The idea that there may be new biometric technologies that can			
40	identify me without me ever knowing, makes me uncomfortable.	+4	0	-4 0
41				
42				
43	43. It is an exciting time for facial recognition! It is now easily			
44	available through handheld consumer devices and free software	-1	-3	-1 +2
45	packages.			
46				
47				
48				
49				
50	44. It needs to be acknowledged that biometrics provides a powerful			
51	weapon to corporations and governments; these are surveillance	+4	+2	0 +1
52	technologies affecting the freedom of individuals and of societies.			
53				
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2				
3	45. Biometric ID systems enable greater surveillance without			
4		+1	-3	-1
5	providing increased protection or security for citizens.			-2
6				
7	46. The ability of emerging technologies to put “a name to face”, so			
8				
9	to speak, is going to impact on our careers, credit, health, and	+2	+1	-1
10				-3
11	families.			
12				
13				
14	47. There’s a need for commercial products that combine tracking and			
15				
16	location data with individual profile histories from social media to	-5	-4	-2
17				-4
18	monitor people.			
19				
20				
21	48. The idea that biometrics equals privacy violation, is probably the			
22		-2	0	-3
23	most inaccurate and yet also most widely held view of biometrics.			+4
24				
25	49. As long as data is well protected, then I think there’s no harm in			
26		-2	+4	+5
27	having a biometric ID card.			+5
28				
29				
30	50. If we as a society accept biometric technology in the commercial			
31				
32	form now being marketed, it spells an end to individual privacy as	+1	-2	-4
33				0
34	we now know it.			
35				
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