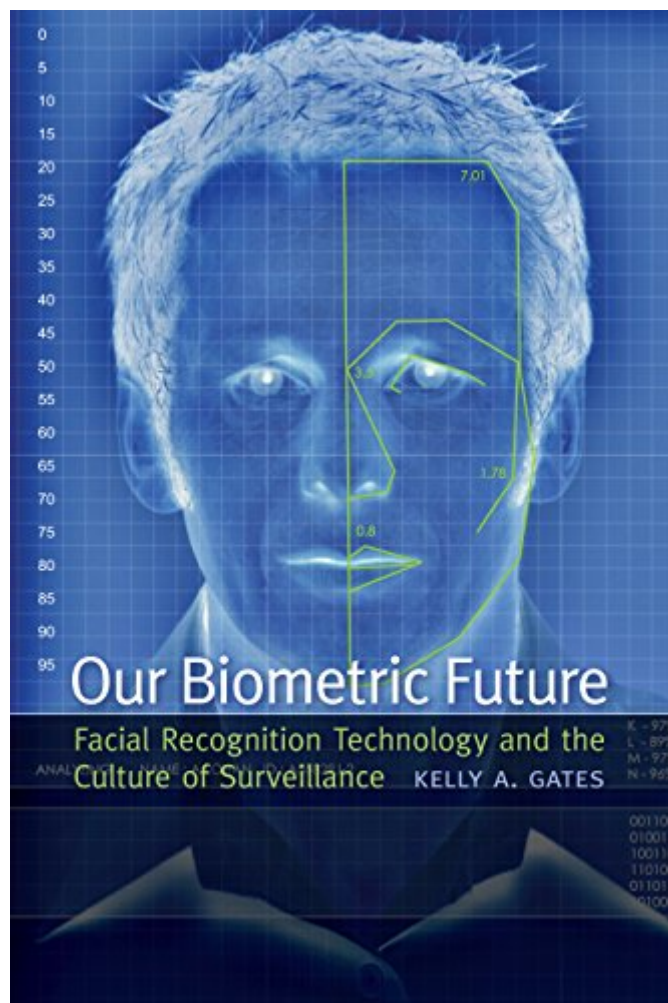




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Our Biometric Future: Facial Recognition Technology And The Culture Of Surveillance (Critical Cultural Communication)



Synopsis

Since the 1960s, a significant effort has been underway to program computers to “see” the human face to develop automated systems for identifying faces and distinguishing them from one another—commonly known as Facial Recognition Technology. While computer scientists are developing FRT in order to design more intelligent and interactive machines, businesses and states agencies view the technology as uniquely suited for “smart” surveillance—systems that automate the labor of monitoring in order to increase their efficacy and spread their reach. Tracking this technological pursuit, *Our Biometric Future* identifies FRT as a prime example of the failed technocratic approach to governance, where new technologies are pursued as shortsighted solutions to complex social problems. Culling news stories, press releases, policy statements, PR kits and other materials, Kelly Gates provides evidence that, instead of providing more security for more people, the pursuit of FRT is being driven by the priorities of corporations, law enforcement and state security agencies, all convinced of the technology’s necessity and unhindered by its complicated and potentially destructive social consequences. By focusing on the politics of developing and deploying these technologies, *Our Biometric Future* argues not for the inevitability of a particular technological future, but for its profound contingency and contestability.

Book Information

File Size: 1382 KB

Print Length: 278 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0814732100

Publisher: NYU Press (January 23, 2011)

Publication Date: January 23, 2011

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004I5AZOE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #730,450 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #13 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Electrical & Electronics > Optics > Optoelectronics #75 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Computers & Technology > Programming > Pattern Recognition #80 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Electrical & Electronics > Electronics > Optoelectronics

Customer Reviews

This is an engaging look at an increasingly important topic in our current society. Gates sees biometrics from the perspective of a communications and media scholar who is interested in representation, and does a good job of tracing the histories of biometrics and discussing the limitations and affordances of this technology, which we tend to accept as objective. I particularly liked her point about facial recognition technology shifting the role of the human face from communication to an indexical sign of identity - as well as (with expression analysis) a site of affect. This is an important book as we see this technology slipping into so many levels of society, taken for granted.

I'll recommend this book to everyone that is interested in facial perception. Especially in my country, maybe the No.1 in facial perception on this planet.

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