

Documentation, Science, and Medicine (and the law)

I, Michel Foucault...

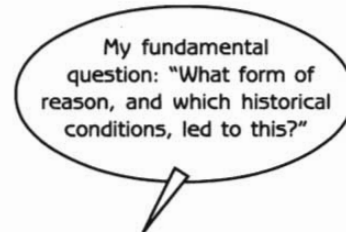
To find the real Michel Foucault is to ask "which one"?

Should we look at the life of the man himself, who as a boy wanted to be a goldfish, but became a philosopher and historian, political activist, leather queen, bestseller, tireless campaigner for dissident causes?



Foucault's Project

Foucault sought to account for the way in which human beings have *historically* become the **subject** and **object** of political, scientific, economic, philosophical, legal and social discourses and practices.



But Foucault does not take the idea of subjectivity in philosophical isolation. It becomes linked with – and even produced by **knowledge** and **power** through – **dividing practices** where, for example, psychiatry divides the mad from the sane.

Scientific classification: where science classifies the individual as the subject of life (biology), labour (economics) and language (linguistics).

Subjectification: the way the individual turns himself into a subject of health, sexuality, conduct, etc.

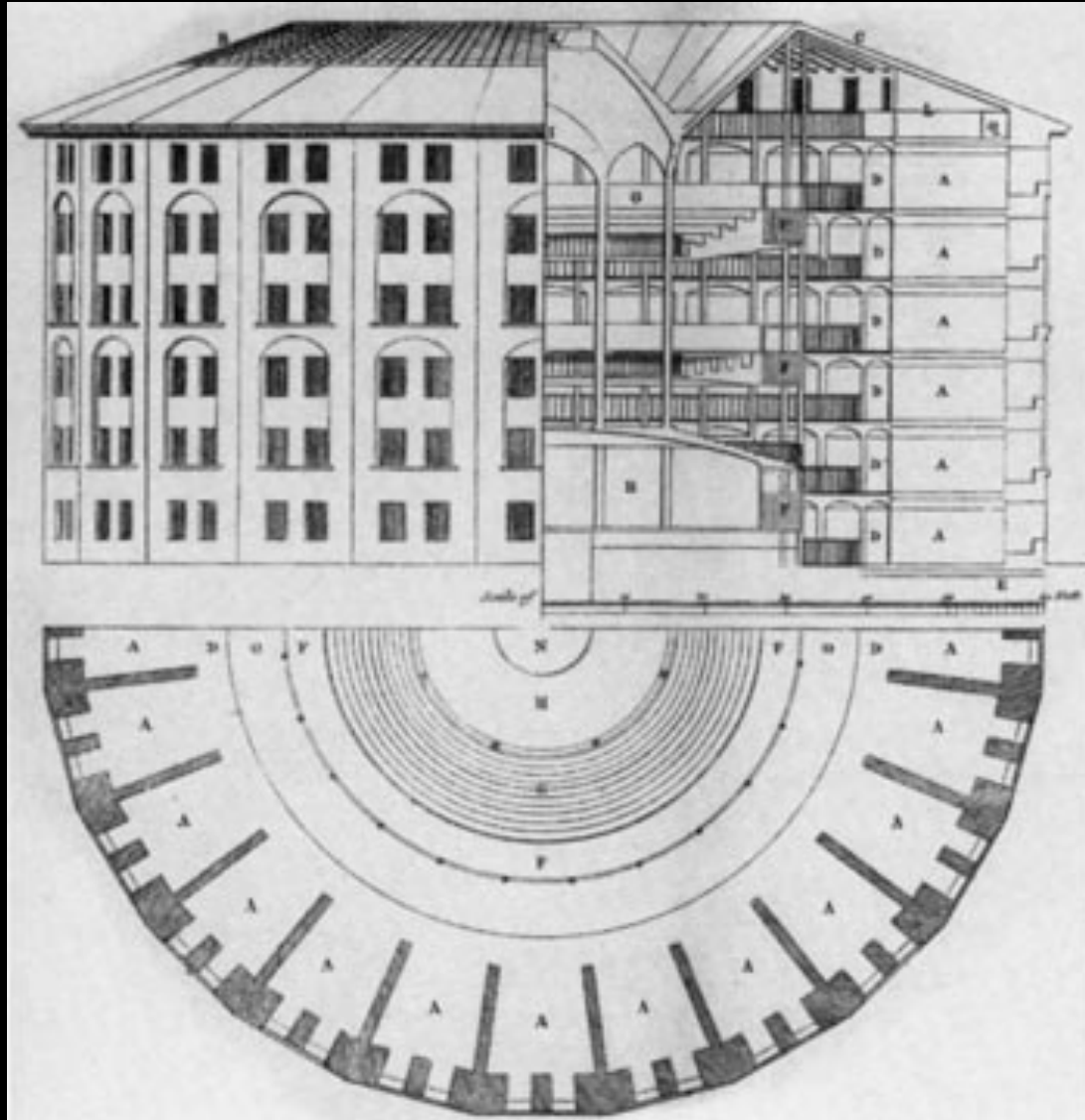


Subject

And

Object

Distinction



What has this got
to do with
photography?

Why Foucault?

Plan of Jeremy Bentham's **Panopticon**, by Willey Reveley, 1791

SPECIMENS OF COMPOSITE PORTRAITURE

PERSONAL AND FAMILY.



*Alexander the Great
From 6 Different
Medals.*



Two Sisters.



*From 6 Members
of same Family
Male & Female.*

HEALTH.



*23 Cases.
Royal Engineers.
12 Officers.
11 Privates*

DISEASE.



*6
Cases*



*9
Cases*

Tubercular Disease

CRIMINALITY.



*8
Cases*



*4
Cases*

*2 Of the many
Criminal Types*

CONSUMPTION AND OTHER MALADIES

I



*20
Cases*

II



*36
Cases*



56 Cases

Co-composite of I&II

Consumptive Cases.



*100
Cases*



*50
Cases*

Not Consumptive.

Eugenics

“Nature verses Nurture”

Statistics applied to human conditions

Study of hereditary traits

Control of populations through information collection

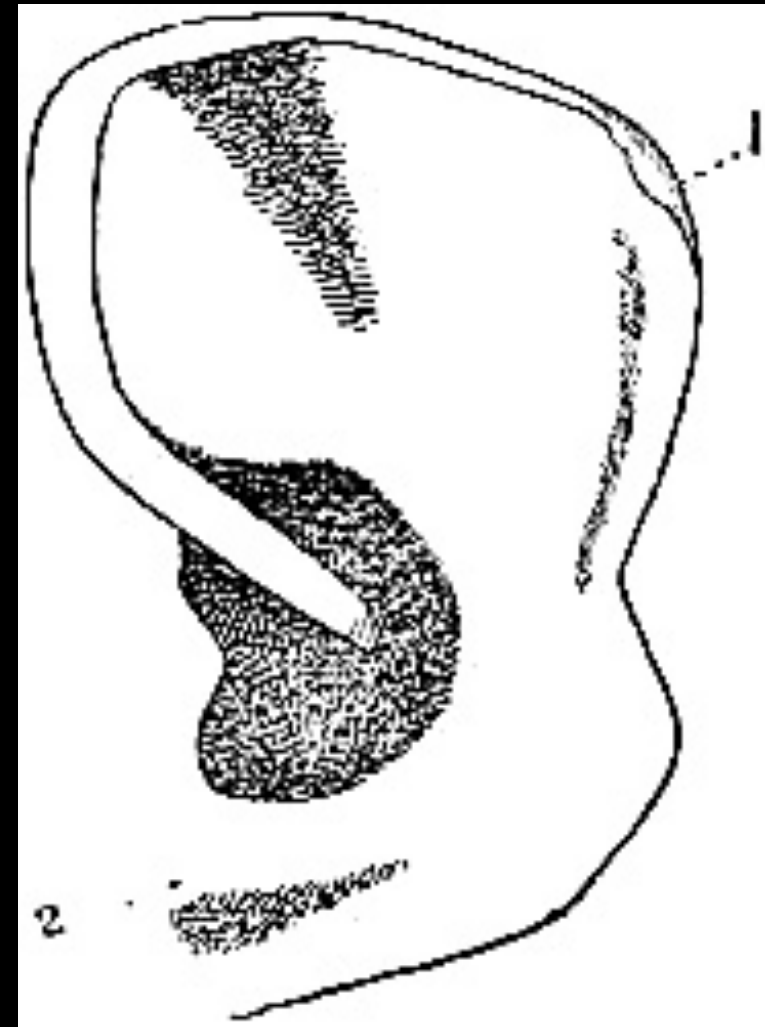
Francis Galton - 1880s



“Our survey of the psychical characteristics of criminals showed that they constantly reproduce the features of savage character.”

Havlock Ellis, *The Criminal*

[Composite photograph of thirty-eight criminals undergoing physical training at Elmira.]



“Even non-scientific observers have noted the frequency among criminals of projecting or of long and voluminous ears. ...ear-defects were especially frequent in connection with nerve-defects and mental weakness.”

Havlock Ellis, *The Criminal*, 1890

Human Sexuality

The “Normal”

verses the

“Deviant”

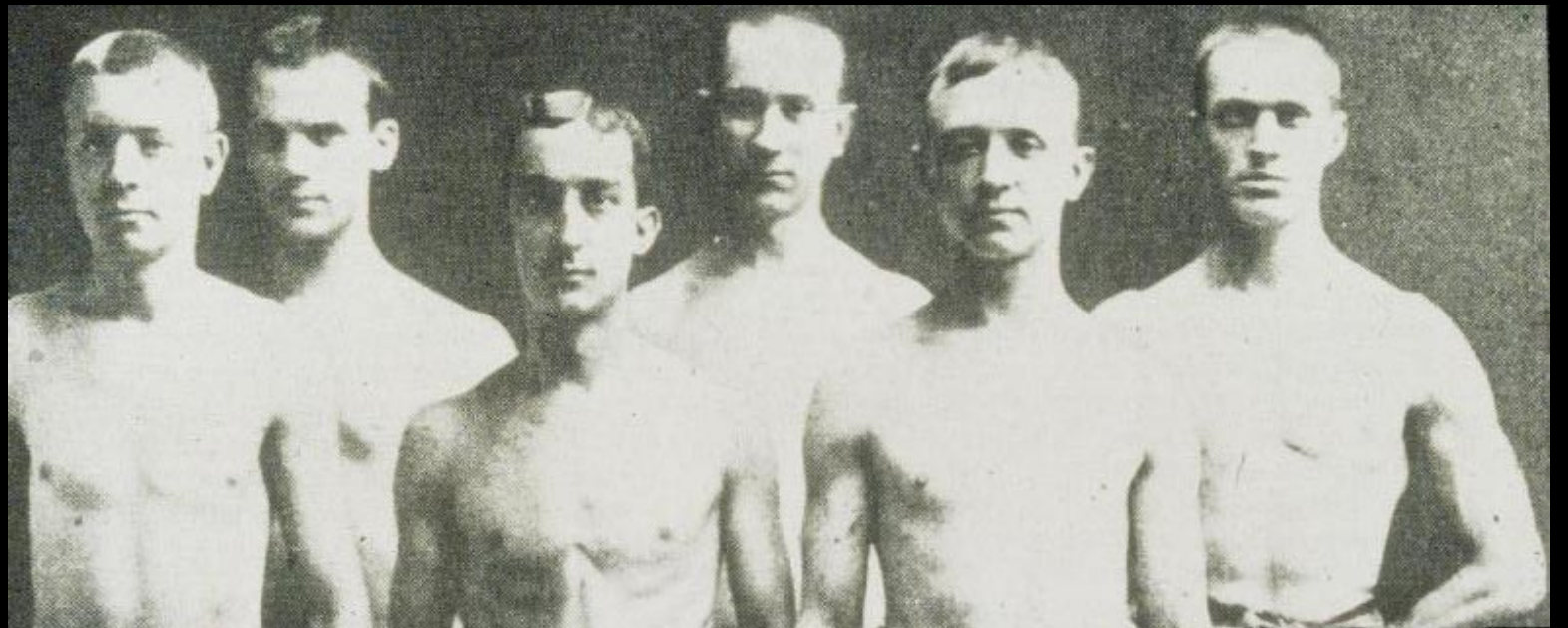
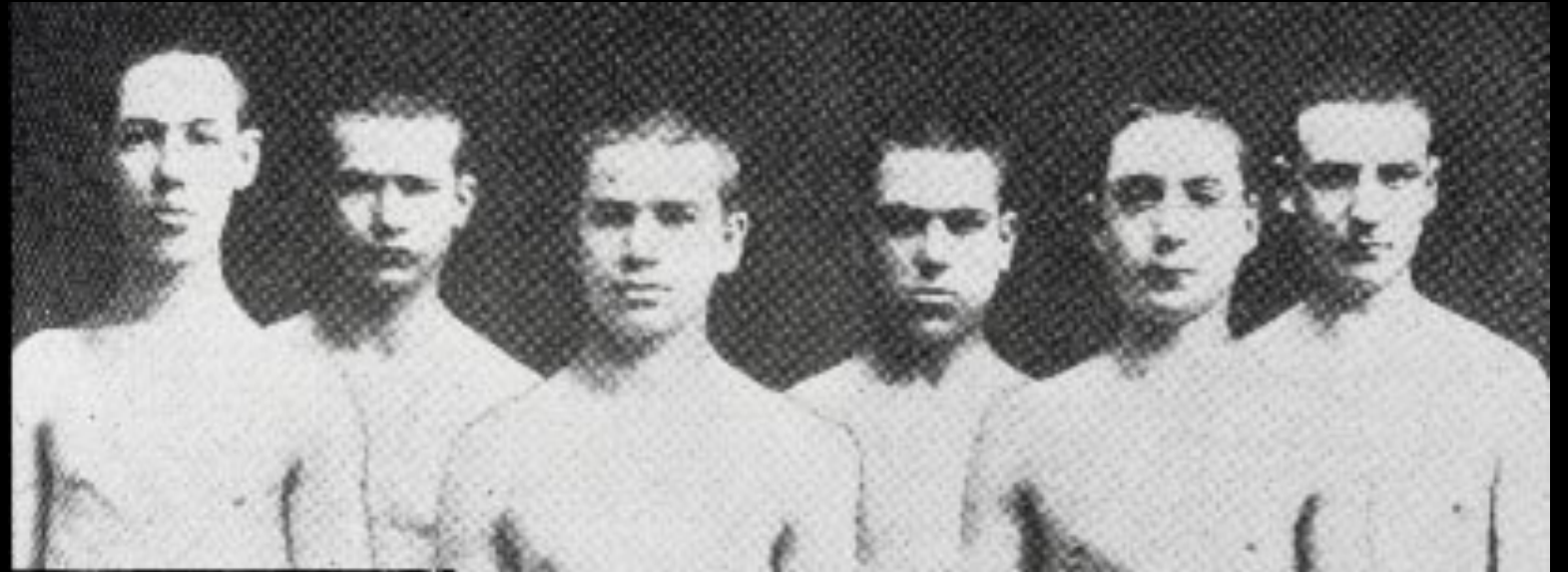
“Hereditary pathologies”

Propositions:

Sterilization of the unfit

Restriction on marriage

For “social hygiene”



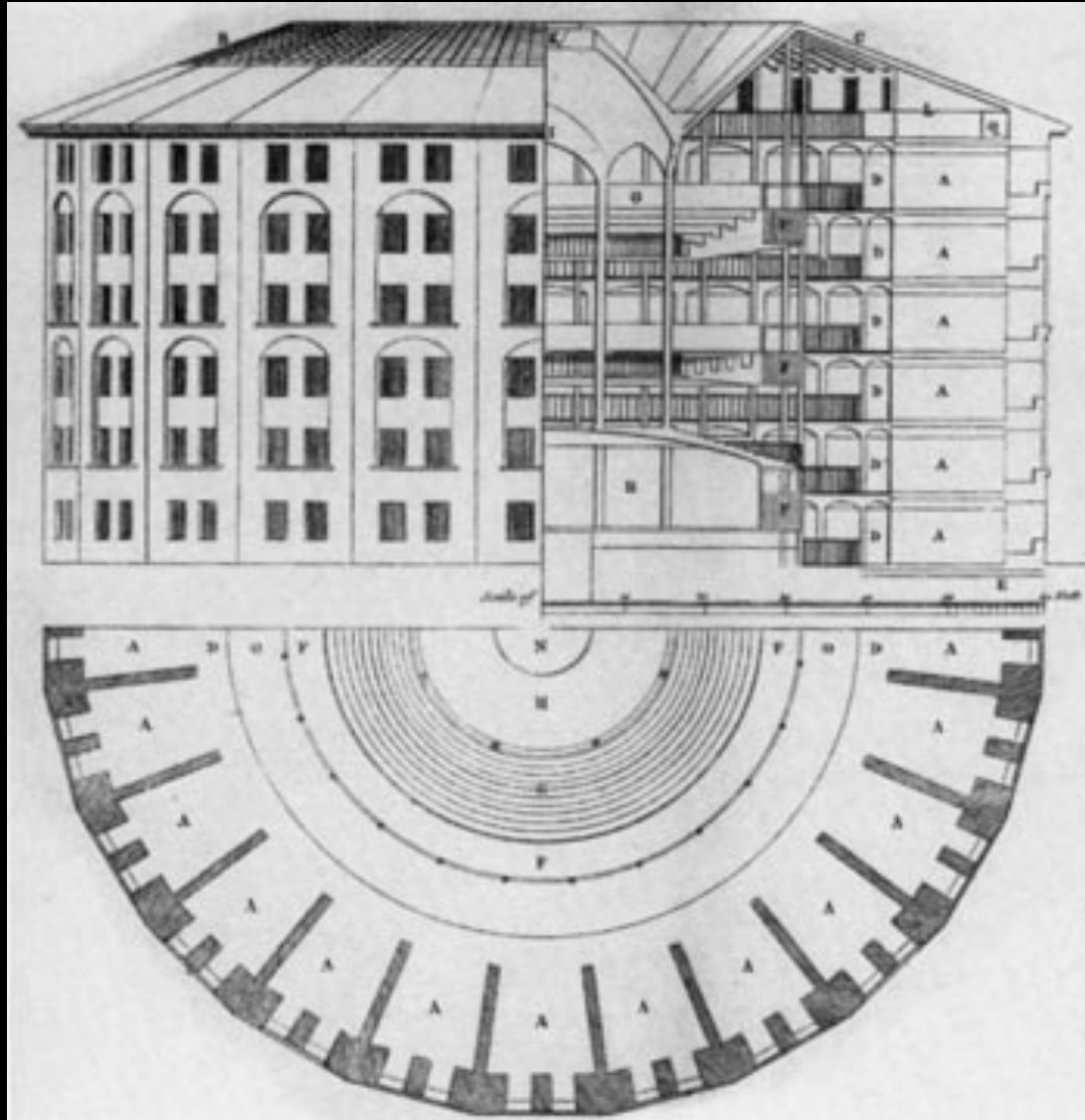
Havelock Ellis's study of masculine and effeminate types, 1897

“Thus photography came to establish and delimit the terrain of the other, to define both the generalized look – the typology – and the contingent instance of a deviant social pathology.”

Alan Sekula, ‘The Body and the Archive’, in Richard Bolton (ed.) *The Contest of Meaning: Critical Histories of Photography*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1989, p. 7

(Statics, Populations, Norms)

Power is relational



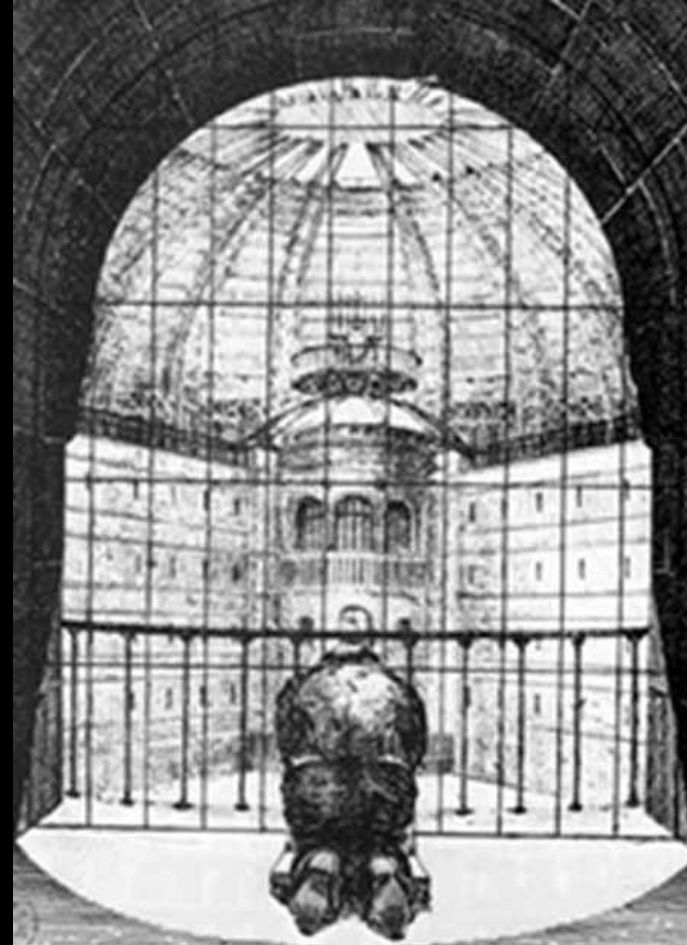
“The panoptic mechanism arranges spatial unities that make it possible to see constantly and to recognise immediately”

Plan of Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon, by Willey Reveley, 1791

The Panopticon is an example of a changing types of 'Discipline'

From *physical punishment* to *reform*

“He who is subjected to a field of visibility, and who knows it, assumes responsibility for the constraints of power: he makes them play spontaneously upon himself: he inscribes in himself the power relation in which he simultaneously plays both roles; he becomes the principle of his own subjection.”



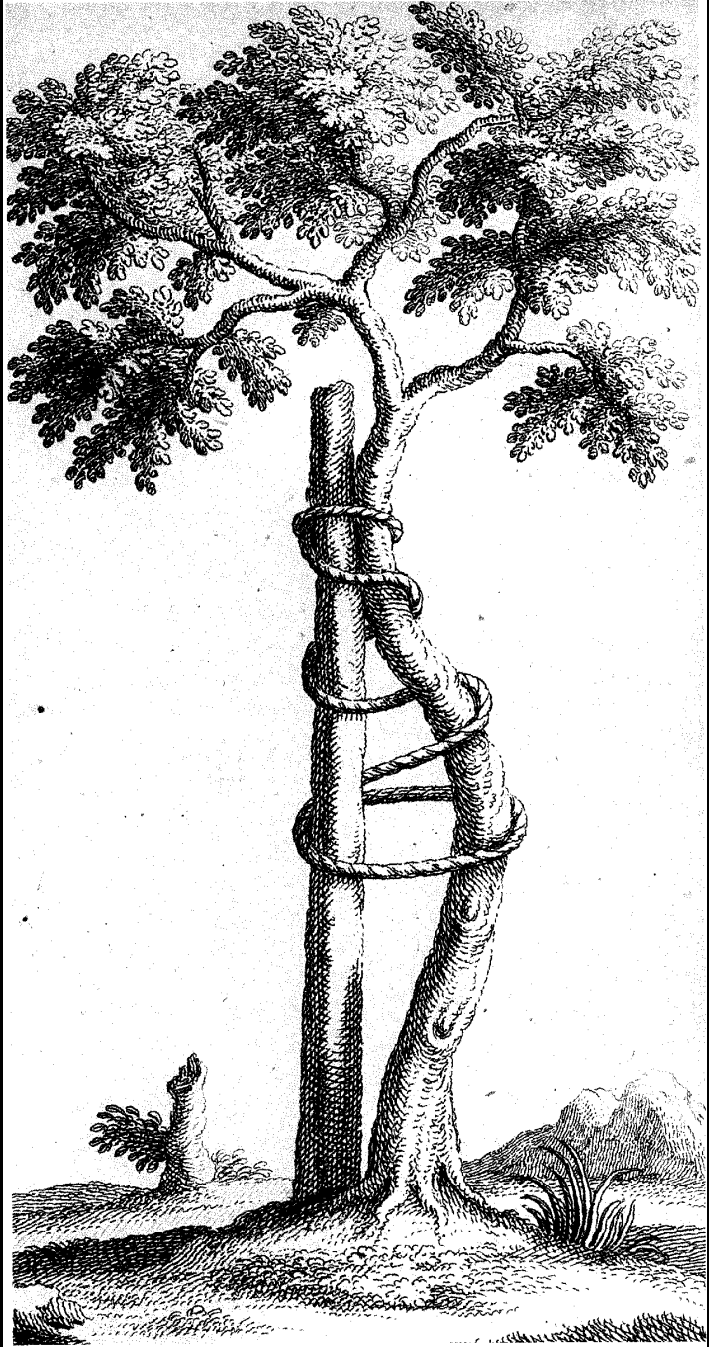


Figure 2.2 The crooked tree tied to the straight stake, which has become the logo of the specialty of orthopedics throughout the world. From Andry, *L'Orthopédie*, vol. 1, facing p. 211.

“A body is docile
that may be
subjected, used
transformed and
improved”

Discipline and Punishment

Does surveillance change behavior?

Origins of psychoanalysis

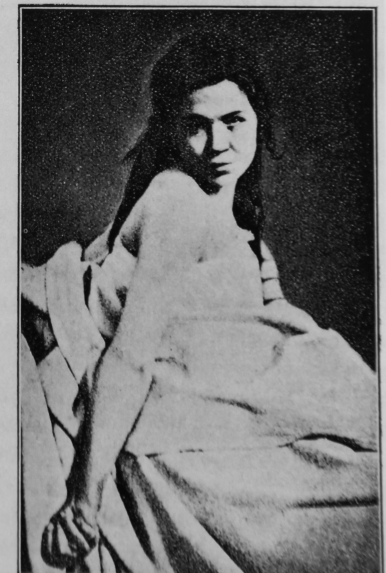
Studies of Parkinson's Disease

Debate of neurological verses
psychological causes of hysteria

Jean-Martin Charcot "neurologist"
Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris

Text: *Iconographie photographique de la Salpêtrière*,
1878

"Augustine" (Louise Augustine Gleizes)
Posing as an hysteric

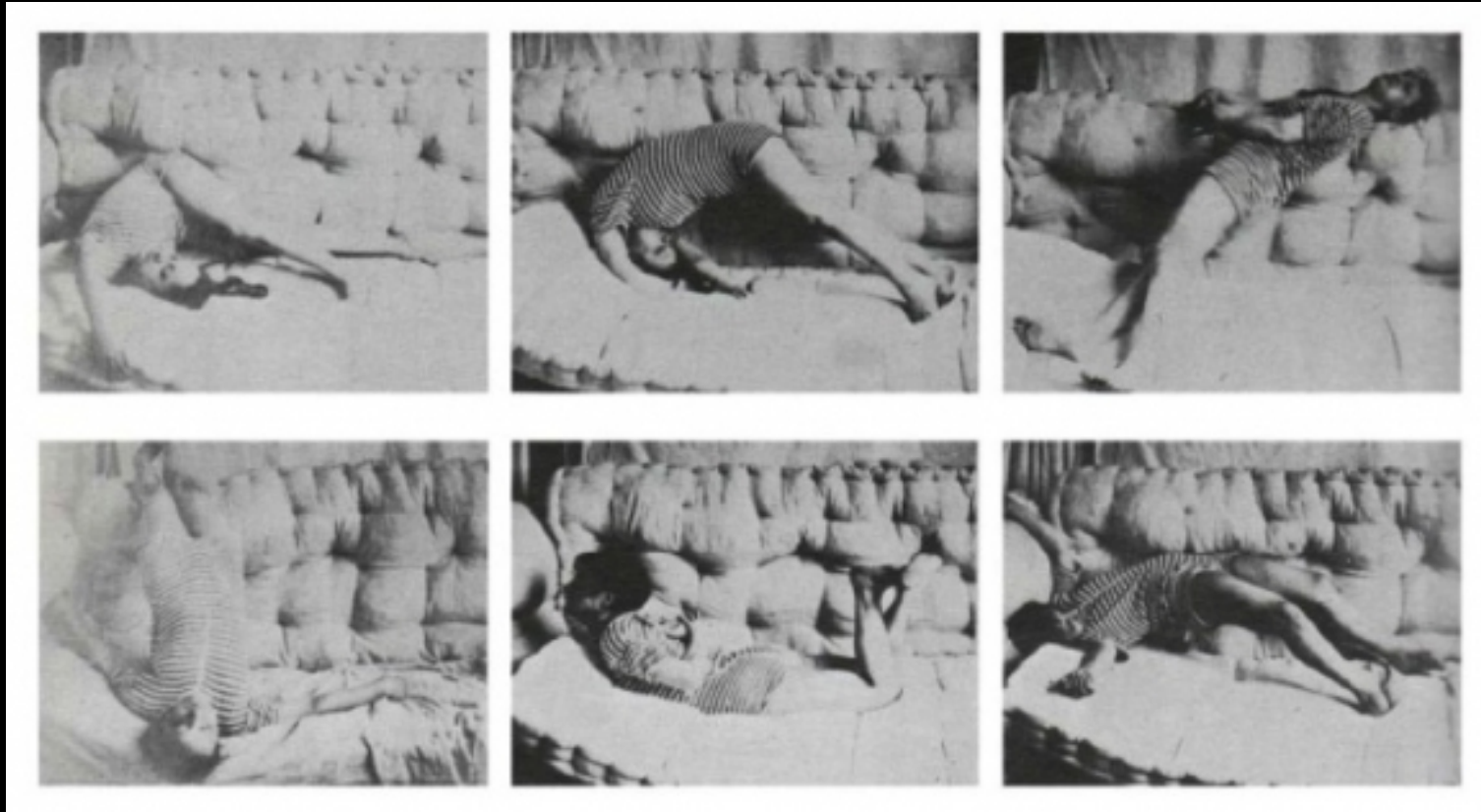




André Brouillet, *Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital*, 1887

Hypnosis

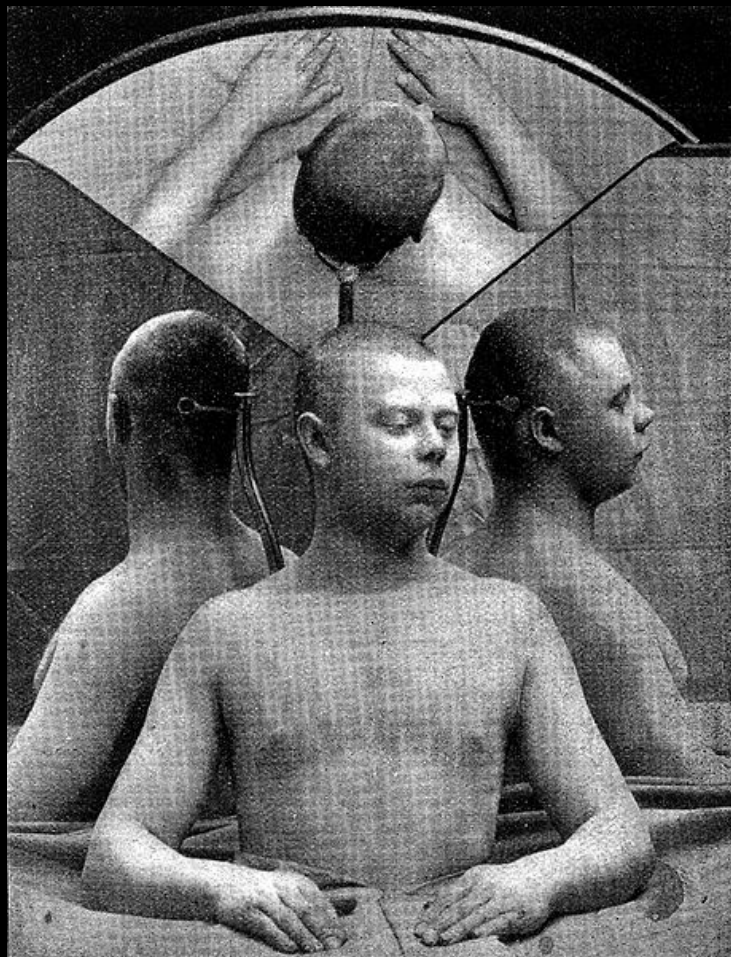
Observation or invention?



“To photograph people is to violate them, by seeing them as they never see themselves, by having knowledge of them they can never have; it turns people into objects that can be symbolically possessed. Just as the camera is a sublimation of the gun, to photograph someone is a sublimation of a murder – a soft murder, appropriate to a sad, frightened time.”

Susan Sontag, *On Photography*, 1977

"Inmate of Elmira Reformatory showing four views of head"
H. Havelock Ellis, The Criminal.



Pierre Louis Pierson
As directed by Virginia Verasi
(Countess of Castiglione)
'An idle folly'
c1863