

Focus discussion: Fingerprints? Identity, Indexicality and Biomedicine  
(Body: Response)

4.2.11

Chair: M.L. Anger. DNA + Crime.

Ausstellung - Fingerprints unter der Linde.

Paul Vourase: US public → science observed, unusual...

of Simpson case. Defense had know-how and found flaws in DNA proof. After → "Innocence project"

Promo images printed everywhere. Red pics: available

Vourase Project: Cellmark → program CSI...

Suspect Inversion Centre. Re/De construct original data reproduce process for audience → grasp key to its authority.  
→ like copying painting of a mask - Art forgery?

Eugenics movement. Significance of race?

Latent Image protocol FBI: DNA called "fingerprinting" → works!

critique: image ≠ identity. huge varies on segmentation process.  
→ DNA fingerprint is not natural.

Jens Hauser Metaphor over Science

Indexicality. Real vs. Simulated imprint → common in art, as if process was in the work.

Symbol = convention, icon = imitation, index = physical relation  
How LFP?

Small molecules travel further in electrical field: pattern.  
molecules make up the bands, but process determines their position  
→ convention under then symbolise fingerprint.

LFP shows by making symbols you want.

Francis Galton → 'Finger Prints' - overlapping portraits.  
→ real and reproxy → real

Simon Cole (skype) of Stanford scientific evidence.

History of DNA fingerprinting.

Chr. California, Apt. Criminology + Law, Society

Notion: reveal a hidden truth or character. or narrative of a crime.

Archives of biometric info. 90s: "crime gene"

LTP zeigt z.B. Reproduzierbarkeit d. OJ-Blut mit anderem Material.

Hans-Jörg Rheinberger

PhD Molecular Biology.

Molecular Visibility Regime. ~~History~~

Chromatography, Electrophoresis → shown by Vanouse.

DNA: Enzymes cut into pieces before processing. Other process: smallest size/copy

Vanouse-Technique

1) Dilatation 2) enhancement strategies (→ "Sichtbar machen")

→ coloring

Not index, but trace → depends on the subjects absence → precarity of status.

Traces can be contaminated (De-bug-Spray-Geist)

Discussions:

Race. Gender, too? Rheinberger: "DNA is for all of us"