

<b>Title</b>	M
<b>Director</b>	Fritz Lang
<b>Date</b>	1931
<b>Area</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Century French Philosophy
<b>Theme</b>	Foucault
<b>Plot Summary</b>	<p>Child murderer Hans Beckert (Peter Lorre) stalks the streets of Berlin striking terror into the population. The police search for him, and numerous forms of disciplinary surveillance, record-keeping and classification characteristic of modern society come into view. Anton Kaes: '[c]riminals and vagrants have identity papers...they are registered and monitored, their fingerprints are recorded and analysed with the latest technology. Asylums and hospitals keep records of their patients and their medical histories. Telephone lines link the population to the authorities and office buildings maintain alarm systems directly connected to police headquarters. Plain-clothes detectives search in ever-widening circles for every possible irregularity; neighbours watch each other; parents train their children to be wary; and every person in the street is seen as a potential suspect.' The criminal underworld also join the hunt, and also employ techniques of surveillance. They establish a network of informers, enlisting the city's beggars to watch the streets and report all suspicious behaviour.</p>
<b>Key Scenes</b>	
<b>Relevant Text</b>	<p>Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison, 1977 Anton Kaes, M 1999, 46)</p>