

THURSDAY MORNING: TRY

*Where there is a flame, someone's bound
to get burned
But just because it burns, doesn't mean
you're gonna die
You gotta get up and try, and try, and
try*

– excerpt, Try by P!nk

Racier than the usual video here, but I'm trying – hence this selection. I'm fried after a late night, can't muster much mental wattage this morning. Only one cohesive theme emerged by itself from my news feeds, though I kept trying for a second one.

Surveillance

- *Surveillance as shrug*: British activists doing nothing about surveillance (OpenDemocracy) – Study shows UK activists have not taken action against state surveillance, offering a number of explanations for why. But perhaps the most obvious one not addressed is an unconscious chilling effect of surveillance combined with cognitive dissonance about the degree of intrusion by the state.
- *Surveillance as future shock*: State's ability to monitor us has exceeded our laws (Ars Technica) – No

shit, really? ~sigh~ It'd be nice if this piece actually called out lawmakers for their inability to keep up and put a brake on the state's capabilities and practices. Even educators on this topic – like Prof. Elizabeth Joh interview here – don't appear to realize pre-crime has arrived. It's just not yet evenly distributed.

- *Surveillance as filler:* Access to private surveillance cams makes local news (KOKI) – Fox affiliate in Tulsa OK demonstrates ease with which strangers can access surveillance cam feeds – and the story is picked up by another local news affiliate in Memphis TN. Reaction appears blasé as the story doesn't spread to national outlets.
- *Surveillance as art:* *Watched! Surveillance, Art and Photography* (e-Flux) – The panopticon pervades our culture as it becomes the topic of our art, manifest in this exhibition. Anybody making a trip to Gothenberg, Sweden this summer? Check this show out.

- *Surveillance as social life:*
Fairly average 13-year-old's
life online (WaPo) –
Unrelenting self-examination
of one's life as it may be
observed by others – that's
what our kids and grandkids
are doing to themselves and
others. They're growing up
with a deeply embedded sense
that watching everything and
critiquing what they see is
their life. What is it doing
to their sense of privacy,
to their understanding of
human social boundaries?

Yuck. I could just barf after that last one. We are jacking our kids into this monster without pause. That's enough for today.