

Title: Veillance
Sender: Steve Mann
Date: Feb 20, 2013
To: Waugh, Blackall, Micahel, Hayes
Subject: Veillance

Leigh,

Voyeurism has a negative valence to it. Veillance is of neutral valence.

- Surveillance means watching from above.
- Coveillance (Côteveillance) means watching from the side.
- Sousveillance means watching from below.

These all have neutral valence. Voyeurism is a valence, not a veillance. For example, any of these 3 can be voyeuristic, e.g.:

- Voyeuristic surveillance (policeman watching a woman change clothes and have a bath like what happened in the UK through their street surveillance system);
- Voyeuristic coveillance;
- Voyeuristic sousveillance.

So in answer to your question, voyeurism is not the same thing as veillance. Veillance simply means simply watching (which might be for positive or negative purposes).

Here's a take on inverse voyeurism:

<http://wearcam.org/domewear/heartcam.jpg>

and the associated paper that won the Leonardo Award:

<http://wearcam.org/leonardo/awardpaper.pdf>

I'd welcome your thoughts in that light, e.g. of that paper and its thesis regarding "humans being clerks to make clerks be human", etc., semiotics of gaze and its reversalism, etc..

Best regards,
Steve