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**“Society of Security,” A Collective Presentation by the Working Group on Globalization and Culture I: Genealogies of Security**

Security is an inescapable keyword of contemporary politics and daily life. In one time frame, security is a twenty-first century word, naming the response to the bombings and hijackings in New York, London, Madrid, Moscow, Mumbai, and Jakarta. In a second time frame, security is a twentieth-century word, metamorphosing from “social security” in the welfare state to “national security” during the Cold War. And in a third time frame, it is a name for modern government itself: “can we say,” Michel Foucault suggested in the late 1970s, “that the general economy of power in our societies is becoming a domain of security. I would like to undertake a...history of technologies of security and...identify whether we can really speak of a society of security.”

Foucault never completed the undertaking, but the “domain of security” has expanded in the three decades since. Have we become a “society of security”? The Working Group on Globalization and Culture is taking up Foucault’s challenge in a research project, which would be presented collectively (and concisely: 10 minutes per person) by the six members: