



2009 CONFERENCE

**IDENTIFYING THE PERSON: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

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## **Abstract**

### **Assessing Resistance to Biometrics in France**

PIERRE PIAZZA, CERGY-PONTOISE UNIVERSITY, FRANCE

French authorities, citing compelling security issues, have been increasingly resorting to biometric technology for several years now to reliably meet their needs for identification of ever-growing categories of individuals. Recent developments include an automated national file of genetic data called FNAEG (*Fichier National Automatisé des Empreintes Génétiques*), as well as an automated fingerprint repository – FAED (*Fichier Automatisé des Empreintes Digitales*), a biometric passport, a projected biometric ID card, etc. However, citizens do tend to resist these endeavours, and it is this resistance that we intend to study here. Who are the whistleblowers on the dangers posed by these new government identification plans? What are their action modes? What is their rhetoric? What impact do these protests actually make in the public arena, and on political decision-making? These issues will be explored against the many milestones of past resistance movements to the rationalisation of police identification techniques, whose history has been particularly eventful in France ever since the last decades of the nineteenth century.

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