

## Reading Questions Week Six

Hi All,

This week's readings are quite intriguing. I am curious to know what you make out of them. Here are some questions that will help you to bring up important points in the readings. But they are not exhaustive, so please feel free to come up with your own questions or raise any points that remain murky for you. You are also very welcome to disagree with the authors.

### Michel Foucault Panopticism

1. List and compare the characteristics, structures, and mechanisms of operation of the 'plague society' versus panopticism. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these two from the rulers' point of view? From the point of view of the 'confined'?
2. How do you understand the following: "It [panopticon] is an important mechanism, for it automatizes and disindividualizes power. Power has in its principle not so much in a person as in a certain concerted distribution of bodies, surfaces, lights, gazes; in an arrangement whose internal mechanisms produce the relation in which individuals are caught up."
3. What are the transformations that led to the spread of and 'de-institutionalization' of disciplinary mechanisms? What are the circumstances that make them last?

### Shearing and Stenning

1. Read and enjoy (if you can). Can you think of any other places that remind you of a police state, or panopticon, or something similar?

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