

The Unique Identity (UID) Project, Biometrics and Re-imagining Governance in India

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PhD Relevance:	Core theoretical or methodological framework for the DCLO conversion model.

Core Summary

This paper presents a critical analysis of India's Aadhaar (UID) project. Drawing on Foucault's biopolitics, Sarkar argues that biometric identification re-imagines the relationship between the state and its citizens as a series of digital, transactional records, prioritizing administrative legibility and state control while displacing the citizen's political agency and voice.

Key Excerpts from Paper

"The state attempts to translate political subjects into readable, biometrically verified administrative units, re-imagining governance as a transaction rather than an active political relationship."

"This technocratic governance regime abstracts citizens from their social and political contexts, replacing political mediation with digital authentication."

Integration in DCLO Dissertation Framework

Sarkar's critique anchors Paper 3 of the dissertation. It highlights the political risks of evaluating digital state systems solely through administrative metrics (such as transaction counts, enrollment rates). It explains why grievance redress, linguistic justice (supporting low-resource languages like Maithili), and community-level agency are crucial safeguards rather than secondary features in GovTech.