

Nanopublication – Tenure as Armor: Who Gets to Safely Design the Game, Who Only Gets to Play It

by Arnaud Quercy

The line is between what P31 adjudicates (the designer's responsibility for the conditions of a released game) and what it is silent on (the structural inequality in who can safely occupy the designer position at all) – the source enacts the first with precision and names the second as its own unresolved grievance.

WHAT THE SOURCE SAYS [1]

MIT faculty members, taking inspiration from artist Jill Magid's 2002 rhinestoning of Amsterdam police cameras, are decorating the university's new AI-capable surveillance cameras with googly eyes and gems to protest a \$3 million camera expansion. They distribute Magid's original posters, run repeated group decoration sessions open to students and staff, and have given the project a deliberately absurd bureaucratic-satirical name. One professor, protected by tenure, intervened to give her own name to a suspicious officer rather than let a student or staff participant do so, noting that most other participants fear retaliation and that the freedom to protest openly should not be a privilege reserved for the tenured.

WHERE THE LENS GRIPS

P31's claim that the emitter is the ethical center – responsible for conditions even while releasing control of outcomes, 'the game master who designs a dangerous game cannot defer to the players' – grips exactly on Gubar's act: faculty designed the protest (the absurd title, the recurring sessions, the open invitation to decorate), students and staff chose to participate, and when risk materialized, the designer absorbed it personally rather than letting a participant bear it. This also fits P28's game structure cleanly: the artist-faculty build the board and rules, release the activity, and the 'players' (other participants) are the ones who act within it.

WHERE IT BREAKS

Not a hard break, but a named edge. P31 locates ethical weight in what the emitter's design choices make possible, and the source confirms this precisely at the moment of in-

tervention. But Gubar's own complaint – 'It shouldn't just be a privilege for tenured faculty' – points past what P31 covers: the asymmetry here is not produced by the design of this particular emission but by a pre-existing institutional condition (tenure protection) that determines who can occupy the emitter/game-master role safely in the first place, and who, even as a mere participant, faces retaliation risk the designer's after-the-fact absorption of blame cannot fully neutralize. P31 has no vocabulary for unequal access to the emitter position itself – only for what someone who already holds it owes once they design.

PROPOSITIONAL GRID [2]

Read this grid. "Not evaluated" does **not** mean the source has nothing to say about that proposition. It means **the reading did not instruct it**. That is not a result, and it counts in no denominator. A silence, by contrast, is a finding: the reading touched the proposition without concluding, or noted its absence itself.

Evaluated

proposi-tion		audit status	relational verdict
P28	The Game Principle	not audited	evidence-for
P31	Ethical Center	not audited	evidence-for

Not evaluated (35) – P1, P2, P3, P3a, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P14a, P14b, P15, P16, P16a, P17, P18, P18a, P19, P19a, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P29, P30

Overall verdict: Bounded – taxonomy of the August 2026 pass, predating the move to relational verdicts. Kept as metadata: the gap between the two forms is data, not residue. This reading's judgement is in the grid above.

Reading of 2026-10-21 · model claude-sonnet-5 · source 6,046 chars · 1 attempt(s)

REFERENCES

[1] The MIT Professors Bedazzling Security Cameras to Highlight Campus Surveillance. Hyperallergic, 2026-10-21. <https://hyperallergic.com/the-mit-professors-bedazzling-security-cameras-to-highlight-campus-surveillance/>

[2] Quercy, A. (2026). The 31 Propositions of Ideamorphism.
<https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/03/the-31-propositions-of-ideamorphism.html>

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	boundary reading
Voice	third person analysis
Epistemic status	bounded grip
Methodology	Boundary-finding lens applied to one source, model claude-sonnet-5, 1 attempt(s), traceability check passed.

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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