

INFRASTRUCTURES AND CITIES

Research Perspectives
and Forms of Inquiry

June 20th - 21st
Politecnico di Torino | DIST
Castello del Valentino

Coordination and Organisation

Olivier Coutard | Université Gustave Eiffel - LATTS

Daniel Florentin | École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris - PLS/ISIGE

Leonardo Ramondetti | Politecnico di Torino - DIST

Agostino Strina | Politecnico di Torino - DIST

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The seminar hosts anthropologists, architects, economists, engineers, ethnographers, geographers and urban planners from more than thirty universities worldwide to discuss their ongoing research and nourish academic debates on the relationship between infrastructures and cities. The seminar will shed light on:

- the ambivalent 'social properties' of infrastructure, and the resulting tensions in infrastructure development or reconfiguration, governance, and use;
- shifting infrastructure imaginaries, organization and management principles, and changing infrastructure-related practices;
- the inherently political processes of infrastructuring (i.e., the transformation of parts of the material environment into infrastructure and/or their categorization as infrastructure).

The theoretical implications emerging from investigations on specific conditions through different methods of inquiry are discussed in four parallel sessions, and then discussed in one plenary session to give ample room to interdisciplinary, cross-theme and cross-approach discussion. The various papers will not be presented by their authors, but by appointed discussants, to favour a degree of horizontality between participants. Ongoing research from Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Development of the Politecnico di Torino join the seminar to nourish discussions on the heuristics of infrastructures. The outcomes of the seminar will also help better refine the *Handbook on Infrastructures and Cities* edited by Olivier Coutard and Daniel Florentin (Edward Elgar, 2023).

THEMES

Current Trends and Counter-trends in the Commoning of Infrastructures

Attending to common goods appears crucial in a contemporary world in turmoil. Infrastructures both physical and social are key to many associated issues pertaining to, public health, food quality, education, physical safety and social security, resource use and the quality of natural and living environments. In this theme, we will explore the features of a critical approach of infrastructural commoning, including the requalification of the value(s) of and on infrastructure and the question of its allocation, the issues of infrastructure ownership (as one of the ways to re-problematise the issues of urban digitalisation) as well as the question of maintenance and care for infrastructures and the challenge of who is accountable for one such care.

The Many Faces of Contemporary Infrastructuring

The development of a more relational and *ecological* approach of infrastructures has contributed to examine the slow and never-ending processes of mutual influence between material arrangements and social practices. This theme pays attention to the making of these socio-material arrangements into infrastructures. One such focus allows to reveal the everyday mundane practices of infrastructures, but is also a powerful analytical tool to examine the consequences of infrastructuring processes at organisational, institutional and metabolic levels.

Infrastructural Violence on Spaces, Societies and Bodies

While infrastructures are still predominantly associated with the smooth flow of people, materials, information, and finance, with socio-spatial solidarities, or the indirect social relationships that are constitutive of modernity, research increasingly emphasises how infrastructures also separate spaces/groups, prevent movement, materialise, and preserve social order, and exert coercion and violence. This reflects the socio-political role of infrastructure, which also impacts the notion of citizenship when intended as 'material citizenship'. Addressing these themes means exploring the societal implications of this fundamental ambivalence of infrastructures, and reframing the definitions of 'infrastructural citizenship'.

The Infrastructurocene and its Discontents

Converging concerns on the material and carbon footprint of contemporary societies and on the depletion of natural resources in relation with global environmental changes raise issues of equity, legitimacy, sustainability and appropriation around resources. This translates into renewed questions around infrastructures role in urban societies as both a symbol of a largely unsustainable urban material order and a locus of reflexion for new socio-material arrangements integrating materially lighter metabolisms.

UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES INVOLVED

Politecnico di Torino / Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique / École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris / Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées / Université Gustave Eiffel / Université Paris-Est Créteil / Tallinn University / Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography / RWTH Aachen University / Lyon Urban School / École des Ingénieurs de la Ville de Paris / Concordia University of Montreal / University of Cambridge / Charles Sturt University / Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute / Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile / Universidad Alberto Hurtado Chile / Durham University / ESPI / Sciences Po Paris / University of Cape Town / Maastricht University / Humboldt-Universität Berlin / Technical University of Munich / University Eduardo Mondlane / ETH Zurich / University of Liechtenstein / Gauteng City-Region Observatory / Utrecht University / McGill University / University of Illinois / Georgia State University / University College London / Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne / University of the Witwatersrand / Lancaster University

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JUNE 20th

2.15 - 2.30 pm

WELCOME

Andrea Bocco | Head of the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning
Marco Santangelo | Chairman of the Ph.D. programme in Urban and Regional Development
room: Sala Vigliano

2.30 - 3.30 pm

INFRASTRUCTURES AND CITIES: A RESEARCH PROJECT

Olivier Coutard and Daniel Florentin
room: Sala Vigliano + [Zoom Streaming](#)

3.45 - 6.45 pm

PARALLEL SESSIONS

1 | Trends and Counter-trends in the Commoning of Infrastructures

chair: Julia Valeska Schröder | co-chair: Francesco Carota
room: Sala Mollino

2 | The Many Faces of Contemporary Infrastructuration

chair: Anique Hommels | co-chair: Leonardo Ramondetti
room: 10V

3 | Infrastructural Violence on Spaces, Societies and Bodies

chair: Kei Otsuki | co-chair: Astrid Safina
room: Sala Astengo

4 | The Infrastructurocene and its Discontents

chair: Pierre Desvaux
room: Sala Vigliano

JUNE 21st

9.30 - 12.30 am

PARALLEL SESSIONS

1 | Trends and Counter-trends in the Commoning of Infrastructures

chair: Yassine Khelladi | co-chair: Francesco Carota
room: Sala Mollino

2 | The Many Faces of Contemporary Infrastructuration

chair: Leonardo Ramondetti
room: Sala Caccia

3 | Infrastructural Violence on Spaces, Societies and Bodies

chair: Lindsay Blair Howe | co-chair: Astrid Safina
room: Sala Astengo

4 | The Infrastructurocene and its Discontents

chair: Julie Gobert
room: Sala Vigliano

2.00 - 4.00 pm

PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS ON PH.D. RESEARCH

1 | The Spaces of Logistics and Mobility

Agostino Strina | Spaces in Fresh Food Logistics. Emerging urbanities in Mass Market Retailers Distribution Centers
Francesco Bruzzone | Green and Equitable Mobility. Solutions for Peripheral Areas
Elia Silvestro | The Self-fulfilling Prophecy of Italian Logistics' Renaissance
room: Sala Vigliano

2 | Infrastructures, Sovereignty, and Political Ecology

Richard Lee Peragine | Differential Sovereignty. Thinking through Emptiness
Luca Bertocci | Infrastructures for the Chthulucene. Towards a political ecology of planetary urbanization
room: Sala Mollino

4.15 - 6.00 pm

PLENARY SESSION

room: Sala Vigliano

June 20th

PARALLEL SESSIONS

3.45 - 6.45 pm

1 | TRENDS AND COUNTER-TRENDS IN THE COMMONING OF INFRASTRUCTURES

chair: Julia Valeska Schröder (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) | co-chair: Francesco Carota (Politecnico di Torino - DIST)
room: Sala Mollino

Roads as Commons: Maintenance, Infrastructure and Communal Labor

Alexander Paulsson (Lund University - DBA) and Jens Alm (Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute)

Urban Infrastructures' Maturity and the Age of Maintenance

Jérôme Denis (École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris - CSI) and Daniel Florentin (École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris - ISIGE)

The New Smart City Deal: Unpacking the Recursive Entanglements of Digital Infrastructures and City Administrations

Julia Valeska Schröder (Europäische Ethnologie mit Schwerpunkt Stadtanthropologie - Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Claudia Mendes (Department of Science, Technology and Society - TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology, Technical University of Munich), and Ignacio Farías (Institut für Europäische Ethnologie - Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

2 | THE MANY FACES OF CONTEMPORARY INFRASTRUCTURATION

chair: Anique Hommels (Maastricht University) | co-chair: Leonardo Ramondetti (Politecnico di Torino - DIST)
room: 10V

Getting to Work on Time: The Temporalities of Urban Infrastructure

Jean-Paul Addie (Georgia State University)

Security Infrastructure: Controlling the Rhythms and Temporalised Spaces of the City

Damien Carrière (CERI Sciences Po - IRSEM) and Priyam Tripathy (Durham University)

Urban Infrastructures, Social Practices and the Dynamics of Demand

Olivier Coutard (Université Gustave Eiffel, LATTS) and Elisabeth Shove (Lancaster University)

3 | INFRASTRUCTURAL VIOLENCE ON SPACES, SOCIETIES AND BODIES

chair: Kei Otsuki (Utrecht University) | co-chair: Astrid Safina (Politecnico di Torino - DIST)
room: Sala Astengo

Street-Side Citizenships: Contesting Automobile Citizenship in Cities of the Global South

Yogi Joseph, Sreelakshmi Ramachandran, and Govind Gopakumar (Concordia University of Montreal)

Urban Motorways Inducing Mobility and Immobility in Santiago, Chile

Oscar Figueroa (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile - FADEU), Carole Gurdon (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile - FADEU), and Paulette Landon (Universidad Alberto Hurtado - FCS)

Infrastructural Violence in Urban Resettlement Projects

Kei Otsuki (Utrecht University)

Tracking Frictions along Line 2A: Mobility Injustices Arising from a Modern Transportation Infrastructure Project in Hanoi, Vietnam

Sarah Turner and Binh Nguyen (McGill University)

4 | THE INFRASTRUCTUROCENE AND ITS DISCONTENTS

chair: Pierre Desvaux (PACTE, Grenoble and EVS/Lyon Urban School)
room: Sala Vigliano

The Resistance of Centralized Socio-technical Systems: The Status-quo Dynamic of Sewage and Drinking Water Supply Networks in France

José-Frédéric Deroubaix (École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées - LEESU) and Julie Gobert (Université Paris-Est Créteil)

Seeing Like an Urban Service Operator: Making Urban Circulations of Matter and Energy Legible in the Digital Age

Morgan Mouton (Université Gustave Eiffel - Lab'URBA, Université Paris-Est Créteil, École des ingénieurs de la Ville de Paris)

Coding Urban Metabolism: Infrastructuring Waste Flows in Cairo, Egypt

Pierre Desvaux (PACTE, Grenoble and EVS/Lyon Urban School)

Urban Infrastructural Histories through their Metabolism

Sabine Barles (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

June 21st

PARALLEL SESSIONS

9.30 - 12.30 am

1 | TRENDS AND COUNTER-TRENDS IN THE COMMONING OF INFRASTRUCTURES

chair: Yassine Khelladi (University Gustave Eiffel - LVMT) | co-chair: Francesco Carota (Politecnico di Torino - DIST)
room: Sala Mollino

Infrastructure Finance and Infrastructure Lifeworlds

Phil Ashton (University of Illinois)

From Urban Infrastructure to Financial Infrastructure, and Back

Ludovic Halbert (Université Gustave Eiffel, CNRS, LATTIS UMR)

Power Disruptions: How Power System Reconfigurations in Italy are Re-assembling the State

Costanza Concetti (Durham University)

Is Infrastructure Repair Doomed to Fail? Regeneration as a Never Ending In-between State

Nacima Baron and Yassine Khelladi (University Gustave Eiffel - LVMT)

2 | THE MANY FACES OF CONTEMPORARY INFRASTRUCTURATION

chair: Leonardo Ramondetti (Politecnico di Torino - DIST)
room: Sala Caccia

Splintering, Suturing, and Supplementing: Vectors of Hybrid Infrastructure in Urban Africa

Liza Rose Cirolia (University of Cape Town - ACC), and Andrea Pollio (Politecnico di Torino - DIST, University of Cape Town - ACC)

STS Perspectives on Urban Break-down: The Co-construction of Crisis and Infrastructure in Cities

Anique Hommels (Maastricht University)

Infrastructures as Urban Agents: Plans, Spaces, and Appropriations of Infrastructure-led Developments in Contemporary China

Leonardo Ramondetti (Politecnico di Torino - DIST)

3 | INFRASTRUCTURAL VIOLENCE ON SPACES, SOCIETIES AND BODIES

chair: Lindsay Blair Howe (ETH Zurich, University of Liechtenstein) | co-chair: Astrid Safina (Politecnico di Torino - DIST)
room: Sala Astengo

First Nations Foundations: Cities and the Infrastructuring of Settler Colonisation

Holly Randell-Moon (Charles Sturt University)

Passing Me By: Disjuncture in Public Transport and Infrastructural Citizenship

Lindsay Blair Howe (ETH Zurich, University of Liechtenstein), Margot Rubin (University of the Witwatersrand), Anselmo Cani, University Eduardo Mondlane), Sarah Charlton (University of the Witwatersrand), Alexandra Parker (Gauteng City-Region Observatory), and Muhammed Suleman (University of the Witwatersrand)

Marginalisation and Infrastructural Stigma

Hanna Baumann (University College London)

4 | THE INFRASTRUCTUROCENE AND ITS DISCONTENTS

chair: Julie Gobert (Université Paris-Est Créteil)
room: Sala Vigliano

Toward a Qualitative Approach of Metabolic Pathways in the Making: The case of Excavated Soils and Raw Earth Construction in the Paris Region

Jean Gozauskas and Carole-Anne Tisserand (École Nationale Supérieure Mines ParisTech - CSI)

Re-negotiating Infrastructural Boundaries: Road Maintenance as a Bottom-up Ordering Process in the Urban Ecosystem

Roman Solé-Pomies (École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris - CSI)

Post-socialist Urban Infrastructures: Contentious Heritage as a Resource for Sustainability Transition

Tauri Tuvikene (Tallinn University), Wladimir Sgibnev (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography), and Carola S. Neugebauer (RWTH Aachen University)