

# SESSION 1.

## Infrastructure and urban commodity flows

Mon, April 15  
2-4 pm, A505

### 1. Common readings for discussion

[Lyster, C. \(2016\)](#). Storage Flows: Logistics as Urban Choreography. *Harvard Design Magazine*, 43.

Carse, A. (2017). Keyword: Infrastructure. How a humble French engineering term shaped the modern world. In P. Harvey, C. B. Jensen, & A. Morita (Eds.), *Infrastructures and Social Complexity. A companion* (pp. 27–39). London; New York: Routledge.

[Photo Essay](#): Spohler, H. (2015, September 15). The dead zones of hypercapitalism – in pictures. *The Guardian*.

Readings without embedded links are available on the cloud: Session1\_April15

### Discussion questions

In reading the materials, seminar participants are invited to reflect on two issues in particular for preparing the discussion:

How can we define urban infrastructure? What do changing meanings and material forms of urban infrastructure imply for architects and urban designers?

What are potential effects of commodity flows on contemporary urban space – and how are infrastructure systems and objects mediating them?

### 2. Presentation task for case study groups

Departing from the commodity type, start to develop your group research project and its potential focus on concrete research objects on the five suggested scales of investigation.

For each scale of investigation, select 1-3 images and place them in the template (with source credits).

Formulate a general working title and tentative chapter headings.

Print out the five sheets and prepare for a first flashlight presentation (3-5min without slides).

### 3.

#### **Further reading suggestions: Positions on infrastructure**

These texts will be picked up for discussion and presentations in the final seminar sessions in July, but reading some of them in the course of term will be helpful for developing your arguments.

Readings without embedded links are available on the cloud: Further Reading-Positions

Chattopadhyay, S. (2012). *Unlearning the City: Infrastructure in a New Optical Field*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

[Easterling, K. \(2012\)](#). Zone: The Spatial Softwares of Extrastatecraft. *Places Journal*.

Graham, S., & Thrift, N. (2007). Out of Order: Understanding Repair and Maintenance. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 24(3), 1–25.

Larkin, B. (2013). The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 42(1), 327–343.

Leigh Star, S. (1999). The Ethnography of Infrastructure. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 43(3), 377–391.

Silver, J. (2014). Incremental Infrastructures: Material improvisation and social collaboration across post-colonial Accra. *Urban Geography*, 35(6), 788–804.

[Simone, A. \(2015\)](#). Relational Infrastructures in Postcolonial Urban Worlds. In S. Graham & C. McFarlane (Eds.), *Infrastructural lives: urban infrastructure in context* (pp. 17–38). London; New York: Routledge.