



Beyond the networked city?

Public Lecture by Jochen Monstadt (Utrecht)

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10.15-11.45, HS 150

One of the most influential ideals to plan 'modern' cities is that of the 'networked city'. In many African cities, however, this modernist ideal has never materialized. While formal institutions and plans reflect the ideal of a networked city, urban environments are shaped by heterogeneous arrangements of networked and non-networked, public and private, regulated and incremental service provision. Building on postcolonial critique, the lecture addresses this contradiction at the examples of Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. By focusing on the 'translation' of the ideal of a networked city, the lecture points to the scope of creativity in re-inventing alternative urban modernities.

Jochen Monstadt is professor of governance of urban transitions at Utrecht University and co-director of a DFG-research training group on critical infrastructures at TU Darmstadt. His research interests are at the interface of urban studies and social studies of technology, focusing on urban and infrastructural change in the global North and South. Since 2018, he is leading Utrecht University's research cluster on "Transforming infrastructures for Sustainable Cities".