

What infrastructures for the XXIst century? Networked infrastructures past and present, changing metabolisms and resourceful futures

Abstract:

In this presentation I will firstly recall how large technical networks of energy, water, transport and communication have been, for two centuries, an essential component of Western modernity in its main dimensions. The multiple contemporary challenges associated with modernity, particularly in connection with the global environmental changes constituting the Anthropocene, raise the question of the future of large networked infrastructures. The presentation will then explore the foundations and possible conditions of alternative infrastructure futures more compatible with respect for planetary boundaries.