

## BACKGROUND

The lecture series is part of the URBANgrad's Ph.D. program on "Urban Infrastructure in Transition: The Case of African Cities" at TU Darmstadt, funded by the Hans-Böckler-Foundation. The program highlights the history of, and the current challenges posed by, urban infrastructures - the supply and use of water, energy, sewerage, transport and telecommunication services. Within this framework, researchers critically investigate the tensions between internationally circulating technological and urban ideals and models in the planning, design and construction of cities (especially those of a "networked city") on the hand, and local processes of creativity and adaption on the other hand.

[www.urbangrad.tu-darmstadt.de/afrika](http://www.urbangrad.tu-darmstadt.de/afrika)

## INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

The interdisciplinary lecture series is offered as part of the master programs in civil and environmental engineering, architecture and history, but also in the interdisciplinary study programs at the TU Darmstadt (ISP).

**TUCaN:** 02-04-0400-vl  
13-K4-0011-se  
15-02-3020-se

**Examination:** Written test (3 CPs) or research paper (6 CPs)

# The Making of Urban Resilience: Critical Infrastructures in Africa



## FUNDING

The lecture series is organized in collaboration with the Center for Interdisciplinary African Studies Rhein-Main (ZIAF). It is funded by the Hans-Böckler-Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the ZIAF.

## COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Prof. Dr. Jochen Monstadt, Spatial and Infrastructure Planning  
Prof. Dr. Mikael Hård, History of Technology  
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### CONTACT

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## International Lecture Series

Monday, 18.04. - 04.07.2016, 18:00 - 19:30

S2|08 171, Uhrturm-Hörsaal  
Hochschulstraße. 4, 64289 Darmstadt

### PICTURE CREDITS

Cover photo: Rémi de Bercegol  
Inside photo above: Rémi de Bercegol  
Inside photo below: Jochen Monstadt

## The Making of Urban Resilience: Critical Infrastructures in Africa

The growing vulnerability of urban societies through their complex technical networks is a controversial topic—both in the Global North and the South. In African cities, e.g., service provision is often characterized by regular interruptions, breakdowns and failures of centralized networks. While various studies of African cities have pointed to the inequalities in accessing networked services and the creative answers that their shortcomings have provoked, there have been few attempts to discuss what we—from a global perspective—might learn from these investigations when it comes to our ability to prevent and to prepare ourselves for infrastructural breakdowns and failures. Generally speaking, urban infrastructure systems in Africa reveal surprising similarities to socio-technical characteristics that are usually promoted in the debate on critical infrastructures and urban resilience, namely a shift toward more diverse, flexible, adaptive and redundant systems.

Against this background, the interdisciplinary lecture series addresses the vulnerability and resilience of urban infrastructures in African cities. Which failures and crises do urban infrastructures in Africa show? How is the prevention of and preparedness for urban infrastructure failures being organized? What insights does resilience thinking bring to the understanding of the dynamics of urban change in Africa in terms of planning, governance and socio-spatial inclusion or exclusion?



### INDIVIDUAL LECTURES

18.04.2016

The Making of Urban Resilience: Critical Infrastructures in Africa  
Prof. Dr. Jochen Monstadt, TU Darmstadt

25.04.2016

The Rush to Build and the Futures of Infrastructure  
Prof. Dr. AbdouMaliq Simone, Goldsmiths College, University of London

02.05.2016 (*other location: L3|01 91*)

Everyday Experiences and Infrastructure Vulnerabilities  
in Peri-urban Areas of Dar es Salaam  
Dr. Nathalie Jean-Baptiste, Spatial and Infrastructure Planning,  
TU Darmstadt / Ardhi University, Dar es Salaam

09.05.2016

Towards a Long Technological History Research Agenda  
on African Infrastructures: Transportation Systems  
Prof. Dr. Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga, Science, Technology and Society,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

23.05.2016

Vulnerability of Critical Infrastructure - an STS Perspective on Cities?  
Prof. Dr. Anique Hommels, Technology & Society Studies,  
University of Maastricht

30.05.2016

Prospects of Sustainable Infrastructure in African Cities  
Prof. Dr. Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities, Cape Town

06.06.2016

Disrupted Infrastructures: an Urban Political Ecology  
of Electrical Interruption in Accra  
Dr. Jonathan Silver, Department of Geography,  
University of Durham

13.06.2016

Regimes of Waiting in Socialist Dar es Salaam:  
Considering the Ephemeral in Urban Landscapes  
Prof. Dr. Emily Brownell, Humanities and Social Sciences,  
University of Northern Colorado

20.06.2016

Heterogeneous Infrastructure and Sustainable Urban Development  
in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons for Moving to Scale  
Prof. Dr. Shuaib Lwasa, Urban Geography and Spatial Planning,  
Makerere University, Kampala

27.06.2016

Lessons Learned: Infrastructural Resilience in African Cities  
Prof. Dr. Mikael Hård, History of Technology, Dr. Bérénice Bon,  
URBANgrad, TU Darmstadt

04.07.2016

Vulnerability of Infrastructures:  
A Relevant Category of Analysis for Sub-Saharan Cities?  
Prof. Dr. Sylvie Jaglin, Laboratoire Techniques Territoires Sociétés  
(LATTS), Paris

