# Assignment 1

# Understanding Urban Infrastructure in the Global South

*The large avenues of the European city, its modern services and infrastructures were to show very clearly in which side progress, wealth and power were situated. Some ‘natives’ could be granted the gracious concession of living in the European city, thus taking advantage of its ‘modernity’, but they could never expect to be fully integrated into the colonial urban society.*

(Balbo 1993: 25-26)

The structures put in place by colonial governments to serve imperial interests contributed to an institutional legacy and infrastructural landscape that endured beyond the 1960s when most African countries attained independence. Servicing standards were associated with colonial status: city planning and the provision of infrastructure has always been highly politicized and linked to ideology in Africa. In the post-colonial era, provision of services catered for the political and economic elites with some regimes pushing the ideal of the modern integrated city through infrastructure master planning.

The assignment entails the following:

* Choose a city in the Global South that was subject to colonial control. This could be in Africa or Latin America for example.
* Explain how the current structure and distribution of services in the city is underpinned by its colonial heritage.
* What post-colonial efforts were made to address inequalities and how has that changed over time? What role has networked infrastructure played in this?

You will be divided into pairs. Each pair is to choose a city and prepare a *Pecha Kucha* presentation. *Pecha Kucha* is a 20 x 20 presentation format; 20 slides are presented with 20 seconds allocated for each slide; thus the total presentation time is just over 6 minutes. The idea is to spark discussion and debate by preparing to hone the content down to the absolute essential messages.

Presentations will be sorted into panels of 5 maximum. It is important to ensure that there are at least 3 panels. Panel 1 will be asked questions by Panel 2; and Panel 3 will assess Panel 1; etc. Thus this is a process of peer examination and learning. Slides are to be submitted electronically on **Vula by 18 April 17.00.**

## Core Readings

* Balbo, M. (1993). “Urban planning and the fragmented city of developing countries.” Third World Planning Review 15(1).
* Freund, B. (2007). The African City: A History. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
* Graham, S. and S. Marvin (2001). Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Condition. Pages 84 - 87. London, Routledge.
* Minkley, G. (1998). ‘Corpses behind Screens’: Native Space in the City. In Blank...Architecture, Apartheid and after. H. Judin and I. Vladislavic. Rotterdam, NAi Publishers.
* Simone, A. (2005). Introduction: Urban Processes and Change. In Urban Africa: Changing Contours of Survival in the City. A. Simone and A. Abouhani. London, Zed Books: 1 - 26.
* Taaffe, E. J., R. L. Morrill, et al. (1963). “Transport Expansion in Underdeveloped Countries: A Comparative Analysis.” Geographical Review 53(4): 503 - 529.

See http://www.pecha-kucha.org/