# Assignment 2

# Uncovering Actors and Agency in Infrastructure Delivery

One of the contributions of the Splintering Urbanism hypothesis is that it questions the role of the State as the benevolent provider of services and the notion of the Modern Networked city. Cities have become increasingly fragmented as marginalized areas are either left off the ‘grid’ or simply not able to connect. Furthermore, recent work on sustainable infrastructure transitions questions the ongoing commitment to the rollout of networked services. An emerging debate on co-production in service delivery reveals that communities across the globe are engaging in partnerships to enable service access and that this may be on the increase as a phenomenon.

Your task for this group assignment is to do the following:

* Find a case you can interrogate easily; either through primary investigation or through the scan of a number of publications, the Internet or perhaps something you are involved with personally;
* Who are the main actors involved? What are the relationships between them? How did the initiative start? What sparked it?
* What are the intricacies of the infrastructure? Has it made a difference to the area/neighborhood in question?
* Are these initiatives sustainable?

Each group is to prepare an A1 poster in either landscape or portrait format, showcasing the project/initiative, the infrastructure in question, the actors involved and the relationships between them. A two-page report is also required.

## Core Readings

* Brandsen, T. and Pestoff, V. (2006) Co-Production, the Third Sector and the Dlivery of Public Services: An Introduction, in Public Management Review. Vol. 8. No 4. Pp. 493 – 501.
* Graham, S. and S. Marvin (2001). Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Condition. Pages 84 - 87. London, Routledge.
* Joshi, A. and Moore, M. (2004) Institutionalised Co-production: Unorthodox Public Service Delivery in challenging Environments, in The Journal of Development Studies, Vol. 40, No 4. 31 – 49.
* Mitlin, D. (2008) With and beyond the State – Co-production as a route to Political Influence, Power and Transformation for Grassroots Organizations, in Environment and Urbanization, Vol. 20, No 2. 339-360.
* Needham, C. (2008) Realising the Potential of Co-Production: Negotiating Improvements in Public Services, in Social Policy and Society, Vol. 7, No 2, 221-231.
* 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.