CITIES, HEALTH, INFRASTRUCTURES

Urban infrastructures (in the Global South)
before, during, and after COVID-19

M-Projekt (M11) / SoSe 2020
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© SeongJoon Cho - South Korean soldiers attempt to
disinfect the sidewalks of Seoul's Gagnam district

BACKGROUND

The global spread of the coronavirus is linked to contemporary patterns and styles of urbanisation.

The current pandemic shows us:

- How connected cities are;

- How critical infrastructures are, as we depend on local as well as global flows of things, people and money; and

- How infrastructures — enabling movement of people and things (including viruses) through space — can be a threat to health but also important agents in the creation of more healthy environments.

The coronavirus made „the connections between accelerated urbanization, more far-reaching and faster means of transportation, and less distance between urban life and non-human nature due to continued growth at the city's outskirts — and subsequent trans-species infection — (...) immediately apparent."

Keil et al (2020)

STARTING POINTS

The pandemic affects urban life worlds, economies, and practices in the present moment in place-specific ways.
→ Cities in the Global South, particularly the urban poor, face specific challenges e.g. where physical distancing is hardly possible or where reagular water access is highly contested

The crisis will have long-lasting effects on city life, urban infrastructures, and planning/governance, globally.
→ It may lead to a) MORE socio-spatial segregation, car traffic, and b) LESS air/car travel, NEW energy/traffic configurations and generally a more SUSTAINABLE infrastructure landscapes

„The global spread of COVID-19 poses particular risks for the one billion people living in informal urban settlements in the global South." Mitlin (2020)

„Yes, the storm will pass, humankind will survive, most of us will still be alive — but we will inhabit a different world. " Harari (2020)

OBJECTIVE

Planning practice-oriented and imaginative/ speculative study project on a city in the Global South with the goal the develop evidence- based ideas and scenarios for urban futures during and after the pandemic
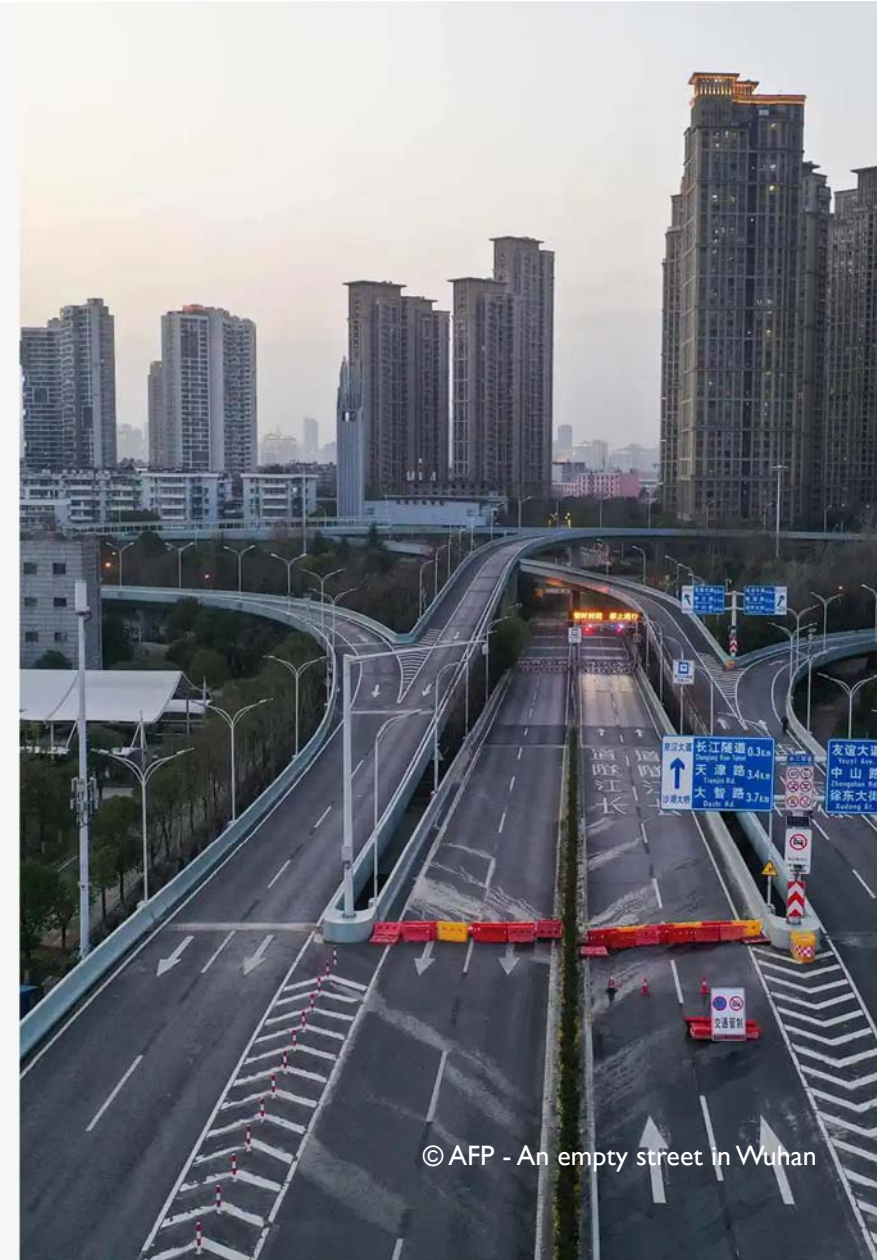

© Ikire Jones - Idumota Market [Lagos2081 A.D.]

CORE QUESTIONS

How does the **COVID-19** pandemic affect the city, specific urban systems, and infrastructures at the moment?

How will it or might it change the city, specific urban systems, and infrastructures in the future?

What has been, is, or will be the (potential) role of spatial planning in pandemic responses, ?

© AFP - An empty street in Wuhan

APPROACH & TASKS (I)

A) Select & Investigate

1. Collaboratively select one case study city to investigate the responses to and current impact of the pandemic on different urban systems/ infrastructures (e.g. energy, transportation, internet, water).

2. Per student group (max. 4 persons per group), select a specific urban system/ infrastructure in the particular city to investigate further, in regards to past and current health issues as well as its global and local connectivity, its criticality, and its vulnerability.

© everydayafrica - Residents walk along the railway line in Kibera (Nairobi) before the start of a countrywide curfew

APPROACH & TASKS (II)

B) Project & Speculate

3. Imagine and project future paths for how the selected urban systems/ infrastructures and, thus, the city as a whole will develop throughout the pandemic and especially after

4. Develop specific or abstract ideas how planners or other spatial practitioners may contribute positively to the developments projected by you

© Ron Herron (Archigram) - Walking Cities
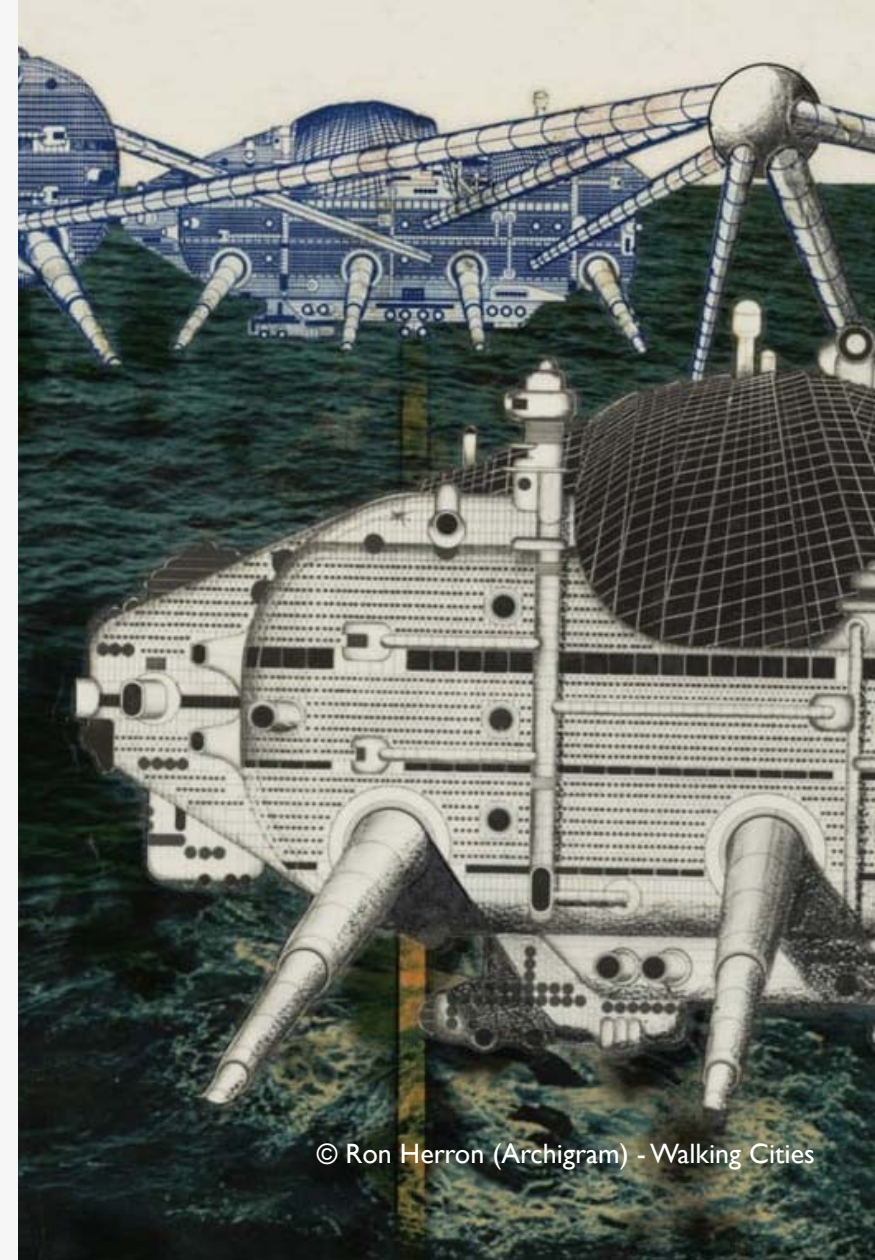
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METHODS

Students shall engage with a mix of various (research) tools and methods, which may include:

- Literature/ online reviews

- Media reviews/ analysis

- (Online) interviews and other primary data collection

- Mappings (e.g. cognitive mapping, flows mapping, static mapping)

- Scenario techniques (e.g. speculative writing, theory of change)

(Lecturers will offer guidance on methods throughout the semester)

How we can redesign cities to fight future pandemics
Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How.
RVs and an Econolodge Become Makeshift Quarantine Zones
Walking and Cycling for Healthy Cities
Outpacing an outbreak: How tech helps cities handle public health t
Urban Health: Erkenntnisse zur Gestaltung einer "gesunden" Stadt
Building Healthy Cities: A Focus on Interventions
Urban Sociology and Research: Methods on Neighborhoods and He
Polio in New York
Coronavirus: South Korea's success in controlling disease is due to it
Key considerations: COVID-19 in informal urban settlements
Complex Urban Systems: Compact Cities, Transport and Health
How Oxford is Building Social Capital to Combat COVID-19
Noxious New York: the racial politics of urban health and environme
Asia's street food hawkers struggle during coronavirus lockdowns
As Lockdowns Kill Jobs, Africa's Informal Workers Suffer
Foot traffic has fallen sharply in cities with big coronavirus outbreaks
SARS in Hong Kong
Cities in quarantine
City health check
UN-Habitat Covid-19: Key messages
Toward a Dialectical Understanding of Networked Disease in the Glo
The Urban Health "Advantage"
In a City Under Lockdown, Hope Arrives by Motorbike
Städte in der Corona-Krise
Tötet das Virus die freie Gesellschaft?
Restructuring the built environment to change adult health behaviou
What is the impact of coronavirus in informal settlements?
London and TB. TB Stories

PRESENTATION

Students shall present their findings and ideas in various visual and textual forms, depending on their existing skill sets and the specific case study:

- Text (e.g. academic, creative non-fiction, speculative)

- Maps & Mappings

- Infographics & Data Visualizations

- Artistic Representations (e.g. visual collages, audio/video)

(Lecturers will offer guidance on techniques throughout the semester)
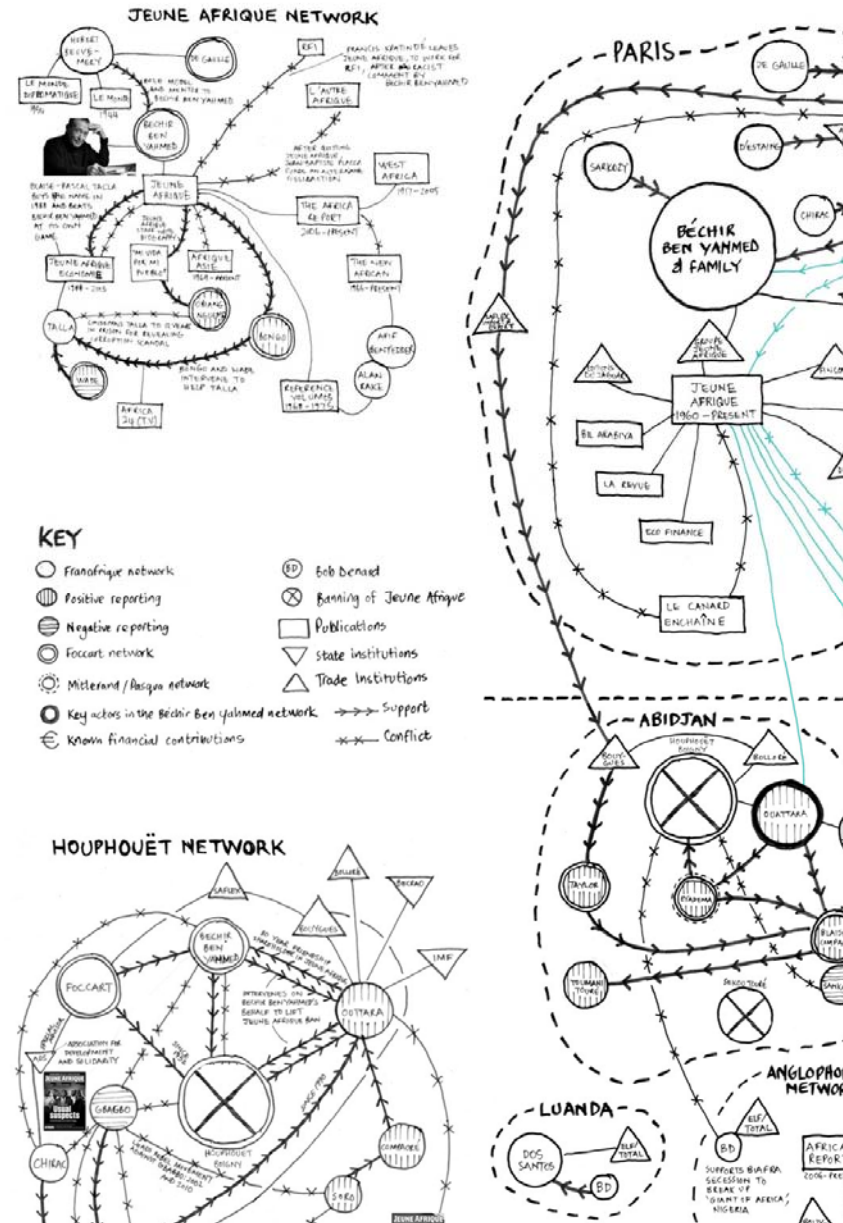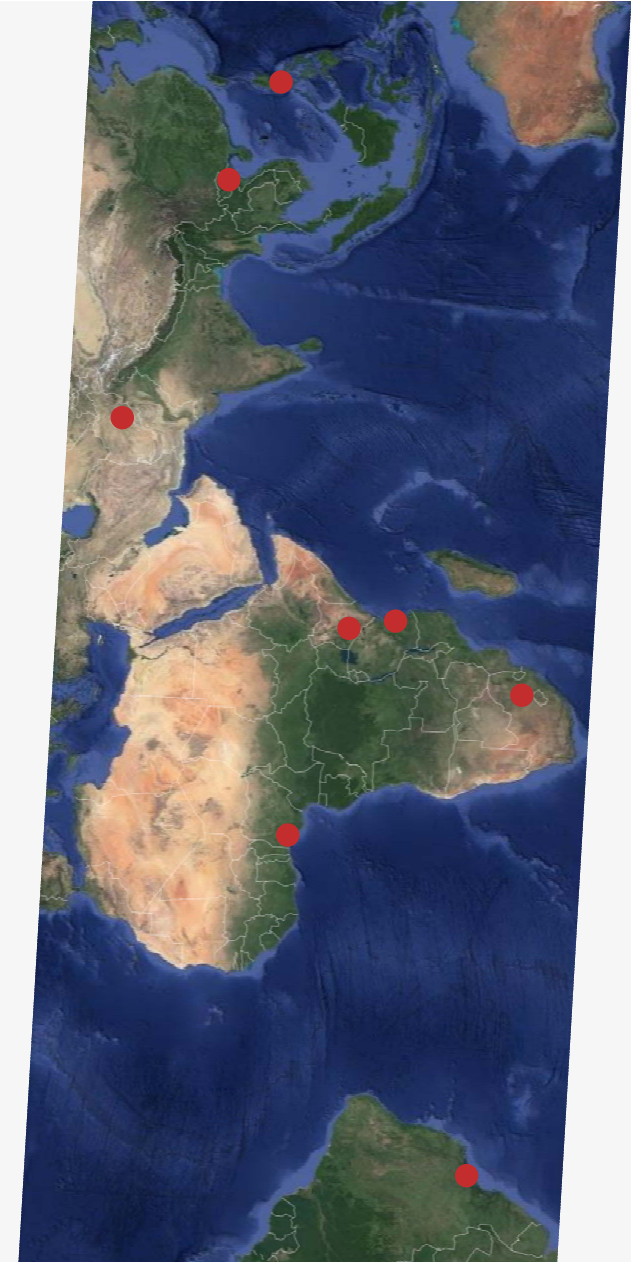
SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES

Based on our networks and experience, we suggest the cities below as case studies:

- Dar Es Salam (Tanzania)
- Lagos (Nigeria)

- Hanoi (Vietnam)
- Manila (Philipines)

- Johannesburg (South Africa)
- Nairobi (Kenya)

- Kabul (Afghanistan)
- São Paulo (Brazil)

(Students may also suggest other cities)

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For further questions about the project, please contact:

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Referenced and additional literature/media:

Harari, Yuval Noah. "Yuval Noah Harari: The World after Coronavirus." *Financial Times*, March 20, 2020, sec. Life & Arts. www.ft.com/content/19d90308-6858-11ea-a3c9-1fe6fedcca75.

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Mitlin, Diana. "Dealing with COVID-19 in the Towns and Cities of the Global South." *IIED*, March 27, 2020, sec. Urban. www.iied.org/dealing-covid-19-towns-cities-global-south.

Tuck, Andrew. „City health check". *The Urbanist* (Monocle), o. J. https://monocle.com/radio/shows/the-urbanist/440/. (PODCAST)

© SeongJoon Cho - South Korean soldiers attempt to disinfect the sidewalks of Seoul's Gagnam district