# When Infrastructure Fails

# Criteria for choice of a Case Study

## Background

The notion of failed infrastructure is used to indicate the limits of networked infrastructure, while revealing the actors that emerge in such situations, as well as the relations between them. A case study is used to ‘unpack’ concepts of co-production, the notion of intermediaries and assemblage. The aim is to use a case study to show how these relations form and work on the ground. Thus the choice of case is important.

## Criteria

#### A Global South case

Given the context within which students find themselves, it is important to draw from a Global South case that reveals the intricacies of inequality and resource scarcity found in African cities.

#### Conceptual significance

It clearly makes sense to choose a case that is either paradigmatic, such as Lagos, Nigeria; or a city that has experience significant infrastructure investment, such as Delhi (the Metro) or one that is seen as a success story, such as Curitiba, Brazil. The choice of a ‘story’, a case process that has been documented in detail is also a good choice.

#### Documentation

Students are required to do preparatory reading to enable discussion. This includes work on the core concepts but would need to be supplemented by literature on the actual case.

#### Other resources

Film, podcasts and/or audio resource enhance learning and provide a useful focus for discussion. A guest speaker, where possible and appropriate, would also provide a much needed first-hand perspective if the case is local.