

RESEARCH SEMINAR

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Governing Urban Infrastructures Under Pandemic Conditions: Some Thoughts

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Urban infrastructure has appeared as a central feature in a range of commentaries on the COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding the imprint of the pandemic on cities and their rebuilding through power-laden processes requires an attention to the politics and governance of infrastructure. In this intervention, we understand the pandemic as a moment to rethink claims over the studying of how infrastructures work. We focus on three dimensions where COVID-19 has underscored the importance of infrastructure governance: as pandemic condition, as pandemic vulnerability, and as pandemic response. We argue for the attunement of a strand of future academic work to the continued importance of the governance of and by urban infrastructures in a world of cities in which COVID-19 and its associated economic, environmental and social implications are likely to remain pervasive.

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Kevin Ward is a Professor of Human Geography and Director of the Manchester Urban Institute at The University of Manchester. He has published numerous book and journal articles over the years. Currently he is editing a book with others, entitled *Infrastructuring Urban Futures*, as well as researching and writing on US municipal finance under COVID-19. Kevin is the current editor-in-chief at *Urban Geography*.



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