

Propositions belonging to the thesis

Imaginaries, Experiences and Controversies: Resituating Citizen Engagements in Smart and Safe Cities

Vivien Butot, January 2024

1. The re-politicization of smart cities is incomplete without a consideration of citizen engagements with smart city imaginaries and technologies (this thesis).
2. Framing citizens as individual evaluators of perceived risks and benefits of discrete technologies obscures a multiplicity of citizen engagements with the smart city (this thesis).
3. The promise of smart cities to increase the understandability and manageability of cities through digital and data technologies sits uneasily with civic experiences of emerging urban “smartness” that are characterized by opacity in otherwise well-known living environments (this thesis).
4. Taking citizens seriously in the discussion and development of smart cities necessitates an admission of challenges to claims to the expertise of technology developers, consultants, policy makers, and researchers (this thesis).
5. Rather than dismissing dissent with smart city imaginaries and technologies as misinformed and backward, it should be acknowledged as a ubiquitous and democratically relevant mode of citizen engagement (this thesis).
6. The implicit desire of modern (Western) society can be typified as a safety utopia: the unattainable fantasy in which vitality and safety coincide (Boutellier, 2005).
7. “Raw data” is an oxymoron; data are always already cooked (Gitelman, 2013).
8. Current digitalization efforts in the Dutch government risk the entrenchment of disbalances within the trias politica (Passchier, 2020).
9. There is a strong tendency in political and policy circles to apply measures for a particular problem to other problems as well – even when it is not certain that the means chosen even work (Scheepmaker, 2011).
10. The paradox of democracy is that a pluralistic society must be pursued, but can never be fully achieved (Mouffe, 2013).
11. Grass does not grow faster by pulling it (African proverb).