

# Seminar 4

## Programmable City Project

### Smartcontracts and smartcities, displacing power through authentication?

Planning and distributed systems of authentication may appear to be distant research domains. The connection can be “smart contracts” and it is approached from an organizational studies perspective. The multifaceted relations between data, cities, planning and everything that falls under the umbrella term “Smartcities” have become matter of considerable interest across diverse disciplines. All kinds of infrastructures like roads or telephony have always been tense between public and private interests. Traditionally, states had a paramount role in their regulation, by posing conditions to concessions to private actors or by owning them directly. International trade and relations have always posed challenges to state authorities, and this has become particularly evident with digital infrastructures. States find difficult to regulate and provide rights on open-ended crowds rather than a defined body politic. Probably the main innovation brought about by Bitcoin is an architecture that allows authentication (by impeding double-spending) without having to rely on an externally legitimized organization like a central bank. The same authentication architecture is being tried out beyond money, to automatize contracts, The promise here is to create buildings, cities, physical infrastructures if not whole territories, that self-regulate, extending a cybernetic utopia. Saying more about future development of smart contracts would be pure speculation. This research would follow organizing processes related to automation of authentication and understand what novel forms of ‘sociation’ smart contracts entangle with.

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**15:00-17:00, Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

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