

Countering the Digital Consensus

The Political Economy of the Smart City

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Chapter One

Toronto status quo

Sidewalk Toronto

Overview?

Forced a discussion

Informed decisions

Governance vacuum

Agency and structure - vendor/investor

City of Toronto

Smart city status quo - Tracey Lauriault

No smart city policy - fear - need to help elected leaders here

How does this connect to existing general policy?

Why Digital Consensus?

The assignment of perceived benefit and neutrality of technocratic governance

(Imagine a stock image of zeroes and ones here)

Why Political Economy?

Smart cities were invented by the tech sector - cities need to write reqs.

The purchase of smart city product impacts our governance, public service delivery, and public spaces - political purchases

(Imagine a stock image of a city with flashes and zig zags)⁶



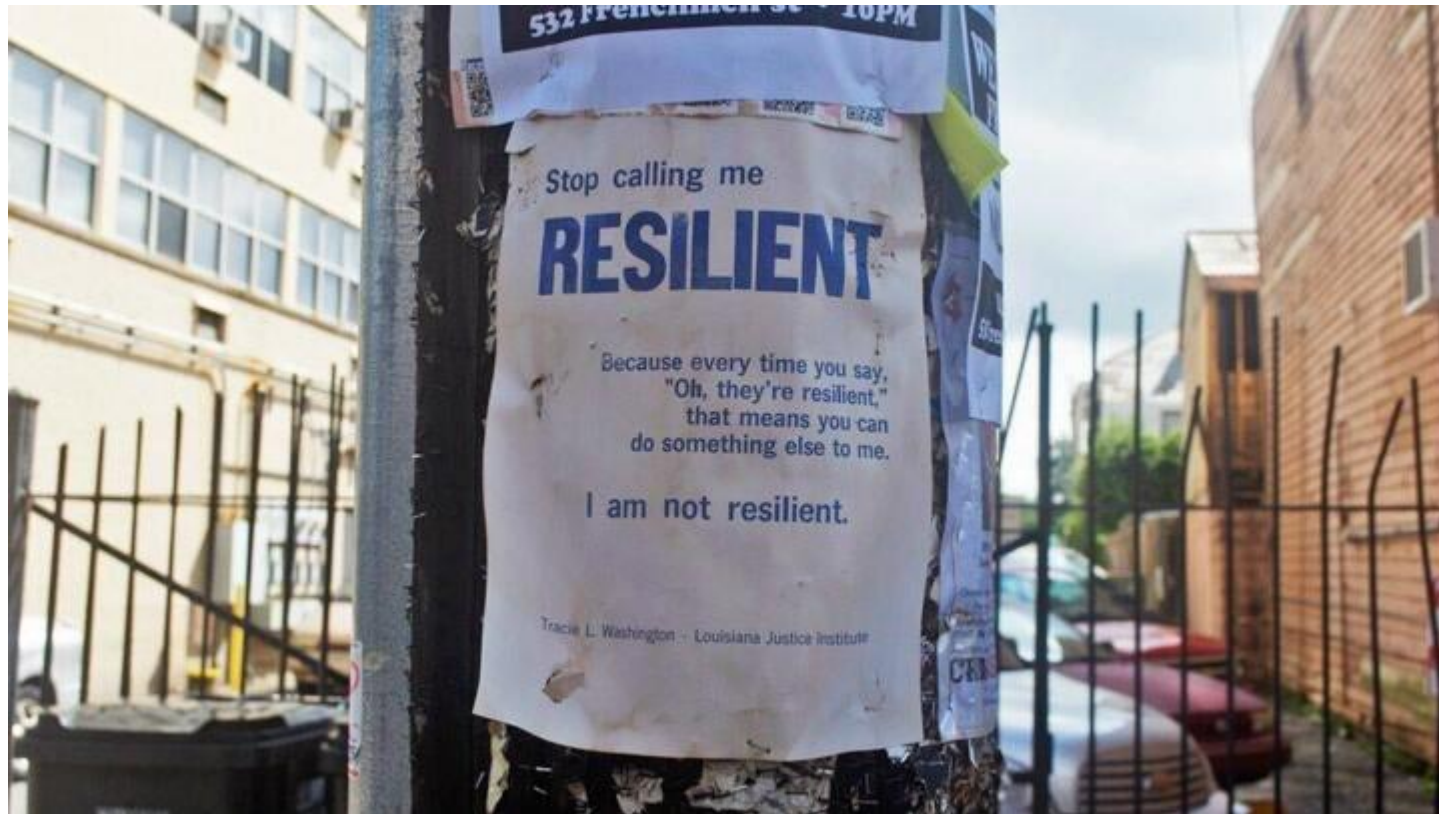
Digital Consensus Entrenches Scarcity



World-class cities come in all shapes and sizes.

**BUT THEY SHARE THE SAME MISSION:
TO SERVE RESIDENTS IN THE MOST
EFFECTIVE WAYS POSSIBLE**

Leading cities across America are using data and evidence to improve results for their residents. What Works Cities helps cities build on the work they're doing—to go further with what they've got.



Tracie L. Washington - Louisiana Justice Institute

Chapter Two

Sanity check on “moonshot” approach

Smart Cities are Data Driven Cities

Are we really missing the data we need to address issues related to affordability?

Environmental issues? Sustainability?
Resilience?

Smart Cities are Data Driven Cities

Can they help?

Certainly – but the help they offer is marginal and what's the cost?

Market-making

Smart Cities are Data Driven Cities

Permissionless Innovation - Adam Thierer 2014

Against the Smart City - Adam Greenfield 2013
(undermine communities and neighbourly-ness)

Smart Cities are Data Driven Cities

Not a technology for technology's sake project

What does the technology add?

Chapter 3

Ethical Procurement

The Ethics Of Experimentation

Guardrails for the lab, as in the academe -
Pamela Robinson

How to experiment in urban spaces ethically -
Matthew Claudel

The Ethics Of Experimentation

DRAFT

BEST WORD EVER

Ethical Procurement

Commercializing the Public Sector

What incentive does a vendor have to solve a problem that its product depends on?

Ethical Procurement

SafeTTC

What are the ethics of selling products to govt that both govt and public don't understand? Urban planner vs. software engineer

Smart Cities are Data Driven Cities

Public Service is too constrained and process paralyzes the right kind of innovation

Smart City Futures

What of the option of addressing the constraints using normal democratic policy iteration?

The Ethics Of Experimentation

What is on the table for people to decide?

Nicole Swerhun

What kind of intellectual property do we want to be participating in creating?

Chapter 4

Environmental vs. Human data

For Consideration

Ethics

We Need to Stop Collecting Certain Types
of Human Data

The Data

Data ownership

Not “commercializing” data - not selling it,
but what else?

Provocation

Heartburn

Commodifying Human Behaviour

Aggregate Behavioural Human Data

We have never had the conversation we need to have about the ethics and impacts of **state-sanctioned** collection and distribution of human behavioural data.

Open Smart City Data

Decision to open goes to owner

Open Data Policy was never designed for human behavioural data, even in aggregate

Frank D'Onofrio - Policy vs. Law

Environmental Data Only

Would any smart city company be satisfied with a ban on human data collection?

We should ask this question

Smart City Digital Consensus

Current frame:

We need this data. We will mitigate any of the risks to collecting it with privacy by design/aggregation etc.

Smart City Digital Consensus

Alternate frame:

Should we be collecting it in the first place?
The safest data is the data you never collect.

Smart City Futures

Data enables recursive behaviour

Library book example - often the one you didn't search for is a better fit

Consumer choice

Smart City Futures

Data enables recursive behaviour

Which behaviour?

Revenue generating behaviour

Chapter 5

I, data source
(the resident)

Privacy Act & PIPEDA

Privacy Act - “Use it for the reason it was collected” - Govt

PIPEDA - Personal Info Protection and Electronic Documents Act - Commercial

Teresa Scassa - PIPEDA out of data re: consent and more

Privacy Act & PIPEDA

Privacy Act Example

Behavioural predictions and govt services

Pre-emptive interventions vs. watch list

At what point is it not worth is to tie personal data together?
Potential abuse too high?

The Myth of the Informed Data User

Rejecting the “informed data user” –
Nasma Ahmed

Rise of “manage your own data”

Including ideas about monetizing your data and managing it in a dashboard, nationalizing it, etc.

The Myth of the Informed Data User

Reject this notion

Need to design for ZERO interaction with data and identity

Data as an Abstraction

You get a phone number – you are listed in the phone book .

You get a phone – you can be tracked by government and police.

Data as an Abstraction

This was not what we signed up for. Not only can we shut down new data collection, we can push back on what's already happened.

The Myth of the Informed Data User

Protect yourself online (defensive) -
Ellie Marshall

Build the spaces we want with technology,
where we know we are safe

Being Your Own Data Broker

Pharmaceutical drug testing

The Data Life Cycle

Beyond not collecting data, another under-discussed piece of data governance is deletion.

Chapter Six

Data-driven cities - Which data?

Individual Data Driven Urban Planning

“Building new neighbourhoods from the internet up is a remarkable opportunity to embed emerging digital capabilities into core infrastructure from the start. Physical spaces like buildings, streets, and parks can be designed for the opportunities that technology present, rather than forced to retrofit new advances very slowly and at great cost. By merging the physical and the digital into a neighbourhood’s foundation, people are empowered with the tools to adapt to future problems no one can anticipate.

Individual Data Driven Urban Planning

...Such a place quickly becomes a living laboratory for urban innovation. Given the speed of technological change, cities will only meet their growth challenges if they support innovation not right now but 10, 20, and 50 years ahead. **To do so requires designing for radical flexibility, enabling the best ideas to be refined in real time and creating a cycle of ongoing improvement driven by the feedback of residents and the energy of entrepreneurs, rather than prescribed by planners and designers."**

Urban Planners

John Lorinc

How to gather and legitimize observational info,
descriptive understandings of urban spaces.
Jane Jacobs et al - important to see how local
spaces work and not automate them.

Messiness is wonderful

Why Urban Planners

Equity is inefficient - Renee Sieber

Professionals - what of the institutions, the public service, and its role? Who in the community has the power and privilege to engage?

Our Smart City Futures

Stuart Bailey

“Multiple Concurrent Truths for Data”

There are great ways to use existing and environmental data

Our Smart City Future

Open source

Shared data internally

Options for approaches

Environmental data only?

Our Smart City Future

Safe spaces

Scale and share with other cities

Challenge political digital consensus

Our Smart City Future

Universal programs - more efficient?
Election 2018