

# In becoming a smarter city

Pragmatist experiments in  
Sydney's Transport information systems

People & Place Cluster Presentation  
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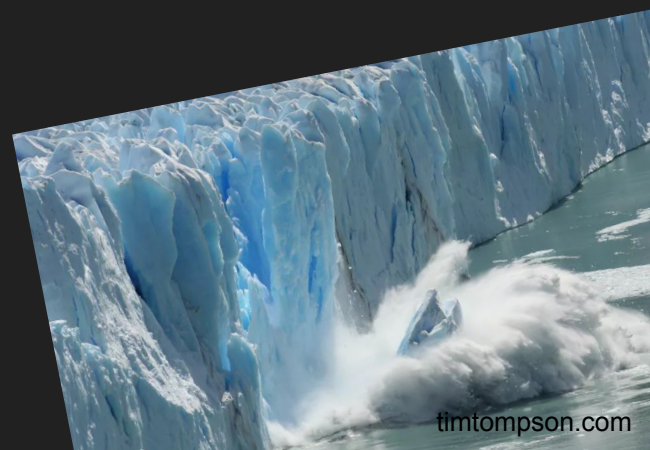
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# The smart city discourse

- Socio or technical
- Relies on canonical studies
- Ideological (utopian)
- Not pragmatic (derived from experience)
- Largely ignores local politics
- Treats cities as similar to build theory (nomothetic)
- Represents preferences of the invested authors



# The context of 21st century cities

- Climate change
- Growing Inequality
- Growing agency of nonhumans
- Western ideology of othering, universality, rejection of other ways of knowing
- Continuing anthropocentrism
- Disciplinary challenges in systemic problems



# The Smart City in the 21st century city...

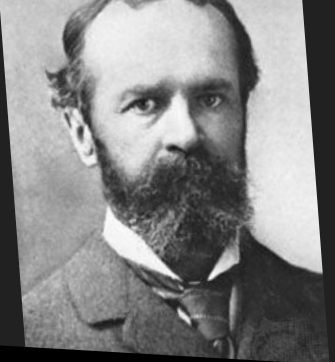
- Climate change (largely ignores it)
- Inequality (could make worse)
- Does not address growing agency of nonhumans
- Continues western ideology of othering, universality, rejection of other ways of knowing
- Anthropocentric/tech centric
- Tends to be disciplinary





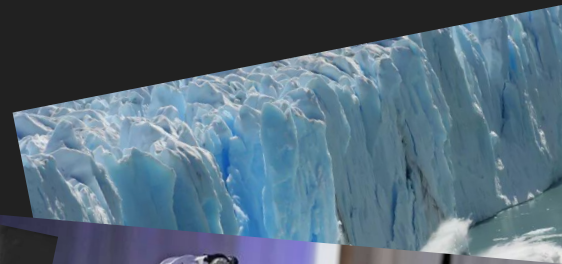
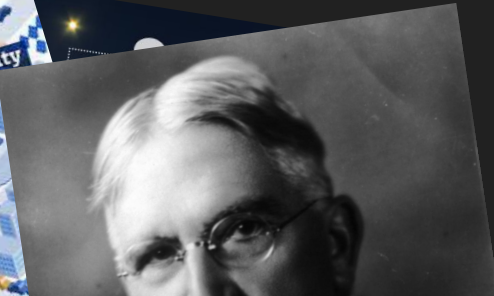
# Philosophical Pragmatism

- A concern with the practical effects of holding certain ideas
- Return to experience
  - Evolutionary process of change
  - Experimentalism
  - Rejection of dualisms
  - Rejection of metaphysical distinctions
  - Ecological understanding of context

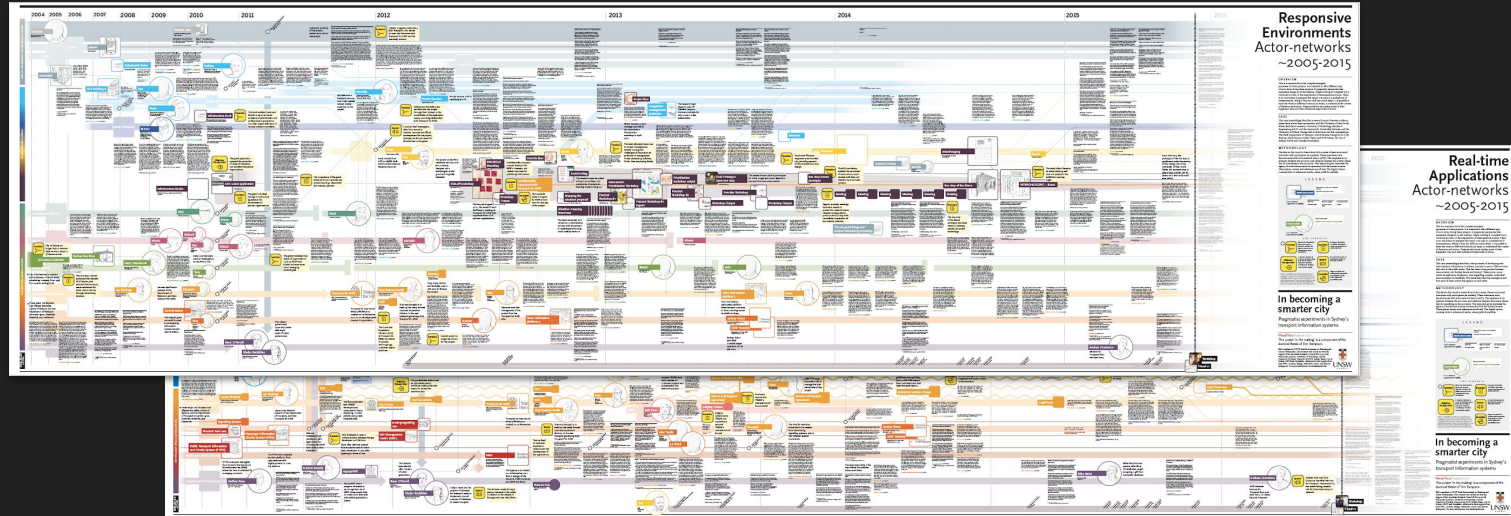


# Philosophical Pragmatism & the smart city?

- A concern with practical effects of holding certain ideas
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# Experiencing smart city projects



# What is the smarter city?

Based in pragmatist ontological commitments

- In 'process'
- Emergent
- Unknowable
- Contingent
- Political
- A pluriverse



# Design in the smarter city

- The designer recognises all action, even inaction, is political
- The designer prefigures design
- The designer does 'upstream', 'weak' and 'slow' designing
- The designer designs reflexively
- The designer makes the past, present and future unfamiliar
- The designer normalises complexity and emergence
- The designer designs as 'translation'
- The designer stays 'in the making'

# Thanks

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