

Mathias Albert, Heidi Tworek, Tobias Werron (eds.)

WORLDMAKING PROJECTS AND THE INFRA- STRUCTURAL NEXUS

An Interdisciplinary Exploration

[transcript] PoliticalScience

Mathias Albert, Heidi Tworek, Tobias Werron (eds.)
Worldmaking Projects and the Infrastructural Nexus

Mathias Albert is a professor of political science at the Faculty of Sociology at Bielefeld University, and one of the directors of the Institute for World Society Studies. His research is on the history and sociology of world politics, on youth, as well as on the politics and science of the polar regions.

Heidi Tworek is Canada Research Chair and professor in history and public policy at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, where she directs the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions. She is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the College of New Scholars, Scientists, and Artists at the Royal Society of Canada. Her research examines the history and policy of new communications technologies.

Tobias Werron is a professor of sociological theory and general sociology at the Faculty of Sociology at Bielefeld University. His historical-sociological research focuses on topics such as globalization and world society, competition, nationalism, and theorizing in the social sciences.

Mathias Albert, Heidi Tworek, Tobias Werron (eds.)

Worldmaking Projects and the Infrastructural Nexus

An Interdisciplinary Exploration

[transcript]

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available online at <https://dnb.dnb.de>



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons License BY 4.0. For the full license terms, please visit the URL <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Creative Commons license terms for re-use do not apply to any content (such as graphs, figures, photos, excerpts, etc.) not original to the Open Access publication and further permission may be required from the rights holder. The obligation to research and clear permission lies solely with the party re-using the material.

2026 © Mathias Albert, Heidi Tworek, Tobias Werron (eds.)

transcript Verlag | Hermannstraße 26 | D-33602 Bielefeld | live@transcript-verlag.de

The automated analysis of the work in order to obtain information, particularly concerning patterns, trends, and correlations as defined in § 44b (text and data mining) of the German Copyright Act (UrhG) is prohibited without the written consent of the rights holders.

Cover design: Maria Arndt

Printing: Elanders Waiblingen GmbH, Waiblingen

<https://doi.org/10.14391/9783839477632>

Print-ISBN: 978-3-8376-8178-9 | PDF-ISBN: 978-3-8394-7763-2

ISSN of series: 2702-9050 | eISSN of series: 2702-9069

Printed on permanent acid-free text paper.

Contents

Acknowledgements	7
1 Introduction	
<i>Mathias Albert, Heidi Tworek, Tobias Werron</i>	9
2 The Infrastructural Nexus: Conceptualizing Worldmaking Projects and Their Infrastructures	
<i>Mathias Albert, Diana Lemberg, Heidi Tworek, Tobias Werron</i>	19
3 Are We Living in a ‘New Age of Imperialism’? Studying the History of Interaction between Nationalist and Imperialist Worldmaking	
<i>Tobias Werron</i>	45
4 The (Non-)Insular History of Imperialist Worldmaking	
<i>Diana Lemberg</i>	71
5 Where WMPs Meet ‘up’ and ‘down’: Exploration, Governance, and Infrastructures in the Polar Regions	
<i>Mathias Albert</i>	93
6 The Infrastructural Nexus Aloft: Worldmaking Projects in the Air and Outer Space	
<i>Heidi Tworek and Diana Lemberg</i>	121
7 Worldmaking Activities after the Formal End of Empire: Examples from Africa	
<i>Bettina Mahlert</i>	143

8 Worldmaking Projects, the Cunning of Reason, and the Evolution of World Statehood	
<i>Heikki Patomäki</i>	165
References	193