ROUTLEDGE RESEARCH IN PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

"A cutting-edge analysis of how a myriad of new technologies are involved in the rapid reorganisation of cities and urban life, *Unplugging the City* is a superb and much-needed book. From video and data surveillance to bike sharing, from driverless cars to guided buses, and from Wikileaks to sci-fi cinema, the book explores and exposes the politics and possibilities of new communications and mobility innovations in cities with great topicality and erudition."
Stephen Graham, *Professor of Cities and Society, Newcastle University*

"This book skilfully delivers a collection of interconnected topics focusing on various developmental aspects of contemporary cities—including mobility, technology, infrastructure, planning and design. The book is an invaluable reading for urban policy makers, researchers, practitioners and students that are interested in exploring the interplay between urban technologies and cities."
Tan Yigitcanlar, *Queensland University of Technology, Australia; author of the* Technology and the City

Modernity has entrusted technology with such power that it is treated as an autonomous entity, with its own manners and morals. Technological disruptions are also socially disruptive: technological failures reveal both the constituents of the technology itself and the social fabric woven by this technology. Cities are the quintessential technological arrangement, not only materially but also as a conceptual framework: the ubiquity of technology makes us think and plan cities mostly in terms of technological arrangements.

Unplugging the City: The Urban Phenomenon and its Sociotechnical Controversies proposes a conceptual and methodological framework for analyzing urban phenomena as a technological assemblage. It demonstrates, through multiple case studies, the sociotechnical complexities involved in the stabilization and disruption of urban technological arrangements. Examples range from the urban phantasmagorias portrayed in science-fiction movies to the urban proposals of Brasília and Masdar, from the book of bike-sharing systems to pervasive global surveillance systems.

Written by Fábio Duarte and Rodrigo Firmino, based on their original research and publications, this is an essential resource for those interested in the theory and study of technology and its inextricable influence on the city.

Fábio Duarte is a scholar and research lead at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Senseable City Lab and professor at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR), Brazil. Duarte is an urban planner with a PhD in Communications from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, and has been a research associate at Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Rodrigo Firmino is professor in urban management at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR), Brazil. Firmino is an architect and urban planner with a PhD in Urban Planning from Newcastle University, UK, and has been a visiting scholar at the University College London, and a postdoc fellow at the University of São Paulo.

PLANNING
Cover image: Felipe Hellmeister

an **informa** business

ISBN 978-0-367-33179-5

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group
www.routledge.com

Routledge titles are available as eBook editions in a range of digital formats

Acknowledgments viii
Foreword ix

Introduction: From Shared Wheels to Controlled Spaces 1

1 Unplugging the City: Mobility and Territorialization of Urban Sociotechnical Systems 12

2 Disassembling Bike-Sharing Systems: Surveillance, Advertising, and the Social Inequalities of a Global Technological Arrangement 39

3 Learning from Failures: Unearthing Rail Proposals in Curitiba's Bus Rapid Transit 54

4 Driverless Cars: Glossing the Rugged Pavements Ahead 67

5 Constructing New Invisible Territories through the Monitoring of People and Spaces 81

6 The Weakest Link: Unplugging Digital Territorialities 104

7 Planning Delusion: Between Prescription and Provocation 117

8 Urban Phantasmagorias: The Immanent Cities of the Future 136

9 Folie à Deux: A Salute to Mark Weiser 152

Index 156