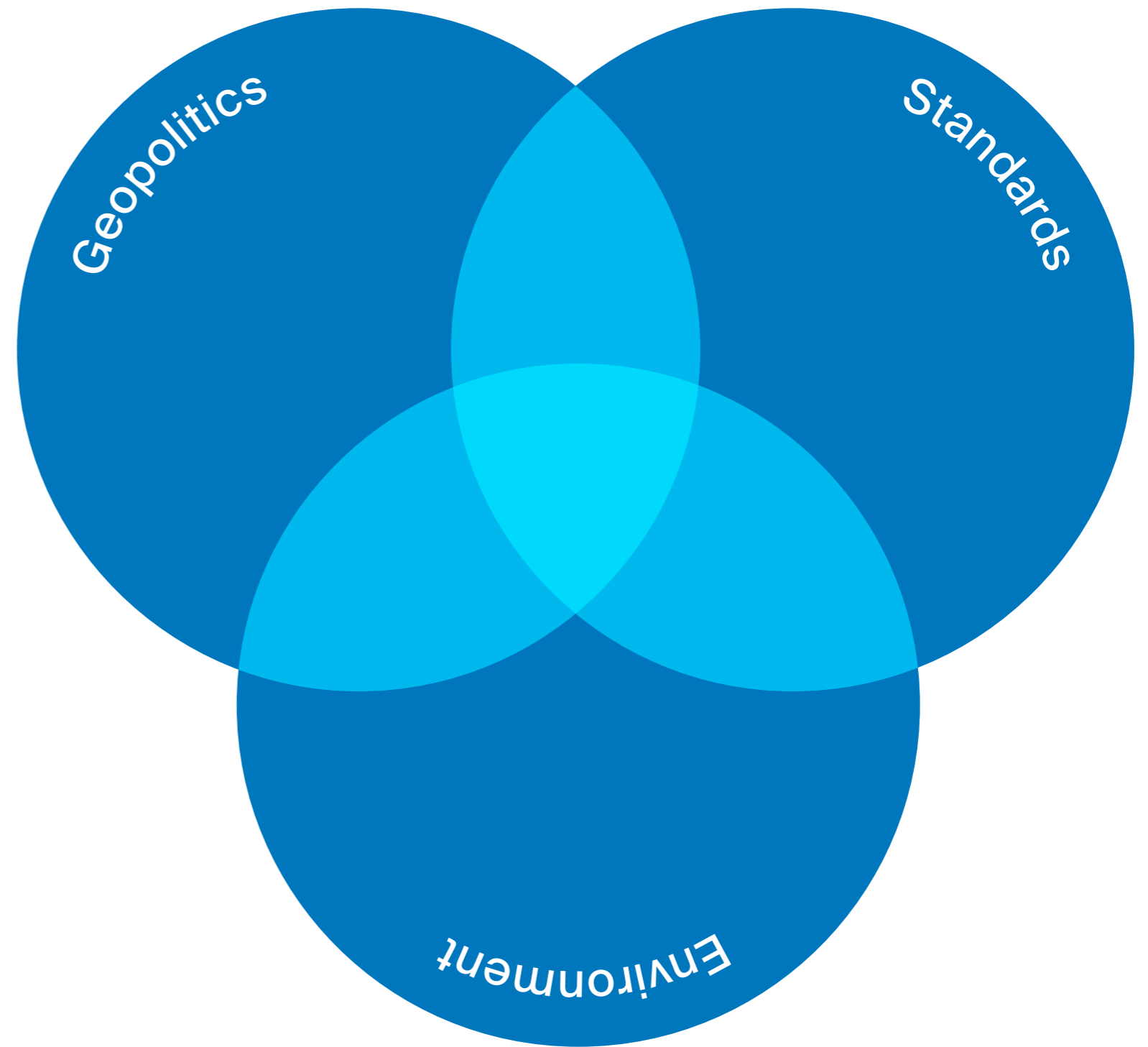


critical infrastructure lab

researching power
and contestation
in global digital
infrastructures



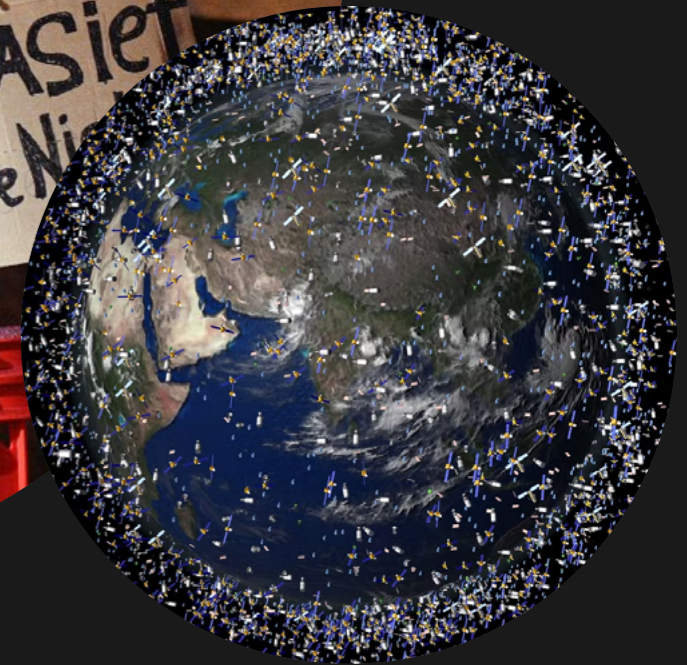
contemporary conflicts are infrastructural



Facebook Enters the Race to Build 5G Networks

In announcing its Telecom Infra Project, Facebook is positioning itself to disrupt the global telecommunications industry—and get us all wearing VR goggles.

Russia Is Taking Over Ukraine's Internet



The China-U.S. 5G Battle Upends a Telecom Industry Consortium

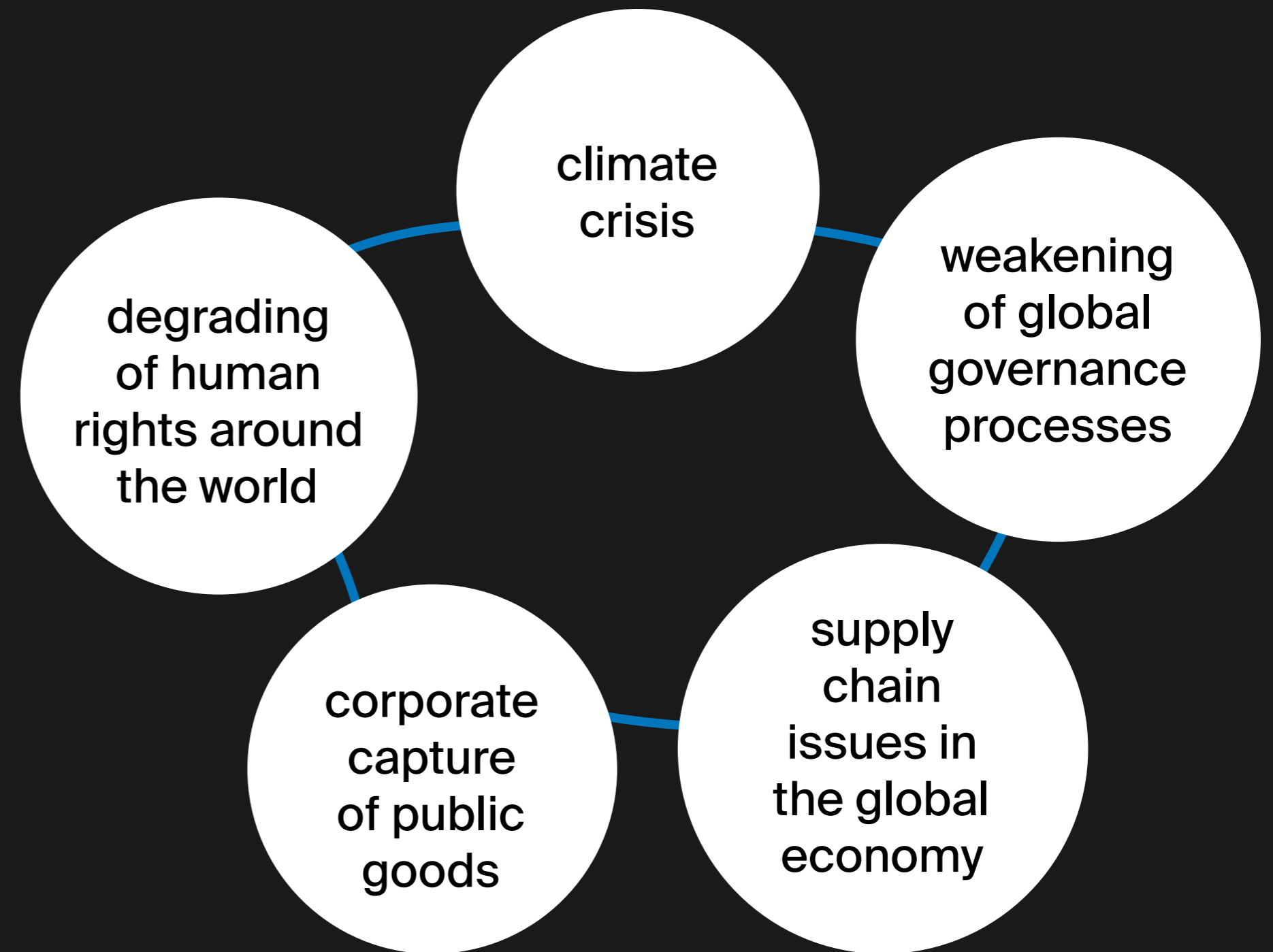
The mundane process of setting technical specifications becomes a player in a geopolitical drama

**changes to the
globalising world are
being written, not in the
language of law and
diplomacy, but rather
in the language of
infrastructure**



- Keller Easterling

multiple entangled crises:



→ to tackle these wicked problems we need to understand, invest in, and build sustainable infrastructures.

infrastructure as a lens and approach to wicked problems

the internet infrastructure imaginary has run out of steam



**critical
infrastructure
lab aims to**

create space

to co-develop alternative
infrastructural futures that
center people and planet
over profit and capital

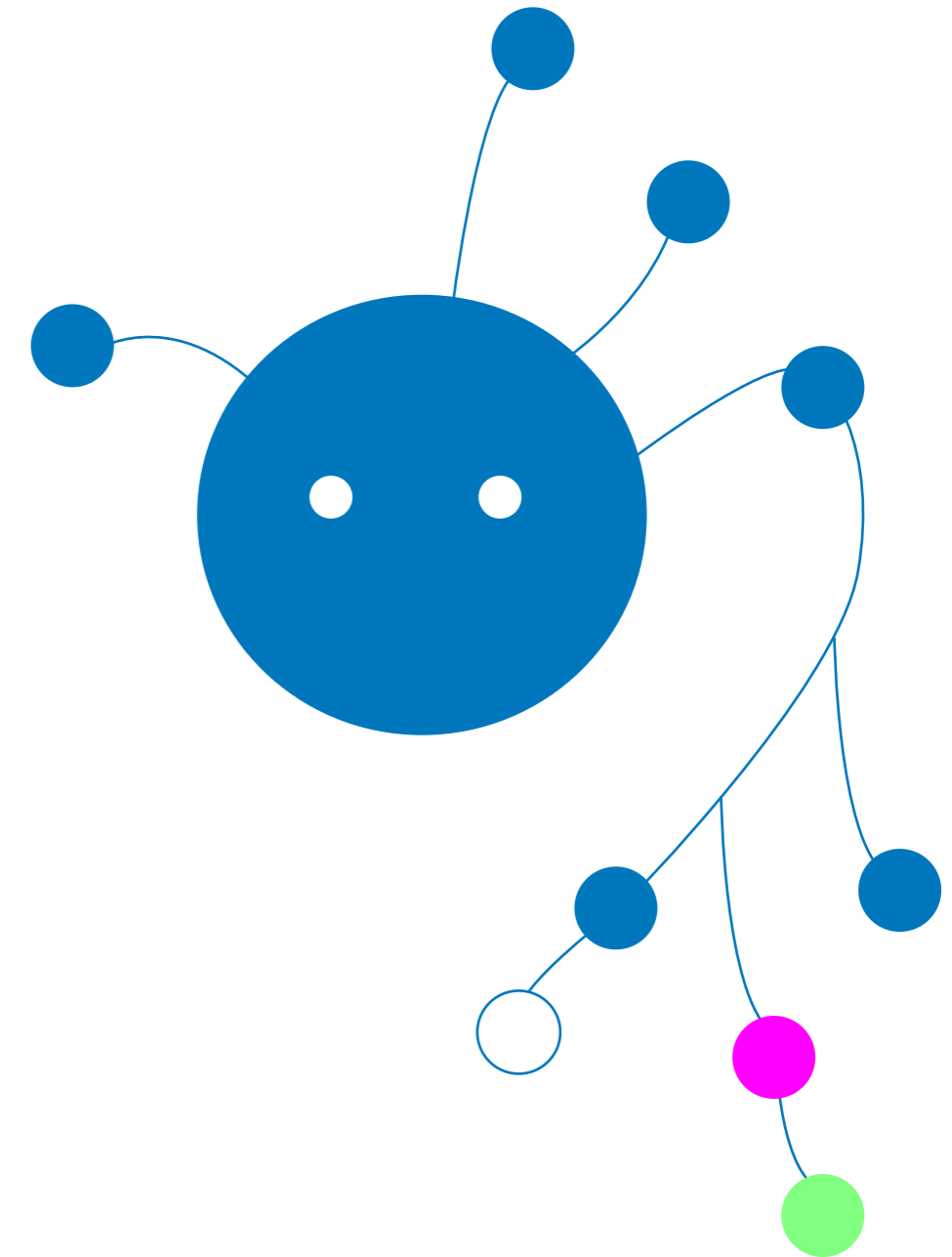
theory of change

civic voices in policy,
governance, and
technology spaces
struggle to gain
initiative...

... to move from a
reactionary approach —
mitigating harms



... to a
proactive approach —
reimagining infrastructures.



what is needed

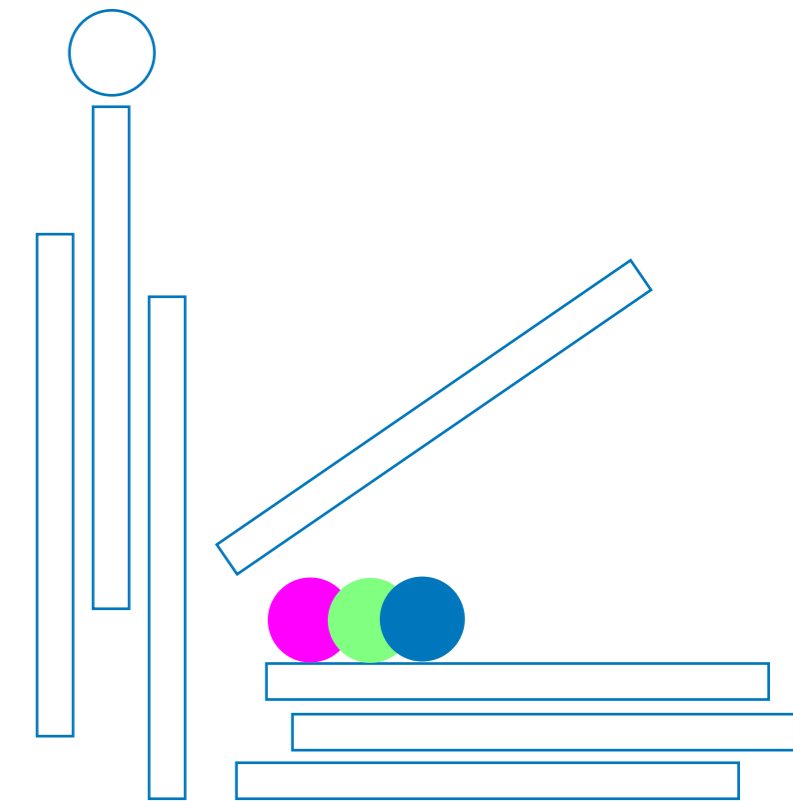
evidence

deeper understanding
of how infrastructures
shape societies

imagination

space to co-develop
and articulate
alternative futures.

the critical
infrastructure lab
aims to be a space that
provides the building
blocks for **evidence-based
policy influencing and co-
developing alternative
infrastructural futures.**



how will we do this?

**establish
community
around three
infrastructural
subtopics**

geopolitics

environment

standards

**establish a
sound body of
research**

**develop policy
recommendations
and strategic
insights**

reading groups, meetings, retreat,
book, journal, and practitioner
fellowships.

standards and governance dashboard,
publications, presentations, academic
fellowships.

reports, briefs, and policy papers tailored
to policy makers, civil society, and public
interest technologists.

in the coming two years we will

establish
Europe's
leading critical
infrastructure
lab

research
geopolitics,
standards, and
environment
of data
infrastructures

contribute
to coalition
building, civil
society strategies,
and evidence
based
advocacy

learn in the
open through
accessible
publications,
participation in panels,
input in policy
discussions

create a
dashboard
to study
infrastructure
governance and
standard-
setting

organise
a series of
workshops,
events, and
retreats

three subtopics

geopolitics

how are power and control exercised through communication networks in Europe, Russia, and China?

standards

how do the standards, software and hardware communities shape infrastructures of power, control, and extraction?

environment

how do infrastructures shape the management, distribution, and depletion of natural resources?



**we have
never been
locked in
the ivory
tower**

straddling academia and civil society

- many years movement and NGO experiences
- worked with movements, libraries, hacklabs, indigenous communities & international governance fora

building ground swell

- environment (Fieke)
- standards and infrastructure (Niels)
- hackerspaces and social movements (Maxigas)

influenced evidence based decision-making

- government
- governance

communicate to a wide range of audiences

- papers
- international media
- workshops
- infrastructure walk
- guides, toolkits, and comic books
- films

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