

**Reading Tips and Study Questions: For Session 22**  
**Planning and the Public in Smart Cities—December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Required reading:**

1. (Case) **Frenchman and Rojas**, "Zaragoza's Digital Mile: Place-Making in a New Public Realm," *Places* 18(2), 2006.
2. pp. 1-14 in **William Mitchell**, *Me++: The Cyborg Self and the Networked City* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003).
3. pp. 376-393, 398-410, 418-423 in **Manuel Castells**, *The Rise of the Network Society* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1996).

**Tips and questions**

Except for some brief discussion about what information and communication technologies do or don't change about planning as a tool and target for civic engagement in public life and decisionmaking, we've not explored the role of still-emerging technologies in the field. In this session, we'll do just that with help from guest lecturer Dennis Frenchman of our CDD group, using the case of a digital corridor in Zaragoza, Spain.

At DUSP, we're using the labels "smart city" and "responsive city" to capture the idea that digital media make it increasingly possible for cities to respond to their user-citizens' needs dynamically and interactively. We want to explore not only about the technical possibilities, of course, but—appropriate for Gateway—to focus on what the use of these technologies implies for the public, as well as for the role of planning and planners.

1. Who should determine the information and "events" to be carried in **Zaragoza's "Digital Mile"** and why? What are the possibilities here for planning differently? What skills—old or new—might smarter cities demand of planners?
2. However legitimated or carried out, modern planning and its still-evolving alternatives have long claimed that planning is a collective enterprise of people sharing particular places. What do the "discontinuities" and reshaped boundaries, discussed by **Mitchell**, imply for the collective or the sense of common enterprise in cities?
3. **Castells** discusses key trends shaping societies worldwide but highlights key distinctions among cities in America versus Europe versus developing country cities, including "mega-cities." What are those key distinctions?