

INVISIBLE CITIZENS?

Exploring the imagined Residents of a Smart City

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Smart Cities are often understood as urban spaces that reduce their carbon footprint, efficiently use energy and incorporate effective transport systems. To achieve these goals a vision of an innovative, networked and data driven society came to life ... the smart city. However, it is not clear yet what a smart city should or can be, nor how such a smart city co-evolves with and from its residents. The question, which new forms of behaviour or social practices are necessary to achieve these goals is hardly asked. Users and citizens tend to be forgotten in these scenarios. The understanding of *smart citizens* remains implicit.

The presentation explores these ideas by investigating two case studies - Vienna's Smart City Initiative and the Smart City of Songdo. By taking a look at the presented ideas and ideologies in official documents and opening up the negotiation process that involves different actors – such as ICT corporations and policy makers – the implicit understanding of a smart citizen in different cultural contexts will be explored. Smart Cities represent a contemporary sociotechnical imaginary of a highly data driven and optimized city. At the same time it creates a vision of tomorrow's cities. Therefore one question must be raised: A smart city for whom?