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## Forum för Afrikastudier

Friday Research Seminar in African Studies:

# ***Infrastructure as a Divination Tool Whispers from the Grids in a Nigerian City***

with

**Ulrika Trovalla and Eric Trovalla**

*Dept. of Cultural Anthropology & Ethnology, Uppsala University*

Time: Friday 26 January 2018, 10.15-11.30

Venue: House 3, room 2028, Engelska Parken,  
Thunsbergsvägen 3H, Uppsala

*In the Nigerian city of Jos, everyday life is shaped by interlacing rhythms of disconnection and reconnection. Petrol, electricity, water, etc., come and go, and in order to gain access inhabitants constantly try to discern the logics behind these fluctuations. But the unpredictable infrastructure also becomes a system of signs through which residents try to understand issues beyond those immediately at hand. Signals, pipes, wires, and roads link individuals to larger wholes, and the character of these connections informs and transforms experiences of the social world. Not only an object, but also a means of divination, infrastructure is a harbinger of truths about elusive and mutable social entities – neighbourhoods, cities, nations, and beyond. By focusing on how wires, pipes, and roads are turned into a divination system – how the inhabitants of Jos try to divine the city's infrastructure and possible ways forward, as well as how they try, through the infrastructure, to predict a city, a nation, and a world beyond – this paper strives to find ways to grasp a thickness of urban becomings – a cityness on the move according to its own unique logic.*

[afrikastudier@antro.uu.se](mailto:afrikastudier@antro.uu.se)  
[www.afrikastudier.uu.se](http://www.afrikastudier.uu.se)

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