



CONCLUSION

REALTIME set out to describe and analyze the multiple shapes of China's urban and technological transformation. The book illustrates the diversity of practices evolving from common origins (e.g., the Internet, urban development, mobile telephony, e-commerce) in light of the country's density, scale and temporality.

The administration of writing and the planning of cities have been marked by important disruptions, while exhibiting noticeable historical continuity. The case of Shenzhen highlights the permanent adaptation to immediate constraints, resulting in the development of a new planning model and discourse to be reproduced in urban contexts elsewhere. Standardization efforts for 5G mobile telephony further illustrate the ambition, speed and scale at which Chinese companies and the government plot technological trajectories domestically and abroad. In spite of different visual representations, ideologies of AI show striking resemblances on both sides of the Pacific.

In their own way, *shanzhai* mobile phones and *danmu* comments attest to the uniquely creative technological practices crafted in China. The ethnographic account of Shenzhen's Huaqiang area describes the intricate relationships between the emergence of digital technology and urban transformation. The case of Taobao villages shows that new spatial and economic organizations exist and prosper on the fringes of larger technological systems. These examples remind us of the central importance of human agency in the hybridization of technology and space, even when hardly visible.

Considering the multiple scales and locations of urban transformations raises significant methodological difficulties for the researcher. On-hand approaches borrowed from maker cultures provide a rich inspiration to overcome these challenges and integrate findings and viewpoints from diverse communities. Fiction may eventually help us to nurture a sensory (and culinary) relationship with the future of technology.

More than reaching definitive statements about China, REALTIME constitutes a modest attempt at capturing the pace, scale and depth of the country's complex reality. The book gathers different views and perspectives with the hope of casting a different light on the changes occurring not only within China, but across the world.

The extension of the practices and phenomena observed here, and their correlation to changes in natural and sociopolitical ecosystems, is yet to be explored further. How are these real-time transformations reshaping the human condition? What sort of new physical and conceptual spaces are required to describe and analyze them? And furthermore, how can such spaces exist beyond actual scientific and national boundaries?