**Technologies of Survivability: How the Military Scripts Urban Relations**

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This thesis aims at investigating how urban environments become sites of politics, conflict, and violence through technical mediation. It draws on Gilbert Simondon’s philosophy of technology and Madeleine Akrich’s sociology of innovation to explore how imaginaries of cities and the urban inform the design of mobility technologies through the concretization and scripting of technical objects. The research ventures into the world of the military to investigate how extreme human-technology relations push the cognitive, corporeal, and material performance of the environment, space, bodies, and scale. Through an STS- and ANT-inspired methodology, the study analyses and translates the content of highly technical forms of knowledge from novel sources, including utility patents and specialized military publications, to trace encounters of the U.S. military’s mobility with the landscapes of Iraq and Afghanistan as a threat, fabric, infrastructure, and breakdown. The narrative embraces an architectural conception of the MRAP vehicle as a highly protected and enclosed space, an atmospheric capsule privileging the survival of specific bodies. The study concludes with three key findings. Through the design and geographic displacement of technical objects, the military reduces the built environments to something to be survived; terrain becomes a proxy for the environment; and, survivability prevails as a sociotechnical arrangement, where technical innovation enrolls humans, procedures, materials, design, testing, and simulation. The thesis makes the argument for survivability becoming a vital concept of contemporary cities and built environments, and the urban emerging as a reassembling of survivability arrangements for moving with – not in – the environment.