

Acknowledgments

We thank the many colleagues and friends who supported this project and helped us see it into print.

We first met during our graduate studies in the Science Studies Program at the University of California, San Diego. This book reflects the influence of both San Diego itself, through case studies in chapters 2 and 3, and the intellectual community at UCSD, which shaped our thinking about repair in important ways. Special thanks are due to Chandra Mukerji, an important mentor to both of us. This book owes a crucial intellectual debt to her work on infrastructures and material culture, and has been shaped in many other ways by methods and perspectives she introduced us to. Thank you, Chandra, for your continued support and inspiration over the years. We are also indebted to many other colleagues from UCSD, including Patrick Carroll, Mark Jones, Martha Lampland, Charlie Thorpe, Josh Dunsby, Jennifer Jordan, Steven Shapin, and other colleagues and mentors we first met as graduate students, including Trevor Pinch, Tom Gieryn, Mike Lynch, and Harry Collins.

We are fortunate to be part of a growing community of scholars working on repair, and we have benefited from the insights and friendly critiques of many colleagues, especially participants in the International Comparative Urban Retrofit workshop in 2012, the Repair Work Ethnographies workshops in 2014 and 2015, and the workshop on Maintenance, Repair and Beyond held in 2015. We are grateful to have been included in these conversations as well as the resulting publications: *Retrofitting Cities: Priorities, Governance and Experimentation* (Mike Hodson and Simon Marvin, editors; Routledge, 2016); *Repair Work Ethnographies: Revisiting Breakdown, Relocating Materiality* (Ignaz Strebler, Alain Bovet, and Philippe Sormani, editors;

Palgrave Macmillan, 2019); and an issue on repair in the online journal *Continent* (Lara Houston, Daniela K. Rosner, Steven J. Jackson, and Jamie Allen, editors; issue 6.1, 2017). The editors and peer reviewers for each of these projects provided helpful feedback that has shaped our thoughts for this book.

Colleagues who heard presentations on portions of this project at UCSD's Science Studies Program, Cornell University's Department of Science and Technology Studies, and conference sessions for the Society for Social Studies of Science and the American Sociological Association also provided valuable feedback.

This work would not have been possible without the patience and trust of the people we interviewed, observed, and just chatted with in the course of developing the case studies in this book. These included the maintenance technicians described in chapter 2, the Caltrans and UCSD engineers and other specialists we discuss in chapter 3, and the nuclear weapons scientists and engineers featured in chapter 4. Chapter 3 would not exist without the amazing, largely uncompensated work of the activists and muralists who created Chicano Park in San Diego's Barrio Logan and have maintained it as an artistic landmark and community resource for over forty years. We owe particular thanks to Salvador Torres, who shared many insights on the history of the park and murals with us, and Mario Torero, who graciously allowed us to use an image of his mural *Colossus* on the cover of this book.

We thank Infrastructures series coeditor Paul Edwards for encouraging us to write this book as part of the series, an idea that originated during an unexpected, fortuitous meeting between Ben and Paul in Los Alamos on a wintry day in 2013. Series coeditor Geoff Bowker and MIT Press editors Justin Kehoe and Katie Helke also provided important feedback and helped us through the review process. Thanks also to several anonymous reviewers for their detailed comments on our manuscript, editors Ginny Crossman, Bev Miller, and Cadi Klepeis for their support in the final production of the book, and Amron Gravett of Wild Clover Book Services for her work on the book's index. We gratefully acknowledge grant support from Colgate University's Research Council for book production costs, and Arcadia's support of open access publishing.

Ben's thanks. Thanks to Chris for giving me the opportunity to work within and expand on a universe of repair concepts that originates in his work. Our continued engagement has been a lifeline to the world of

academic sociology and science and technology studies (STS) while working at an institution where I have few colleagues in these fields. Thanks for being a great friend and collaborator.

I am grateful to many friends and colleagues at Los Alamos National Laboratory who have helped me take my background in STS and sociology in directions I never thought possible, and taught me a great deal about science, technology, and infrastructure along the way. They include members of the former systems ethnography team, especially Greg Wilson, Laura McNamara, and Andrew Wiedlea, and others including John Ambrosiano, Kari Sentz, Joanne Wendelberger, Linn Collins, Walt Gilmore, Trinity Overmyer, and Bob Benjamin. And special thanks to my colleagues in the statistical sciences group at Los Alamos who, despite the fact that I have never taken a single statistics class, have provided me with an amazingly supportive organizational home for over fifteen years. I appreciate the willingness of my managers to allow me the flexibility and time off to complete this book as an independent project. Of course, the standard disclaimer applies: the views expressed in this book are not necessarily shared or endorsed by any institution or person mentioned here.

Finally, I thank my family for their love and support, including my parents, Chris and Cathie; my children, Sophie and Nathan; and my wife, Kathy, who inspires me to pay attention to the important stuff in all aspects of life.

Chris's thanks. My first thanks are to Ben for being a friend and collaborator for nearly thirty years. Conversations and shared work together, including this book, have had a profound impact on my thinking about repair and related topics. I especially appreciate the deep way that he works through and questions concepts, which has been a good check on my tendency to make things up as I go. Thanks for sticking with me and helping me to become a better writer and thinker.

I owe much to my colleagues at Colgate University, especially those who have read and commented on my work over two decades. I have learned so much from them, including wisdom about how to teach, write, and serve. Elana Shever, John Pumilio, Michelle Bigenho, Jon Hyslop, Santiago Juarez, Paul Lopes, Andy Pattison, Nancy Ries, Chandra Russo, and Alicia Simmons read and commented on early portions of this project. Many of the topics in this book were shaped and inspired by conversations and shared work with my students in the context of courses and research partnerships. I

am also blessed to have a great group of friends and colleagues who keep life fun and meaningful, especially members of Hamilton Bible Fellowship, Your Elders and Betters, and the Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group.

Special thanks to my running buddies, Mark Stern and Rob Nemes, for all the miles and many fun and random conversations. Thanks to them also for their comments on portions of this manuscript and for listening to me talk about repair as we jog past the spillway and our other well-traveled routes in central New York State.

Final thanks are due to my family, including my parents, Doris and Russ; my daughter, Lin; and the best wife and fellow-life-traveler I could ever hope for, Carolyn.

This is a section of [doi:10.7551/mitpress/11771.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/11771.001.0001)

Repairing Infrastructures

The Maintenance of Materiality and Power

By: Christopher R. Henke, Benjamin Sims

Citation:

Repairing Infrastructures: The Maintenance of Materiality and Power

By: Christopher R. Henke, Benjamin Sims

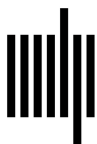
DOI: 10.7551/mitpress/11771.001.0001

ISBN (electronic): 9780262360692

Publisher: The MIT Press

Published: 2020

The open access edition of this book was made possible by generous funding and support from Arcadia – a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin



The MIT Press

© 2020 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

This work is subject to a Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND license. Subject to such license, all rights are reserved.



The open access edition of this book was made possible by generous funding from Arcadia—a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin.



This book was set in ITC Stone Serif Std and ITC Stone Sans Std by New Best-set Typesetters Ltd.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Henke, Christopher, 1969- author. | Sims, B. (Benjamin), author.

Title: Repairing infrastructures : the maintenance of materiality and power / Christopher R. Henke and Benjamin Sims.

Description: Cambridge, Massachusetts : The MIT Press, 2020. | Series: Infrastructures series | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020002135 | ISBN 9780262539708 (paperback)

Subjects: LCSH: Public works—United States. | Infrastructure (Economics)—United States.

Classification: LCC HD3885 .H44 2020 | DDC 363.6068—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020002135>

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1