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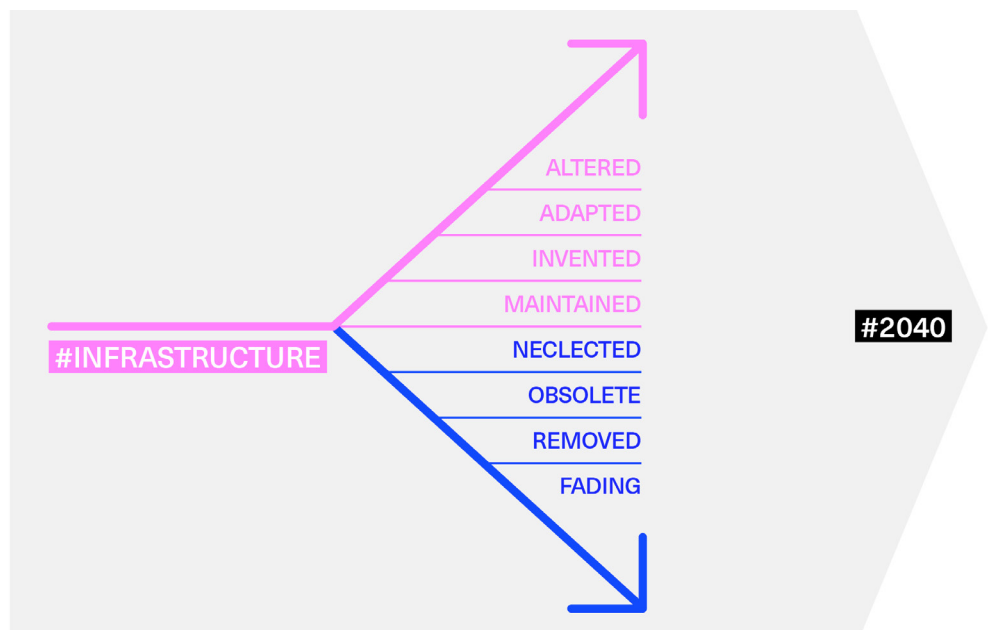
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# Mission Statement

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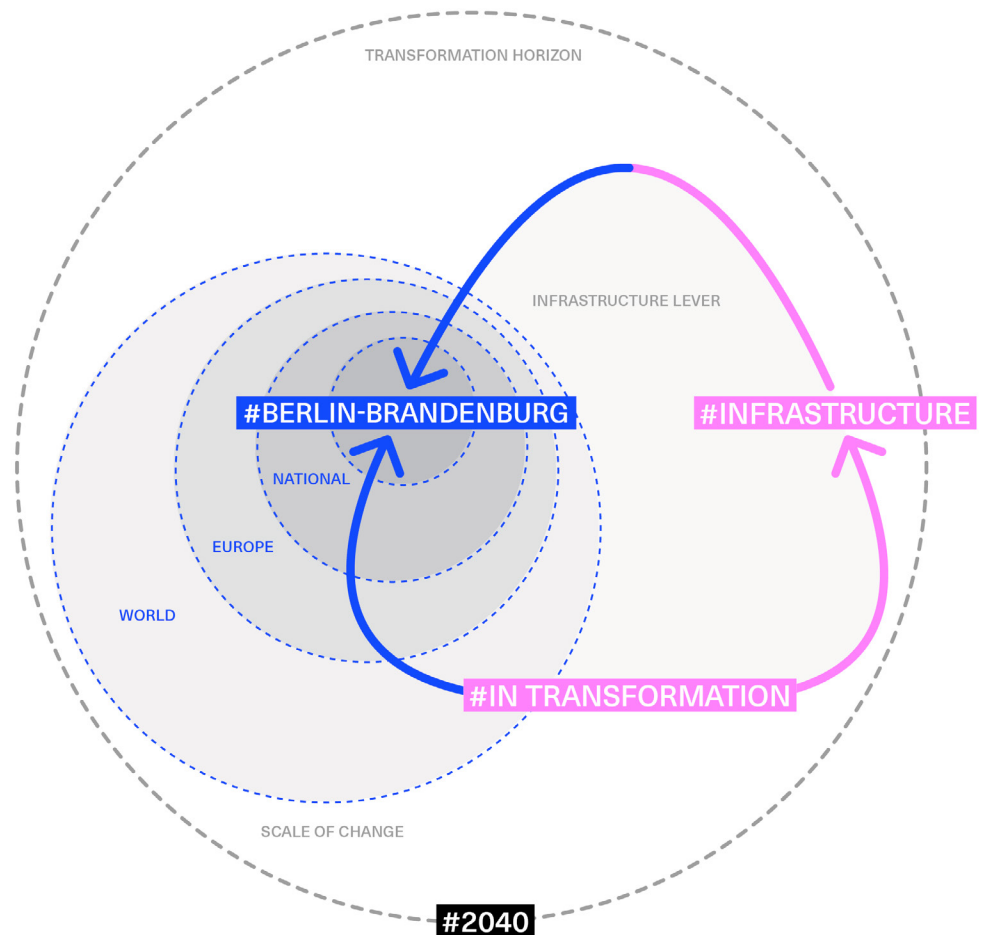
# BB2040 Mission Statement

**BB2040** is a collaborative research project exploring **#transformation** processes in **# Berlin-Brandenburg** from the perspective of **#infrastruktur**. We will invite students, colleagues, collaborators and guests to contribute their knowledge, ideas and speculations on how infrastructures as the glue of urbanization will (need to) change and reconfigure in light of global and local challenges to provide for a livable future in **# 2040**.



We understand infrastructures as an instrumental landscape of essential resources, processes and services that constitute the foundations of communal life in an urbanized society – a landscape that enables connections and opportunities, but also tends to produce specific spheres of influence and inequalities through embedded hierarchies and relationships of order. Far from being neutral objectivizations of materialized circulations, they reveal relationships of power between citizens and state, or between various state and non-state entities, and are the result of complex transdisciplinary, multi-scalar negotiation processes.

To make future living in **#Berlin-Brandenburg** inclusive, equitable and ecologically sustainable will require a number of vital systemic changes and “infrastructural turns”. Coal and other fossil-based systems will need to fade and provide yet unexplored spatial potential. Other infrastructures will have to be maintained, altered and adapted to a variety of emerging challenges related to societal changes, climate, or economics, etc. There are some that still need to be imagined and implemented from scratch; and others that need to be protected from the risk of being neglected or forgotten – as they appear to be invisible yet might be existential for human-non-human coexistence. All of the above will have to be considered.



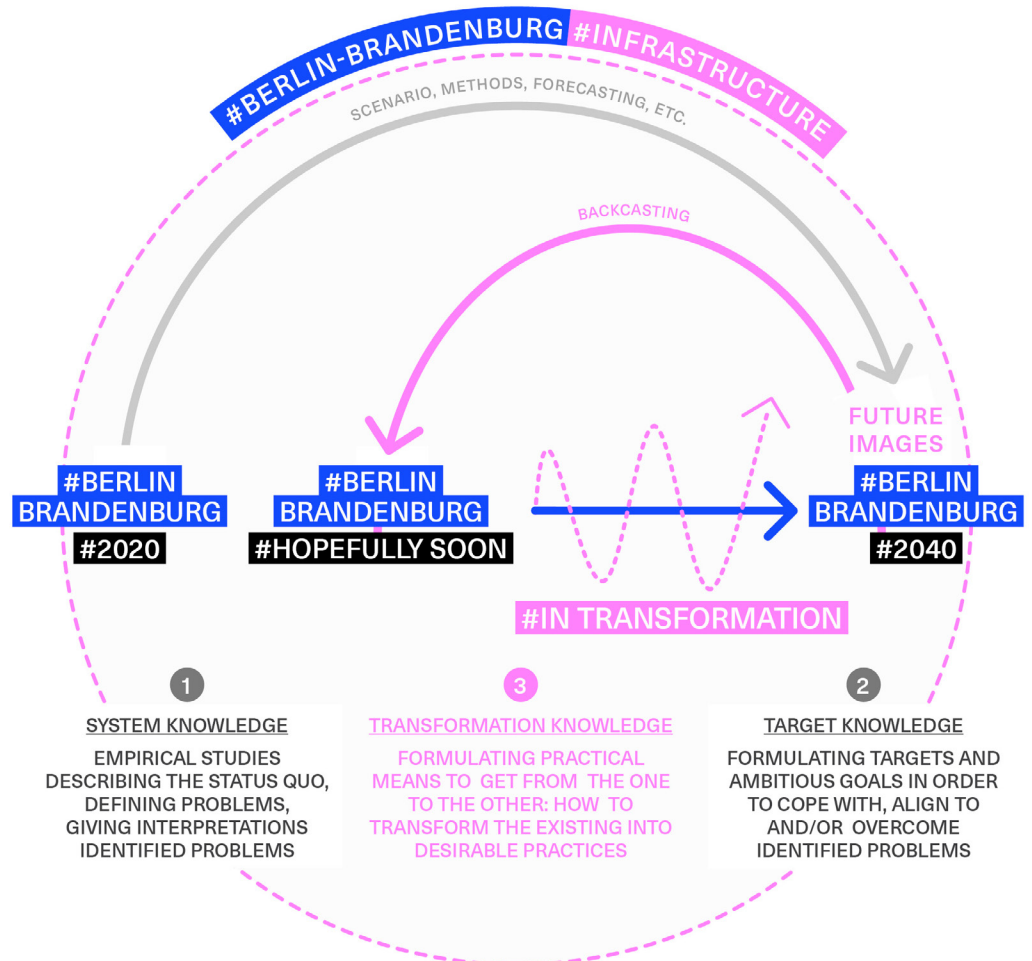
The centennial of the municipal reform that created Greater Berlin in 1920 reminds us that radical steps are needed in historic moments. By merging the administrative boundaries of six cities and 86 rural municipalities and manor districts into one metropolis, the basis for a stable legislative framework was created that has so far endured 100 years.

The year **#2020** might be another historic opportunity. Life during the pandemic has made clear how vulnerable a multitude of our systems are. With climate change, resource depletion or global inequalities, multiple crises at planetary scale loom behind the present one – which provides a glimpse of the likely impacts and uncertainties we will face if we continue in business as usual mode.

**BB2040** proposes to use the present normality under lock-down for a speculative journey into the future. To visualize both dystopian and utopian futures of an imagined year

2040 can be a powerful step towards avoiding a return to the stick-in-the sand mentality that characterized local planning and urban decision making before the pandemic. In line with global “grow back better” demands we would like to imagine 2020 as the year of beginning to think towards positive change.

**BB2040** investigates infrastructures as a lever to facilitate transformation. Infrastructures can combine future oriented thinking of uncertain futures with concrete, conceivable and negotiable realities of the present day.



The project devises a framework for a creative process involving multiple participants aiming to build a bridge between the vast systemic knowledge about present day challenges and planetary risks, policy processes and global agendas such as SDGs that provide references of what needs to be changed in the future, and specific conditions, resources and actors within Berlin and Brandenburg that will need to be involved in transformative change.

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Habitat Unit



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