# TO THINK ABOUT SPACE IN MEDIATIZATION THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE STUDIES

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WG Epistemologies and Mediatization
GT Epistemologias & Midiatização

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# mediatization studies + geography

most mediatization studies focus on technology innovations (diachrony)

technical objects (such as most networks) are themselves elements of space

“where networks exist, they are not uniform”

Santos, M. (2008). A natureza do espaço: Técnica e tempo, razão e emoção. Editora da Universidade de São Paulo. p. 268.

although networks transgress the various territories, they do so **unevenly**

different intentions and different uses and regulations

we can study **the objects installed in the territory**, their stories and their relationship with space, in addition to their relationship with the network itself

Milton Santos’ (2008) works can contribute to mediatization studies by showing that the **heterogeneity of space** is as relevant as the heterogeneity of time

# infrastructure studies

“Infrastructural inversion means recognizing the depths of interdependence of technical networks and standards, on the one hand, and the real work of politics and knowledge production on the other.”

Bowker, G. C., & Star, S. L. (1999). Sorting things out: Classification and its consequences (First paperback edition). The MIT Press. p. 34.

infrastructures are commonly seen as the substrate for other things: a ready-made space, almost invisible and inconsiderable. Their disputes, controversies, public policies and social dynamics are as complex as any other social phenomenon

as a proof-of-concept, we present a study about the conditions of Internet infrastructure of the municipalities in the region of Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

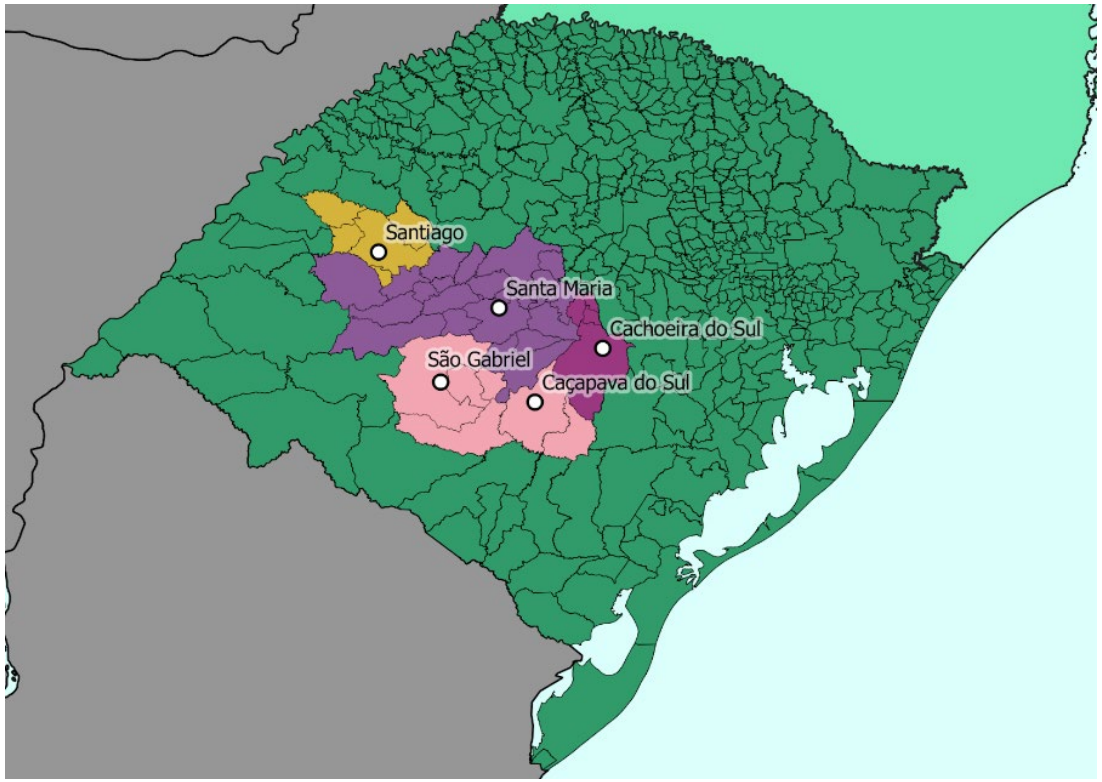
# Internet infrastructure in the region

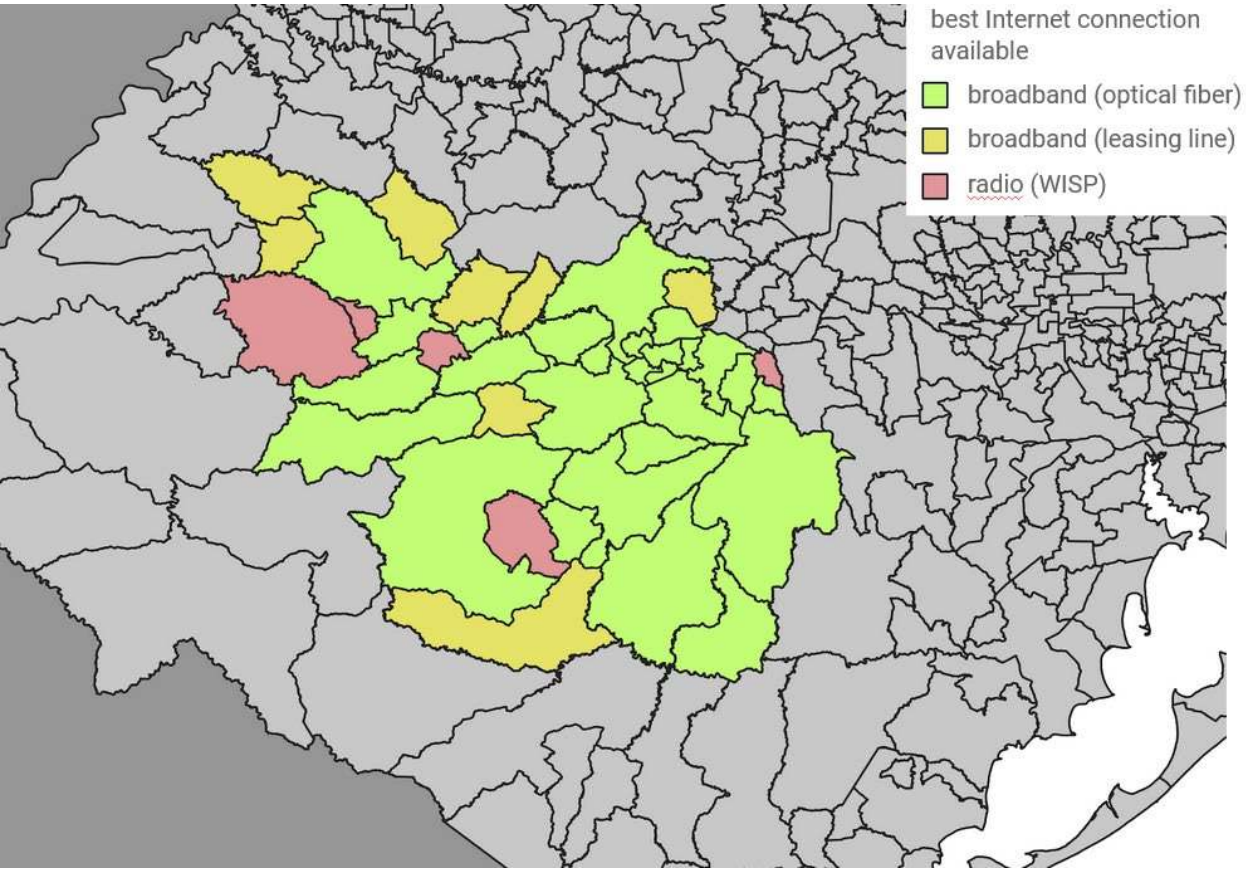
connectivity, in Brazil, is critical in most municipalities with less than 30 thousand inhabitants. Which is:

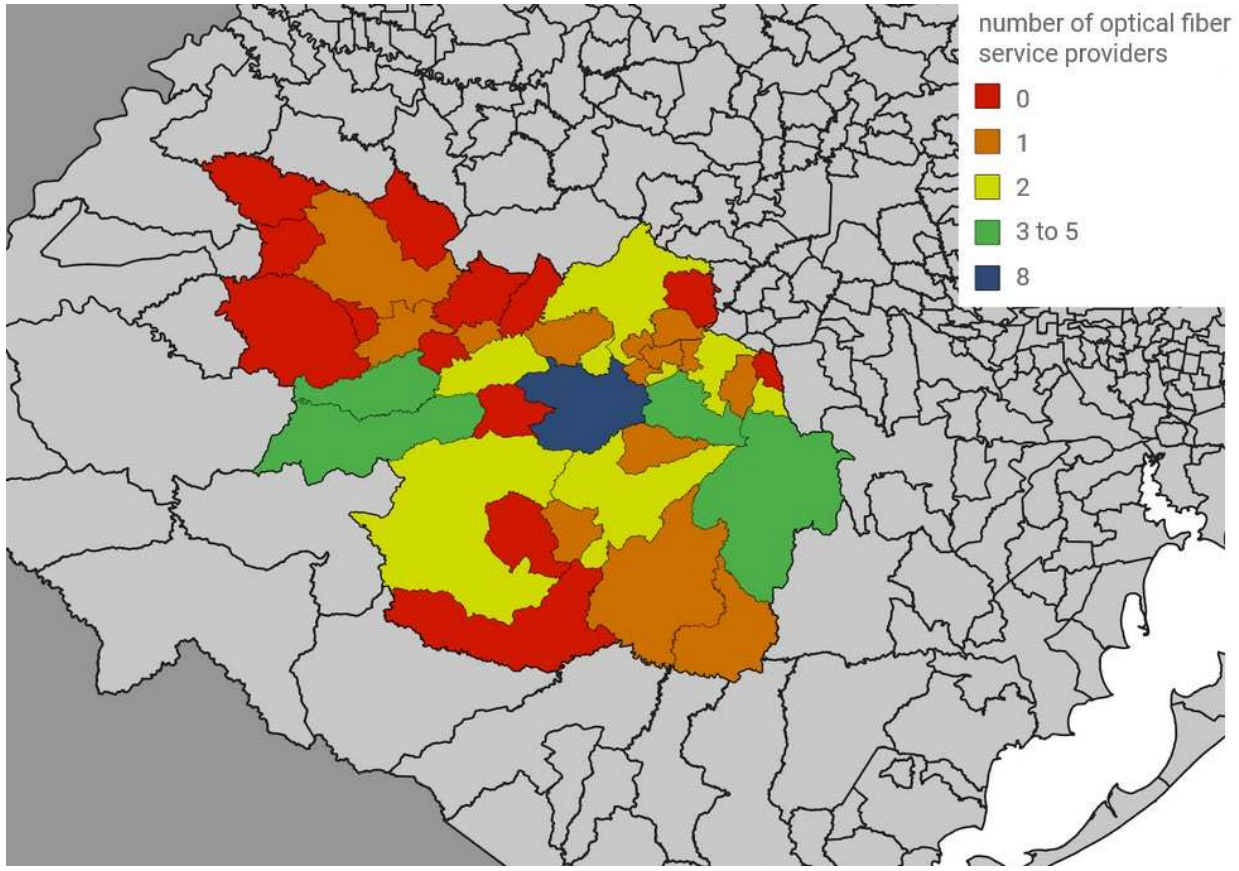
23,1% of Brazil's population

33,38% of the population of the region of Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

we gathered data from the National Telecommunications Agency (Anatel) and produced maps about the region

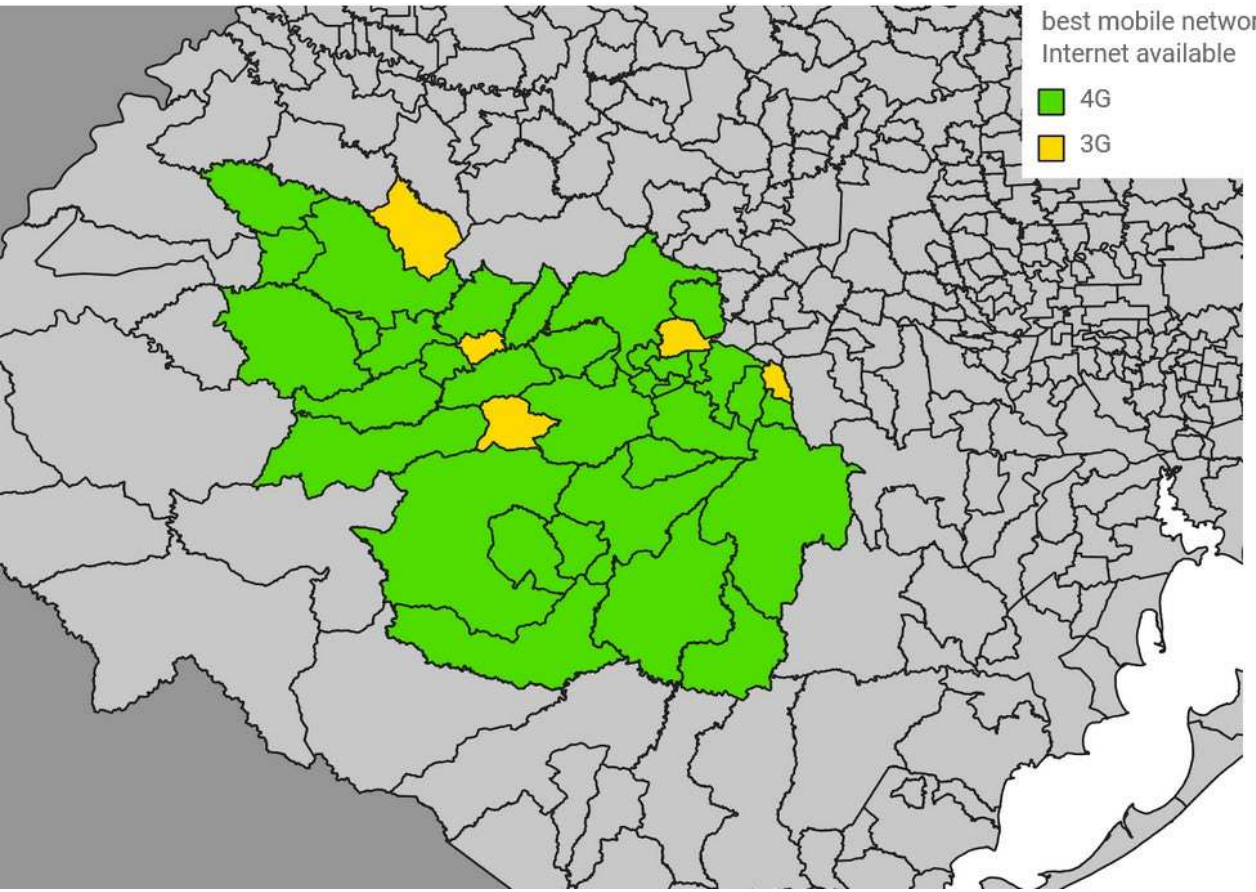


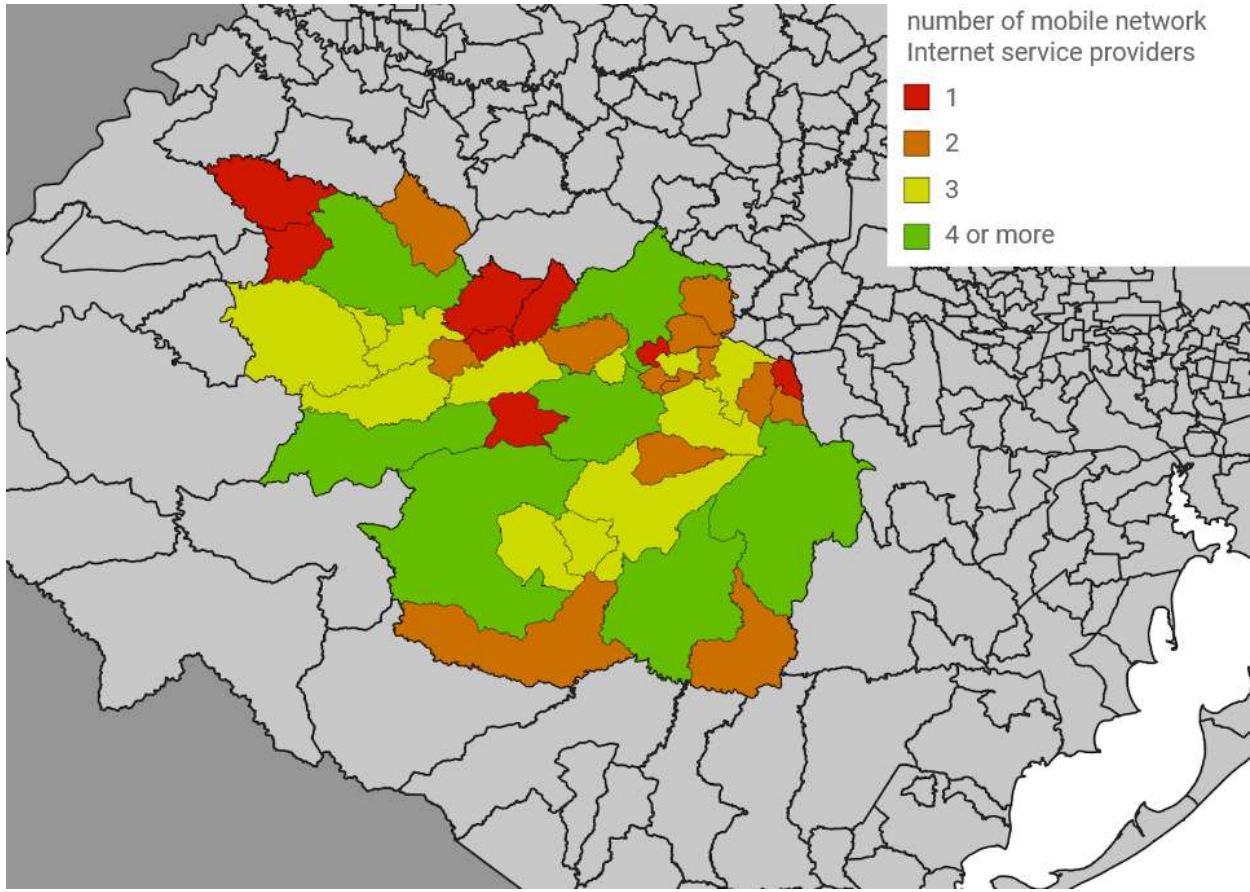



27 of the 40 municipalities has optical fiber

5 have only WISP available




5 have only 3G available

3 have only one company offering only 3G

11 have only one company offering 4G

# contributions to mediatization theory

data colonialism
(Nick Couldry and Ulises Mejias, 2018, among others)

mediatization, as any social process, has its own colonial and extractive dynamics, territorial differences, etc.

borders as epistemic spaces
(Walter Mignolo and Madina Tlostanova, 2009, among others)

the edges of the Internet infrastructure are borders

it determines inclusion/exclusion conditions

inclusion through connection, communication, leisure and citizenship but also with data colonialism

**communication networks themselves are elements of space**, which makes mediatization a process that also affects space

to better understand the mediatization process and data colonialism, it is interesting **to identify and study the objects and actions involved in the effort to expand such infrastructure**, especially its dynamics, conflicts, paradoxes