TOKYO'S TRAIN SYSTEM: THE INTERACTION BETWEEN CULTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND URBAN DESIGN

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The Project

- Tokyo's metropolitan transit system is considered one of the world's best - **why?**
- What are the roles of the following:
  - Culture;
  - Urban design;
  - Technology.
- Research methodology - **observational ethnography**, reading, field notes, photographs, etc.

Key findings

- **Efficient** commuter culture
  - Good urban design -> efficient commuter culture
- Importance of all three facets interacting together: **culture**, **urban design**, **technology**
- Unique elements of Tokyo transit culture
- Small intervals, small dwell times -> importance of commuter participation

Why does this research matter?

- Tokyo's commuter culture did **not** form in a vacuum
  - (nor is it a just a byproduct of culture).
- Other cities can **recreate** elements of this culture to improve efficiency.
- I.e. in New York, **more than 50%** of delays are caused by **overcrowding.**
- What can other cities **learn**?