

# Amsterdam July 22: From Tramageddon to Metromorphosis?

## British expert sheds light on Amsterdam rail map

Dr Maxwell Roberts, the renowned psychologist and information designer from Great Britain, has redesigned the Amsterdam tram-metro map.

His graphic design triptych 'Metromorphosis' shows the changes that will be made to the network this weekend. The three maps represent the situation for before and after July 22, when 'Tramageddon' is scheduled to take place.

The GVB network will supposedly change from a spider-web formation to a herringbone. But according to Roberts these words appear to be an attempt to justify the new metro line, and behind them tram services are to be cut back. "Now the map itself is part of the bone of contention": he believes that the changes are so complex that more priority should be given to showing these clearly, and that a fresh approach is needed to map the public transport system in Amsterdam.

Roberts conducts research at the University of Essex into how people understand and interpret information and, drawing on these findings, how public transport maps can be made more user-friendly.

According to him, the new GVB rail map conceals the service changes instead of making them clear. It also does not help that the tram lines will be recoloured, for example with six shades of green. Roberts' new network maps show the changes clearly, and their design is based on the shape of the centre of Amsterdam, making it easier for people who know the city to identify and understand the alterations.

Dr Roberts is recognised worldwide as the expert in the field of urban rail network maps. He has published several books and academic articles on the subject. His work has influenced maps in countries such as the United Kingdom and Germany. In 2018 Roberts' Chicago EI network map award a place in the 4th Edition Atlas of Design. He was previously nominated for the Design Observer 50 Books 50 Covers Competition 2013.

**Follow how the plot thickens:**

<http://www.tubemapcentral.com/amsterdam/tramageddon.html>

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