

Cluster 8: Information and Communication Technologies

Dear NECTAR friends.

As you know the C in NECTAR stands for Communications. In this newsletter I am therefore very pleased to announce the start of a new cluster: **Information and Communication Technologies**

Cluster 8 will focus on the impact of ICT on the spatial economy and transport systems. On the one hand, ICT directly affect space, economy and travel behavior by dramatically changing transaction and transportation costs as well as individual travel behavior. On the other hand, the digital revolution has generated an abundance of digitally collected bottom-up data, the utilization of which in spatial and transport analysis has just started. The breadth of such sources, which include anything from online social networks to passive and active crowd sourcing data, has the potential to assist researchers in better understanding spatial phenomena: from commuting to car speed analysis and from crowd to transport management providing travelers personalized travel information derived from big data sources.

The objective of cluster 8 is to bring together researchers with an interest in the implications of ICT on urban and transport networks as well as in the use of big data sources for urban and transport analysis and modelling and transport management.

Karst Geurs

Nectar chair

Enschede, April 2014.

Introduction of Cluster 8 Co-chairs



Emmanouil Tranos, lecturer at the School of Geography, Earth and Environment, University of Birmingham, UK. Emmanouil is an economic geographer focusing primarily on digital geographies. He has published on issues related with the spatiality of the Internet infrastructure, the economic impacts that this infrastructure can generate on space and the position of cities within spatial, complex networks. His research in this area led to a monograph on "The Geography of the Internet: cities, regions and Internet infrastructure". Recently, he has been researching the use of big digital data of high spatio-temporal resolution in urban and regional analysis. Regarding research methods, his work combines traditional econometric methods

and spatial analysis with tools and concepts from network theory. His personal website can be found at: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/gees/tranos-emmanouil.aspx>



Rein Ahas, professor of Human Geography at the Department of Geography, University of Tartu, Estonia, research professor of Estonian Academy of Sciences. Research interests of prof. Ahas include the study of spatial mobility, ICT and tourism. He has been actively involved in the developing of mobile positioning and ICT based research methodology. He is member of Eurostat Task Force a Task Force on 'Big Data and Official Statistics' and EC EIP Smart Cities & Communities sherpa group member. Rein Ahas is a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Location Based Services (Taylor & Francis) and Travel Behavior and Society (Elsevier). His personal website can be found at: <http://www.geo.ut.ee/ahas/ahaseng.html>



Luc Wismans, Associate Professor at the Centre for Transport Studies, Faculty of Engineering Technology, University of Twente, the Netherlands and Team manager Consulting of DAT.Mobility. He is active in the field of traffic of transport since 1997, both scientific as in practice. In 2012 he finished his PhD research on the dynamic multi objective network design problem in which the externalities of traffic are the objectives and dynamic traffic management measures the decision variables. His fields of expertise is on transport modeling, externality modeling, ITS and monitoring and evaluation. In DAT.Mobility, which started January 2014, ICT expertise concerning data analysis, transport modeling, geographic information systems and software development has been brought together to develop products to provide decision making data (e.g. crowd information based on mobile phone data, real time traffic prediction, multimodal trip planning and transport modeling). His personal website can be found at: <http://www.utwente.nl/ctw/vvr/People/wismans/>



Elizabeth Mack, assistant professor at Arizona State University, School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning, United States. Elizabeth Mack is an Assistant Professor in the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning at Arizona State University where she teaches courses on urban and regional economic analysis, economic development, and economic impact analysis. She is also a research affiliate of the GeoDa Center for Geospatial Analysis and Computation. Dr. Mack's research program evaluates the impact of information and communications technologies (ICTs) on the development trajectory of regional economies. Currently, Dr. Mack is working on two projects. The first project examines the impact of broadband market dynamics on firms. The second project investigates entrepreneurial use of Internet applications, social media, and virtual reality technology in business processes. Her personal website can be found at: <https://geoplan.asu.edu/people/elizabeth-mack>

Nectar workshop report: Accessibility and Policy making



The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission organised, on 6-7 February 2014, a **Cluster 6 meeting**, in the beautiful city of Seville (Spain). This time the Cluster meeting was devoted to the topic of **Accessibility and Policy making**. For two days 67 leading academics, young researchers and policy makers debated on the role of accessibility as a policy instrument at different scales of analysis (local, regional, national and supra-national). The meeting counted with 36 oral presentations and two round tables with policy makers. The first round table focused on policies at the European scale and had the participation of representatives from DG RTD, DG REGIO and DG MOVE. The second round table was dedicated to accessibility-driven policies at local and national level and had the participation of policy makers from the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy; the Devon County Council (United Kingdom) and the StedenbaanPlus (The

Forthcoming Events

- **24 — 25 April 2014** (Liege, Belgium): Cluster 1 Meeting on "Efficient European Multimodal Network"
- **30 April — 1 May 2014** (Beer-Sheva, Israel): Joint Cluster 2 & Cluster 7 Meeting on "Evolving Perspectives on Sustainability and Security in Transport"
- **27 — 29 May 2014** (Bangkok, Thailand): Special Cluster 4 Session on "Migration and Commuting---Consequences for Local Labor and Housing Markets", within the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) 10th World Congress
- **12 — 13 June 2014** (Stockholm, Sweden): Cluster 4 Meeting on "Commuting, Migration, Housing and Labour Market"
- **24 — 27 June 2014** (Delft, The Netherlands): Special Cluster 6 Session on "Accessibility and Evaluation", within the World Symposium on Transport and Land Use Research (WSTLUR) Conference.