

Dear NECTAR friends

We are less than two weeks away from the [14th International NECTAR conference in Madrid, May 31-June 2](#). The Madrid conference will have over 130 participants and will be an exciting event. The conference will also mark the 25th anniversary of NECTAR and special events will be organized to celebrate this milestone.

In Madrid, we will also award the 2nd NECTAR PhD Award for best recent PhD thesis work in the NECTAR field. The award is established in memory of Professor Piet Rietveld, who chaired NECTAR in the years 2002-2007 and who with his exceptional academic abilities inspired and stimulated many young researchers, PhD students and the NECTAR community in general. Fourteen excellent theses had been nominated by their PhD supervisors, and the PhD Committee, chaired by Professor Erik Verhoef, had a very difficult task selecting the winner. I am pleased to announce here that Cyrille Médard de Chardon from the University of Luxembourg wrote the winning thesis titled "A geographical analysis of bicycle sharing systems". Cyrille will present his thesis in the closing plenary session of the conference.

Furthermore, I am also happy to announce that at the Madrid conference the new NECTAR cluster 7 on Social and Health Issues will be launched. The social and health-related impacts from transport are diverse and there are many challenges to understand how they affect our social and economic wellbeing. This new cluster will bring together researchers from a variety of scientific disciplines and will surely help to strengthen NECTAR as a multidisciplinary social science network. The aims of the cluster and the cluster co-chairs are presented in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Madrid!

Karst Geurs, NECTAR chair

NECTAR Cluster 7: Social and Health Issues

Transport is a fundamental component of everyday mobility and impacts myriad social, economic, and health outcomes in a wide range of spatial contexts across the Globe. It is important for researchers from inside and outside the transport discipline to come together and apply their diverse theoretical perspectives, methodological tools and practical experiences to the social and health challenges of existing and future transport systems. Social, health and environmental perspectives also need to be at the very centre of considerations about what improvements are needed to facilitate more equitable, healthy and inclusive cities. The objective for cluster 7 is to bring together researchers from different scientific disciplines (e.g. engineering, geography, planning, psychology, political sciences and sociology, to name a few) with an interest in the social and health-related impacts of transport. The cluster has a particular interest in equity impacts, social inclusion and interactions, transport poverty, active mobility and the health and wellbeing outcomes associated with people's travel and the transport system.

Cluster Chairs:



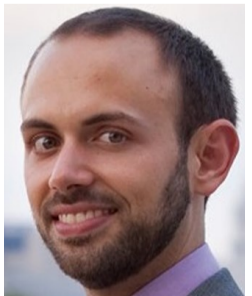
Karen Lucas is Professor of Transport and Social Analysis at the Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds. She has had 20 years of experience of social research into the transport and mobility of transport poor populations. She is a world-leading expert in the area of transport-related social exclusion in the Global North and South. She specializes in the development and application of methodologies that can explicate the needs and concerns of vulnerable populations from their personal perspectives, so as to better communicate these to policymakers.



Dick Ettema is Associate Professor and Director of the research program Urban Futures in the Department of Human Geography in Utrecht University. He is a leading expert in travel behavior research and has published over 90 articles in leading transportation journals, addressing issues such as the relation between the built environment and travel, mobility biographies, accessibility and activity participation, travel and social networks and travel, active travel, travel behavior change, and the relationship between travel, health and well-being.



Tanu Priya Uteng is a senior researcher at the Institute of Transport Economics in Oslo, Norway. She has worked extensively across a host of cross-cutting issues in the field of urban and transport planning in the past 12 years. A few of her areas of expertise include: transport-related social exclusion, travel behaviour studies, transport modelling, evaluation and assessment studies, gender studies, econometric analyses. She is currently leading several research projects funded by the Norwegian Research Council which are long-term strategic projects looking at topics like bicycling, first-last mile connectivity, climate and travel behaviour, green-shift in the Nordic region, commuting and car-sharing.



Michael Widener is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto - St. George, located in downtown Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Widener's research explores how transportation networks and infrastructure affect people's ability to acquire and maintain access to health services and healthy opportunities. Recent work has primarily focused on the role transit and mobility constraints play in enabling or restricting access to healthy food retailers.

Upcoming NECTAR Events

May 31 – June 2, 2017, 14th NECTAR international conference: Transport in a networked society, Madrid

August, 24-25, 2017, joint Cluster 2/6 workshop Smart Cities – Governing Accessibility, Air Pollution and Equity at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, August 24-25.