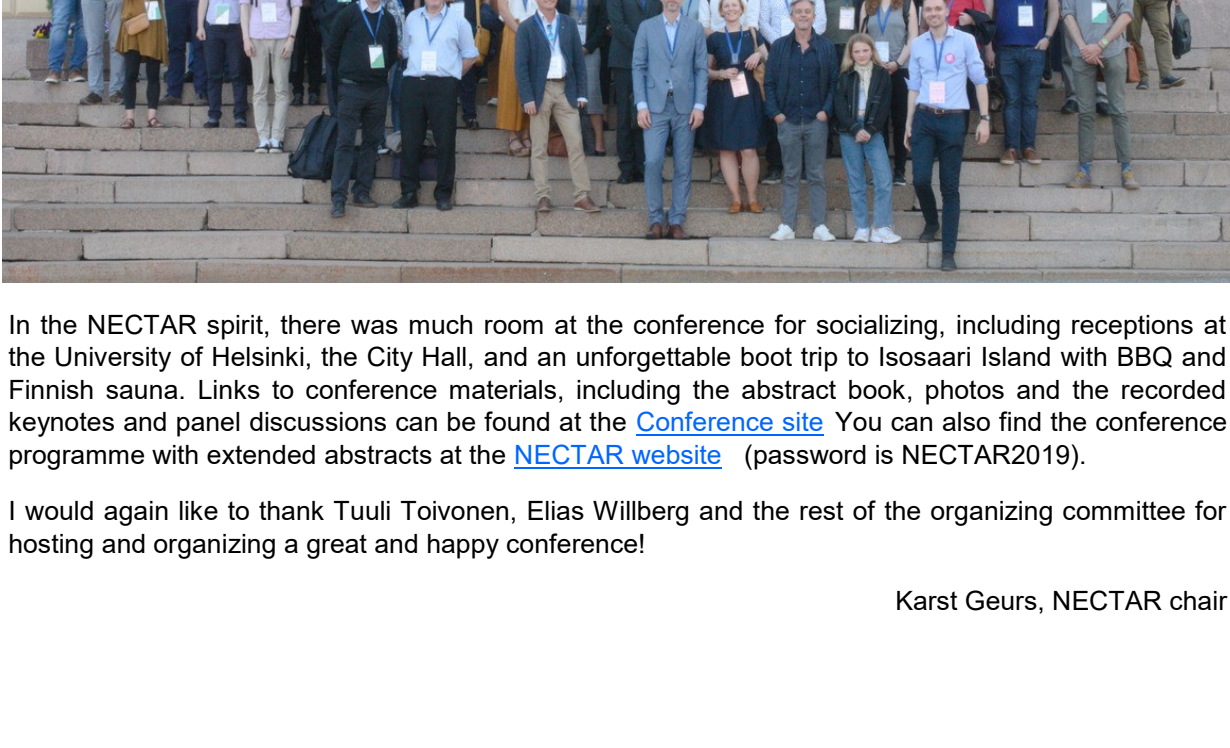


In this newsletter we look back at the very successful NECTAR conference "Towards Human Scale Cities: Open and Happy" organized at the University of Helsinki from June 5-7. There were over 140 presentations from participants from Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia. Mikael Colville-Anderson and Tim Schwanen gave stimulating keynotes discussing the conference theme from an urban planning and academic perspective. NECTAR clusters organized thematic sessions and discussed cluster activities in cluster meetings. On the second day of the conference, a panel session was organized on "How to plan open and happy cities" with Tim Schwanen (Oxford University), Milos Mladenovic (Aalto University), Johanna Palomäki (City Of Espoo) and Jarkko Jaakkola (Global Maas).

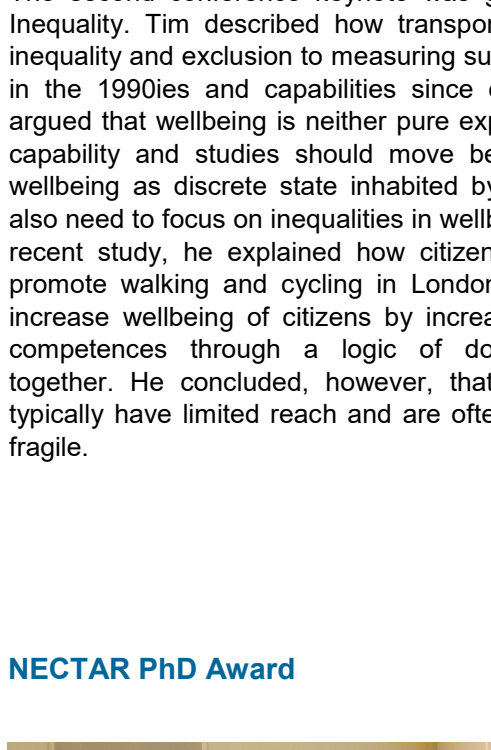


In the NECTAR spirit, there was much room at the conference for socializing, including receptions at the University of Helsinki, the City Hall, and an unforgettable boat trip to Ilosaari Island with BBQ and Finnish sauna. Links to conference materials, including the abstract book, photos and the recorded keynotes and panel discussions can be found at the [Conference site](#). You can also find the conference programme with extended abstracts at the [NECTAR website](#) (password is NECTAR2019).

I would again like to thank Tuuli Toivonen, Elias Willberg and the rest of the organizing committee for hosting and organizing a great and happy conference!

Karst Geurs, NECTAR chair

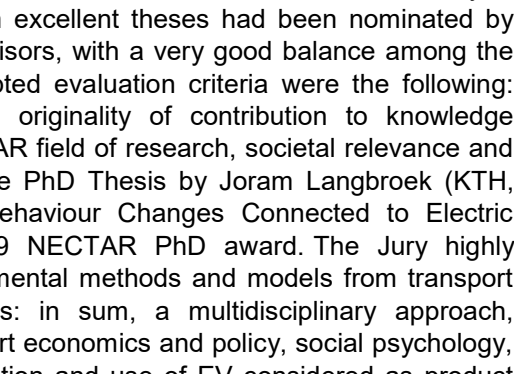
## Bicycle Urbanism by Design



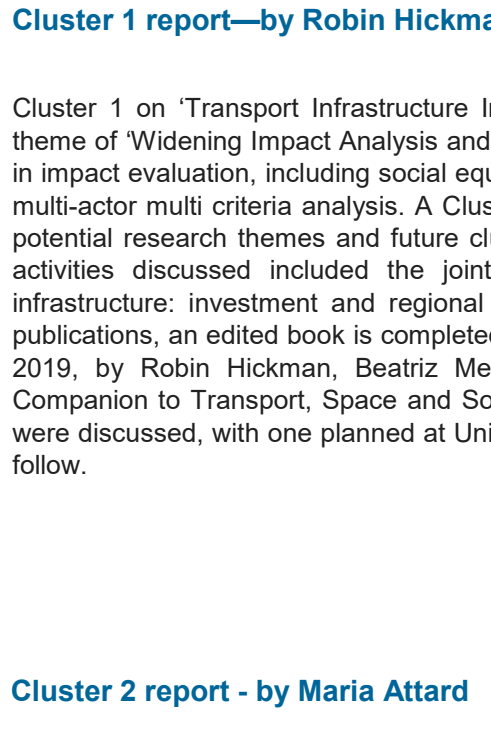
The first keynote at the Helsinki conference on 'Bicycle Urbanism by Design' was given by Mikael Colville-Anderson, one of the leading global voices in urbanism, who advises cities and businesses in how to design – and embrace– bicycle and pedestrian friendly streets in order to improve urban life. Mikael talked about how the greatest paradigm shift in the history of cities has been the facilitation of cars in cities. He argued designing around the bicycle is the most efficient way to make human scale cities. And to create human scale cities, planners and decision makers should follow citizen movements who try to reclaim space allocated to cars in our cities.

## Urban Mobility, Wellbeing and Inequality - Understanding the Relationships

The second conference keynote was given by Tim Schwanen on "Urban Mobility, Wellbeing and Inequality. Tim described how transportation research moved attention from understanding travel, inequality and exclusion to measuring subjective wellbeing in the 1990ies and capabilities since early 2010s. Tim argued that wellbeing is neither pure experience nor pure capability and studies should move beyond quantifying wellbeing as discrete state inhabited by individuals, and also need to focus on inequalities in wellbeing. Based on a recent study, he explained how citizen-led initiatives to promote walking and cycling in London and Sao Paulo increase wellbeing of citizens by increasing access and competences through a logic of do-it yourself/do-it-together. He concluded, however, that these initiatives typically have limited reach and are often precarious and fragile.



## NECTAR PhD Award



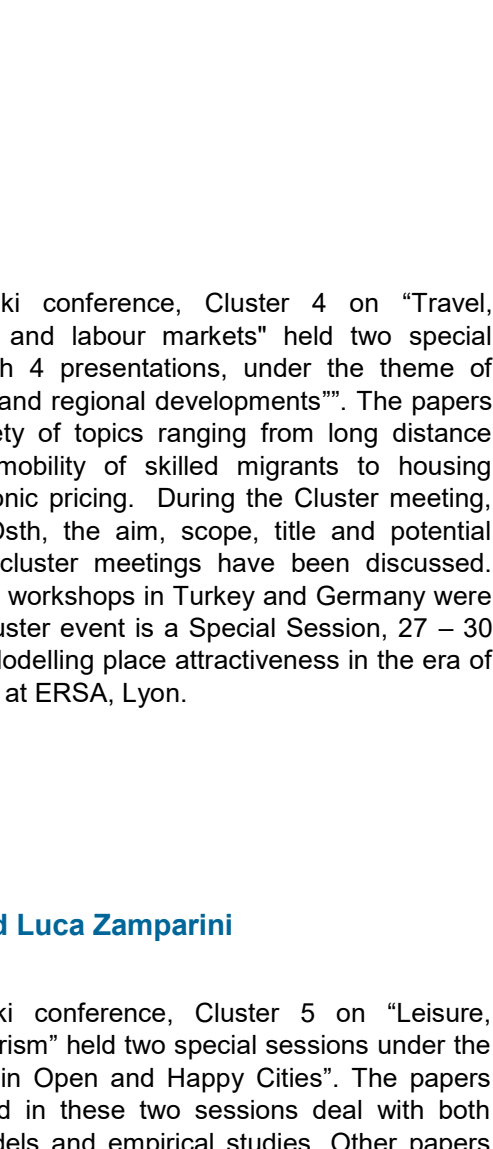
At the closing session of the Helsinki conference, professor Aura Reggiani, chair of the NECTAR PhD Committee, awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> NECTAR PhD Award for best recent PhD thesis work in the NECTAR field. The award is established in memory of Professor Piet Rietveld, who chaired NECTAR in the years 2002-2007 and who with his exceptional academic abilities inspired and stimulated many young researchers, PhD students and the NECTAR community in general. Thirteen excellent theses had been nominated by their PhD supervisors, with a very good balance among the topics. The adopted evaluation criteria were the following: scientific quality, originality of contribution to knowledge within the NECTAR field of research, societal relevance and Presentation. The PhD Thesis by Joram Langbroek (KTH, Stockholm) on "Understanding Processes and Travel Behaviour Changes Connected to Electric Vehicle Adoption" was selected as winner of the 2019 NECTAR PhD award. The Jury highly appreciated, in this PhD thesis, the richness of the fundamental methods and models from transport economics, linked also with socio-psychological theories: in sum, a multidisciplinary approach, combining travel behaviour, environmental science, transport economics and policy, social psychology, and energy systems, with the aim to understand the adoption and use of EV considered as product innovation, in the light of coherent policy strategies in the short, middle and long term.

## Cluster 1 report—by Robin Hickman and Imre Keseru

Cluster 1 on 'Transport Infrastructure Impacts and Evaluation' held two special sessions under the theme of 'Widening Impact Analysis and Participation'. The papers focused largely on emerging issues in impact evaluation, including social equity impacts, the political economy of project development, and multi-actor multi criteria analysis. A Cluster 1 meeting was also held during the conference to discuss potential research themes and future cluster meetings and to discuss past and future activities. Past activities discussed included the joint Cluster 2 and 1 meeting in March 2019 on 'Transport infrastructure: investment and regional economic growth in Rome' (Eduardo Macucci). In terms of publications, an edited book is completed, and will be published as part of the Nectar series in October 2019, by Robin Hickman, Beatriz Mella Lira, Moshe Givoni and Karst Geurs, with the title "A Companion to Transport, Space and Social Equity" (Edward Elgar). Plans for future Cluster meetings were discussed, with one planned at University College London for March 2020. A Call for Papers is to follow.

## Cluster 2 report - by Maria Attard

At the Helsinki Conference, Cluster 2 published a Call for Papers and organized two sessions with six papers. Since the Madrid Conference the Cluster organized three events: (1) a joint Cluster 2 and Cluster 6 Meeting on "Smart Cities – Governing Accessibility, Air Pollution and Equity" at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, August 24-25, 2017, (2) a Cluster 2 Workshop on "Cluster 2 Workshop: E-groceries, digitalization and sustainability: Which governance, planning and regulation mix do our cities need?", Molde, Norway, 11-12 October, 2018, and (3) a joint Cluster 1-2 workshop on Transport Infrastructure Impacts and Evaluation Transport Infrastructures: Investments, Evaluation and Regional Economic Growth Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy, 22 March 2019. Moreover, a Special Issue from the NECTAR Cluster 2 and 3 meeting in Brno was published, edited by Hana Bruhova, Maria Attard and Sandra Melo in the Journal European Transport Research Review (ETRR). During the Cluster Meeting there was an agreement for a Cluster workshop for 2020 on the topic of "Active Travel and Intermodality" with the potential for collaboration with Cluster 7. Prof. Silvio Nocera offered to hold the meeting in Venice in March/April 2020. The activities of Cluster 2 also attracted offers to hold Cluster events in Philadelphia, U.S. looking at infrastructure and possibly in Beer Sheeva, Israel. There were also indications that Cluster 2 could collaborate with Cluster 6 on Accessibility.



## Cluster 3 report - by Cathy Macharis

During the Helsinki conference, Cluster 3 on "Freight transport and logistics" held two special sessions under the theme of "The Logistics of Living in Cities" on the Friday Morning. The papers focused largely on how to make city logistics more sustainable. A Cluster meeting was also held during the conference to discuss potential themes for future Cluster meetings and to discuss past and future activities. Potential themes for the Cluster's future workshops included construction logistics, city logistics and the share of space for people and freight. Past activities discussed included Cluster 3 meeting organized by Silvio Nocera and his team in Venice (Italy) on the "The Future of Freight Transport" (March, 2018). In terms of publications, a special issue co-edited by Silvio Nocera and Cathy Macharis based on Cluster 3 meeting in Venice and with the title "The future of Freight Transport" has been completed and published in "European Transport Review" <https://www.springeropen.com/collections/future-freight>. Lastly, plans for a Cluster meetings in 2020 were discussed (Spring) possibly in Zaragoza or Madrid or even virtually. Details to be confirmed.

## Cluster 4 report—by John Östh



During the Helsinki conference, Cluster 4 on "Travel, migration, housing and labour markets" held two special sessions, each with 4 presentations, under the theme of "Spatial interaction and regional developments". The papers focused on a variety of topics ranging from long distance commuting, daily mobility of skilled migrants to housing dynamics and hedonic pricing. During the Cluster meeting, chaired by John Östh, the aim, scope, title and potential themes for future cluster meetings have been discussed. Options to organise workshops in Turkey and Germany were raised. The next cluster event is a Special Session, 27 – 30 August 2019, on "Modelling place attractiveness in the era of Big and Open data" at ERSa, Lyon.

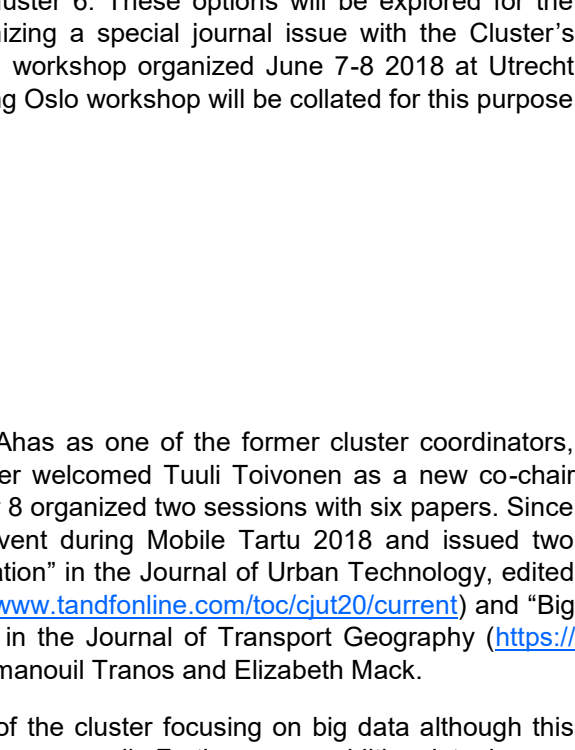
## Cluster 5 report—by Peter Nijkamp, João Romão and Luca Zamparini



During the Helsinki conference, Cluster 5 on "Leisure, Recreation and Tourism" held two special sessions under the theme of "Tourism in Open and Happy Cities". The papers that were presented in these two sessions deal with both methodological models and empirical studies. Other papers related to the topics of the cluster were presented in other sessions of the Conference. A Cluster meeting was held during the Conference that was attended by 15 people to discuss about future research themes and workshop opportunities. With respect to the first issue (research themes), the need emerged to emphasize the role of ICT tools in the development of tourism, the importance to propose comparative studies in several European and extra-European countries, and possibly to extend the scope of the cluster more to leisure and recreation related studies. Past activities discussed included a Cluster workshop organized by Luca Zamparini at the University of Salento in May 2018 on "Smart Transport for Sustainable Tourism" and a special session on "The Future of Tourism", promoted by João Romão and Peter Nijkamp during the 12th World Congress of RSAI, in Goa. In terms of publications, the Cluster coordinators are exploring the possibility to propose a Special Issue based on some of the papers presented in the previous meetings of Cluster 5. Future activities will include a Cluster workshop in Visby (Sweden) within the Conference on "Sustainable Tourism in the Digital World" organized by the University of Uppsala and, possibly, a cluster workshop in Berlin in June 2020.

## Cluster 6 Report—by Benjamin Büttner, Juan Carlos Martín and Aura Reggiani

Since the Madrid conference in 2017, Cluster 6 on Accessibility organized two NECTAR workshops. A workshop on "Accessibility in urban modelling: from measurement to policy innovation" was organized in Lyon in France the 18th and 19th of June 2018, organized by Ouassim Manout and Ioannis Baraklianos, University of Lyon. On December 14 and 15, 2018, the cluster celebrated its 10th anniversary. The anniversary workshop was organized by Juan Carlos Martin, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, at Gran Hotel Costa Meloneras in the South of Gran Canaria. In line with the NECTAR conference theme, Cluster 6 dedicated its sessions on "Happiness through Accessibility". Topics were, amongst others, related to how to assess subjective accessibility, the impact of new mobility services on accessibility, environmental, economic and social impacts of accessibility as well as measuring active accessibility such as walking and cycling. The need of using and combining qualitative methods with quantitative approaches was often stressed when it comes to subjective well-being, comfort and perceived accessibility. During the cluster 6 meeting the open discussion unfolded the need to collect and share data, indicators and accessibility tools making use of the rich scientific work in planning practice. The first upcoming cluster event will be in a Munich (see upcoming events). Before the Cluster 6 Workshop an important seminar of the Urban Europe Research Alliance (UERA) will also take place in Munich. This meeting of the Thematic Group "Accessibility and Connectivity" of the UERA will focus on "Mobility Transitions". In 2020 a special session and the World Symposium on Transport and Land Use (WSTLUR) in Portland (July 13-16, 2020).



## Cluster 7 report - by Tanu Priya Uteng

While Cluster 7 discussed the imperatives of social and health issues in the transport sector, the group collectively agreed that future works should additionally concentrate on fusing and integrating the 'social' and 'health' tracks. It was suggested that such attempts be made in proposed workshop in Oslo, Spring 2020. One way forward could be through defining precise topics for specific workshops or special sessions in conferences. Issues mentioned in the Helsinki cluster meeting included: the impact of smart cities on health and social issues, the role of informal sector and institutions, social and health issues in the Global South and issues related to capabilities, well-being, practice theory in relation to health and social issues. There was an expression of interest to actively include European researchers working in the Global South (GS) to present their works on the social and health dimensions of mobility challenges in GS in Cluster 7. Cluster 7 co-chairs and the participants agreed that it will be wise to explore potential collaborations with Cluster 2 and Cluster 6. These options will be explored for the Oslo workshop. Cluster 7 is also interested in organizing a special journal issue with the Cluster's thematic focus. Papers presented at the first Cluster workshop organized June 7-8 2018 at Utrecht University, the Helsinki thematic sessions and upcoming Oslo workshop will be collated for this purpose in Spring 2020.

## Cluster 8 Report - by Luc Wismans

At the Helsinki Conference, Cluster 8 honored Rein Ahas as one of the former cluster coordinators, who sadly passed away in February 2018. The cluster welcomed Tuuli Toivonen as a new co-chair replacing Rein. During the Helsinki Conference Cluster 8 organized two sessions with six papers. Since the Madrid Conference the Cluster organized one event during Mobile Tartu 2018 and issued two special issues "Mobile Phones, Travel, and Transportation" in the Journal of Urban Technology, edited by Luc Wismans, Rein Ahas and Karst Geurs (<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjtu20/current>) and "Big Data: A New Opportunity for Transport Geography?" in the Journal of Transport Geography (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2018.08.003>), edited by Emmanouil Tranos and Elizabeth Mack.

During the Cluster Meeting there was an agreement of the cluster focusing on big data although this will become of increasing importance in other clusters as well. Furthermore, additional topics are addressed including an open data initiative. New initiatives are on organizing special NECTAR sessions during Mobile Tartu 2020 and indications of organizing a joint workshop with Cluster 1 on the use of digital tools to enlarge and improve participation of stakeholders in impact analysis.

## The 2021 NECTAR conference

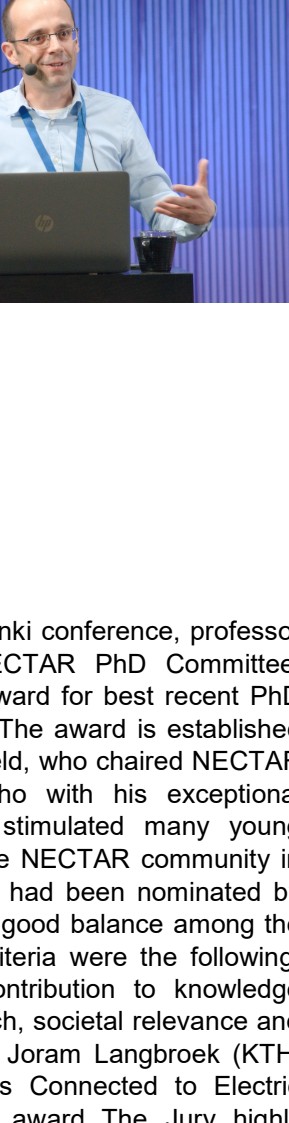


NECTAR 2021  
Toronto, Canada

The 2021 NECTAR conference venue will be in Toronto, Canada, June 16-18, 2021. The conference will be organised by the University of Toronto in June 2021. Michael Widener, one of the ICT Cluster coordinators announced the conference venue at the closing session of the Helsinki conference. We already look forward to it!

## News from NECTAR members

Karen Lucas, Cluster 7 co-chair, published the book "Measuring Transport Equity", with Karel Martens and Floridea Di Ciommo as co-editors. Measuring Transport Equity provides a practical compendium with the potential to shape transport and urban planning decision-making processes, thus allowing for the adoption of more equitable transport solutions. Focusing on numerous applied methodological approaches to transport equity assessment and relating them to real-world case studies in the global north and south, the book formalizes the disciplinary practice, definitions and methodologies for transport equity. Bringing together the most up-to-date perspectives and practical approaches for assessing transportation accessibility, environmental impacts, health and wellbeing, the book sets standards for researchers, policymakers and practitioners for conducting social impact analyses.



## Upcoming NECTAR Events

**24-26 Sept 2019**, Cluster 5 workshop "Sustainable tourism in a digital world", Campus Gotland, Uppsala University, Visby, Sweden <http://www.fek.uu.se/research/sustainable-tourism/#anchor-778508>

**12 – 13 December 2019**; NECTAR Cluster 6 workshop on "The Role of Accessibility in times of Technological Innovation, (Re-) Urbanization and Climate Change", Technical University of Munich, Germany. Organised by Benjamin Büttner.

**July 13-16, 2020**. Special session "Accessibility and quality of life" organized by Cluster 6 at the World Symposium on Transport and Land Use (WSTLUR) in Portland <http://www.wstlur.org/symposium/2020/callforpapers/index.html>

**June 16 - 18, 2021** 2021 NECTAR conference, Toronto, Canada