



16<sup>th</sup> International NECTAR Conference  
Toronto, Canada, 20 - 22 July 2022

**Call for papers for the thematic session of Cluster 1: Transport Infrastructure  
Impacts and Evaluation**

**Participatory foresight and discourse analysis as approaches to  
understanding subjectivity and uncertain futures**

The COVID-19 crisis has shown that the future is not a linear continuation of the past and present and uncertainties can steer the future development pathway of transport in unexpected directions. Different viewpoints on transport strategies and projects also highlight that subjectivity is an important element of future strategy development.

Therefore, new approaches are needed that can take multiple views on possible futures into account and deal with the ongoing and upcoming changes. While several foresight methods have emerged that consider these uncertainties (scenario planning, backcasting), most foresight exercises are expert-led and are carried out in a top-down manner. The understanding of different viewpoints and involvement of varied stakeholders in scenario analysis and visioning, however, may be able to bridge the gap between research outcomes and implementation, help to support the dialogue between actors and foster consensus making, improve the understanding of issues at stake and contribute to deliberation and social learning. Papers are welcome that address these questions either from the theoretical viewpoint or through case studies.

We invite papers discussing the following specific topics of interest:

- New, innovative ways of transport foresight that support participatory planning through the involvement of stakeholders
- Novel creative techniques (e.g. visual, narrative, art-inspired) that help to involve societal and business actors in foresight studies (e.g. in scenario building, visioning, backcasting)
- Discourse analysis in transport planning and project implementation
- Evaluation approaches that can help to appraise the viewpoints of different stakeholders towards scenarios (e.g. multi-criteria analysis)
- New approaches that can help to involve vulnerable-to exclusion groups in foresight and/or consider the impact of scenarios on such groups
- Wider case studies on the application of new, innovative foresight methods in specific contexts (e.g. local and regional transport planning)
- Participatory and deliberative approaches to transport planning and project implementation

Deadline for abstract submission: February 28, 2022. Abstracts should be submitted electronically, using the form available on the conference website and following the instructions found there:

<https://nectar2022.artsci.utoronto.ca>

A copy of the abstract should also be sent to the cluster co-chairs Dr. Imre Keseru (imre.keseru@vub.be) and Robin Hickman (r.hickman@ucl.ac.uk).

### **Criteria for acceptance**

Criteria for acceptance are scope, scientific quality, NECTAR membership and the possibility to fit the presentation in a coherent conference session. We allow one paper presentation per participant. The number of participants of this thematic cluster session will be limited to 8. Abstracts out of scope for the thematic session can be transferred to a general sessions of the conference.

### **Venue**

The NECTAR conference will be organized by the University of Toronto and hosted on its downtown St. George campus. Founded by royal charter in 1827, the University of Toronto is Canada's largest and top-ranked university, located in a growing global city with direct air connections to over 60 countries.

### **Participation and NECTAR membership**

Registration, meals, and accommodation for one night will be offered to NECTAR members, for only one author per paper. One night of hotel accommodation will be offered to participants who have confirmed their participation before May 31, 2022. One night of hotel accommodation might be charged in case of late cancellations. All practical details will be communicated through the conference website. In order to participate in the conference, a consecutive and current two-year NECTAR membership is necessary (2021-2022). Non-members can find details of how to join the association on the "Membership" page of NECTAR's website: [www.nectar-eu.eu/membership](http://www.nectar-eu.eu/membership)

### **COVID-19 considerations**

For most travelers, entry into Canada requires proof of full vaccination. In addition, the University of Toronto requires proof of full vaccination for many activities that occur on campus. Please refer to the NECTAR 2022 conference website for up-to-date COVID-19 related requirements.

### **Important dates:**

Abstract submission: February 28, 2022.

Notification of acceptance: March 31, 2022

Confirmation of attendance: May 31, 2022

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto!

### **Cluster 1 organizers:**

**Dr. Imre Keseru** Vrije Universiteit Brussel

**Prof. Robin Hickman** University College  
London

**Dr. Nick Mouter** Technical University Delft

**Prof. Andrew R. Goetz** University of Denver

**NECTAR** is a European-based scientific association. The primary objective is to foster research collaboration and exchange of information between experts in the field of transport, communication and mobility from all European countries and the rest of the world. It is a multidisciplinary social science network bringing together a wide variety of perspectives on transport and communication problems and their impacts on society from an international perspective. For further information on NECTAR, use the link: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu>