



16th International NECTAR Conference
Toronto, Canada, 20 - 22 July 2022

Call for Papers Cluster 7 – Social and Health Issues in Transportation

Digitalisation and transport equity

Cities worldwide face challenges with respect to promoting social equity in the context of securing improved health and wellbeing outcomes for their citizens. This is especially true for the transportation sector, which is particularly unevenly distributed in terms of both its benefits and burdens. Access to transportation services and infrastructures is not equally distributed across populations, and the same holds for the negative health consequences of travel, such as accidents, exposure to pollutants and noise, stress invoked by travel and lack of physical activity. Such inequalities arise in the context of other major crises and disruptions, which have the potential to exacerbate or diminish existing inequalities.

First, ongoing climate change necessitates an energy transition including a shift to zero-emission transportation. This may come in different forms, ranging from private electric vehicles to shared electric scooters or stimulating conventional cycling, which would have different implications for people's access to transportation, and in particular for vulnerable populations. Importantly, transition paths toward zero-emission transportation, when combustion engine vehicles are gradually phased out, may have significantly different impacts for different groups.

Second, as part of the evolving platform economy, shared mobility services are spreading across cities worldwide. These include ride hailing, car sharing, bike-sharing and various forms of shared micro-mobilities. While these services may provide additional mobility options to vulnerable populations, they are often not the ones who profit most. Insight is lacking into how such shared mobility services can be implemented in order to achieve more equitable transportation systems. The digitisation of transport services is also unequally distributed in terms of both access to these online service platforms and ways in which a App-based booking system, often removed from the local context and knowledge, affects the working conditions and livelihoods of transit providers working within and outside of the new contractual and service provision arrangements e.g. Uber, Lift, auto rickshaws, etc.

Existing social, temporal and spatial inequities might be getting exacerbated by new, digital solutions and a shift to low carbon transportation. For example, there are certain livelihoods which are under threat due to proliferation of smart services. The same applies to certain geographical locations, time periods etc. Governments (at different levels - national, regional and local) are often not aware of these differentiated outcomes and are therefore not planning to tackle them. Research and new data is needed to inform and enable better and inclusive transport governance, policy design and implementation.

We invite abstract of studies that address social and health issues and equity therein, in the context of the above developments, or more general studies of transport inequality and health impacts of travel.

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 Tanu Priya Uteng (tanu.priyauteng@toi.no)

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

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 7 organizers:

Dick Ettema, Karen Lucas, Tanu Priya Uteng, Michael Widener

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>.