

Dear NECTAR friends

In this newsletter we look back at 16th international NECTAR conference, held at the University of Toronto's Chestnut Conference Centre July 20 to 22, 2022. After two postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference could be organised as an in-person event. The conference was a great success. It hosted 28 parallel sessions over three days featuring 82 presenters. Most of the 110 conference attendees travelled from outside Canada to take part, journeying from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, and the USA. About a third of attendees were Canadian scholars from across the country.

I would like to thank Michael Widener, Conference Chair and Cluster 7 co-chair, for the great collaboration and all the work done to organise the event. We also gratefully acknowledges all members of the local organising committee, the University of Toronto students for assistance, and the sponsorship from the University of Toronto's Mobility Network, School of Cities, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, Faculty of Arts & Science, Department of Geography & Planning, and Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering.

Please also check out the extensive conference report [here](#).

Karst Geurs, NECTAR Chair

Conference keynotes

The conference opened on July 20 with a keynote presentation "Equity in Transit Planning" from Angela Gibson, Head Strategy & Foresight of the Toronto Transit Commission. See the video of the keynote [here](#). The morning of July 21, keynote speaker Professor Steven Farber, Project Director for Mobilizing Justice and Associate Director of the Mobility Network at University of Toronto, presented the "Mobilizing Justice" network. The network aims to create a community of best practice around equity and transportation planning. See the YouTube video [here](#). His talk was followed by panel presentations from Rafael Pereira, Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea), Brazil; Léa Ravensbergen, University of Oxford; and Florideo Di Diommo, cambiaMO, and discussion and audience, moderated by Michael Widener. The YouTube video of the panel discussion can be found [here](#).



The NECTAR PhD Award

At the Toronto Conference, the fourth NECTAR PhD Award was awarded to Jeroen Bastiaanssen, with the thesis "Youth Mobility and Access to Economic Opportunities". He carried out his PhD research under the supervision of Professors Karen Lucas and Daniel Johnson at the Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds. The NECTAR PhD 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. The chair of the PhD Award committee, Prof. Juan Carlos Martin, NECTAR vice-chair, who was unable to attend the conference, explained the jury report in a video speech. Maria Attard, cluster 2 co-chair, stepped in to chair the award ceremony.

For the 2022 PhD award 11 PhD Theses were nominated, with a good balance among the topics in the NECTAR research domain. The evaluation criteria for the award were: scientific quality, originality of contribution to knowledge within the NECTAR field of research, societal relevance and presentation.

The Jury highly appreciated that the PhD thesis of Jeroen Bastiaanssen aimed to enhance policy understanding of the relationship between public transport access and employment outcomes at the national and regional levels, with specific attention to the needs of young people. The awardee provided new methods to assess the relationship between transport and employment opportunities using spatial mismatch theory, agglomeration economies, accessibility and social exclusion to enhance the understanding of the topic. The author also used different transport and employment micro datasets and case studies comparing the outcomes in Great Britain and the Netherlands.

tion economies, accessibility and social exclusion to enhance the understanding of the topic. The author also used different transport and employment micro datasets and case studies comparing the outcomes in Great Britain and the Netherlands.

NECTAR Cluster reports

Most NECTAR clusters organised thematic sessions and cluster meetings at the Toronto Conference to discuss potential research themes and future cluster meetings and to discuss past and future activities. Only Clusters 4 and 8 were unable to organise a cluster meeting as none of the cluster chairs were able to attend the conference.

Robin Hickman and Imre Keseru from Cluster 1 (Transport Infrastructure Impacts and Evaluation) organised a thematic session on "Participatory foresight and discourse analysis as approaches to understanding subjectivity and uncertain futures". Past activities from the cluster included a one day online workshop, June 2021, hosted by Robin Hickman at UCL. Invited participants presented contributions to a new book as part of the Edward Elgar NECTAR series with the title 'Discourses on Transport and Urban Development'. The book is currently under production and will be published early 2023.

Maria Attard and Wafa Elias organised two Cluster 2 (Policy and Environment) thematic sessions on Equity in Transport Policy at the Toronto conference, with seven papers. Other submitted papers were transferred to general sessions. Past cluster activities involved the organisation of a joint cluster in May 2020 on Active Travel and Intermodality in Venice (at IUAV Venice), which was eventually cancelled due to COVID. However, the participants were invited to submit their work for two special issues on active travel, and two special issues were published in Research in Transportation Economics and Research in Transportation Business and Management edited by Silvio Nocera and Maria Attard. During the Cluster Meeting in Toronto there was an agreement for a Cluster workshop for 2023 on the topic of Micromobility with the potential for collaboration with other clusters, possibly in Israel. Moreover, a Joint Cluster 1/2 event in Philadelphia, postponed from 2021, on the theme of Transport, Infrastructure and Public Policy will be held in Philadelphia in 2023, with the support of Andy Goetz (Cluster 1). More details will follow soon.

Cluster 3, Logistics and Freight, organised a thematic session with four papers on "Delivering Equity: Intersections between Urban Delivery, Transportation and Environmental Justice. Nicolas Brusselaers, VUB, and Travis Fried, University of Washington, animated the NECTAR cluster meeting on behalf of the cluster chairs who were unable to attend the conference. During the cluster meeting, plans for a new meeting in Spring 2023 were made, to be organised by UPM in Madrid. The call for papers for the workshops will follow soon.

Cluster 6 Accessibility organised two thematic sessions with 8 papers on "Accessibility as an (in) equality indicator". Over 30 abstracts were submitted, and many of the abstracts were moved to the general conference sessions based on their high quality. Cluster chairs Benjamin Büttner and Ahmed El-Geneidy discussed past and future plans during the cluster meeting. Future plans included the joint Cluster 4 and 6 workshop on "Mobility and Accessibility after the Pandemic: Emerging Trends and Policy Challenges" in Seville (Spain) on 5-7 October 2022, to be organised by Aura Reggiani and Olivier Bonin and hosted by the Joint Research Center. Furthermore, on the basis of the contributions being presented at the Toronto conference, a special issue is planned in the Elsevier Journal of Urban Mobility, with manuscripts deadline Spring 2023.

Cluster 7 (Social and Health Issues) organized 2 thematic sessions on "Transportation Digitalisation and Transport equity". Michael Widener and Dick Ettema animated the cluster meeting at the conference, and discussed past and future plans. One topic of particular interest is inclusion of elderly in the context of ongoing mobility transitions. What are mechanisms of in/exclusion and what barriers do they face? Another relevant topic discussed concerns the implications of policies aiming at promoting sustainable transport for inclusion. Is green mobility equally accessible for everyone? The cluster is considering a workshop on one of these topics in 2023.

2024 International NECTAR Conference

The 2024 NECTAR conference will be organised July 3-5, in Brussels, Belgium. The conference will be organised by the Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB) on the VUB Campus. Imre Keseru, Cluster 1 co-chair, announced the conference venue at the closing session of the Toronto conference.

We already look forward to it!

