



15 June 2021

Online workshop, University College London

## **Cluster 1: Transport Infrastructure Impacts and Evaluation**

### **Call for Papers:**

## **Critical Discourses on Transport and Urban Development**

### **Summary**

Transport planning and urban development is often carried out from the perspective of the project promotor and fails to adequately address the needs of differing perspectives. Attitudes to proposed infrastructure projects and urban development are normative in nature, i.e. based on values and beliefs on what is good and desirable. There are many subjectivities involved – and transport planning could seek to understand these more carefully in the decision-making process, perhaps tailoring strategies to reflect and meet differences in viewpoints, and even to reflect diversity more thoroughly.

Discourse analysis has been used in a variety of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, but rarely in transport planning. It allows an understanding of the way knowledge is produced and used, including the linguistic style, language and rhetorical devices used.

We seek papers that critically engage with these issues, theoretically or through case study analysis, offering ways forward for widening our understanding of the different discourses evident in transport planning.

### **Topics of interest**

The topics of interest for session might include, but are not limited to:

- Theoretical contributions on the use of and approaches to discourse analysis in transport planning – rationale, benefits and disadvantages; methods and approaches, e.g. differing interpretations (Foucault, Fairclough, etc.), institutional patterns of knowledge and power, political discourse, content and narrative analysis, critical discourse analysis, sociology of knowledge (SKAD), Q methodology.

- Case study analysis of discourses associated with transport and/or urban development projects, differential discourse by key actors; concerning examples such as major infrastructure investment, public transport investment, transit-orientated development, gentrification, financialisation of projects, walking and cycling networks, and streetspace allocation.
- Examining controversy beyond the mainstream narrative in transport investment and urban development; the effective mediation of actor interests; participatory and deliberative approaches to transport and urban planning.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to Robin Hickman ([r.hickman@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:r.hickman@ucl.ac.uk)) and Christine Hannigan ([christine.hannigan.18@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:christine.hannigan.18@ucl.ac.uk)).

Criteria for acceptance: scope, scientific quality and NECTAR membership. NECTAR membership for the year 2021 (€70 or, for those under the age of 30, €40) is required in order to attend the meeting. Authors of selected abstracts are invited to submit a draft paper (up to 5,000 words) which will then be discussed in the workshop. The number of presenting participants to this cluster session will be limited to 15, but there may be more who attend to listen and comment.

We will consider papers for an edited book in the Nectar series.

### **Deadlines**

Abstract submission: 26 March, 2021

Notification of acceptance: 9 April, 2021

Submission of draft paper: 1 June, 2021

Online workshop: 15 June, 2021

### **NECTAR membership**

In order to participate in the online workshop, a current NECTAR membership is necessary (2021). 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)

### **Cluster 1 co-chairs:**

Prof. Robin Hickman, University College London

Dr Niek Mouter, Delft University of Technology

Dr Imre Keseru, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Prof. Andy Goetz, University of Denver

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