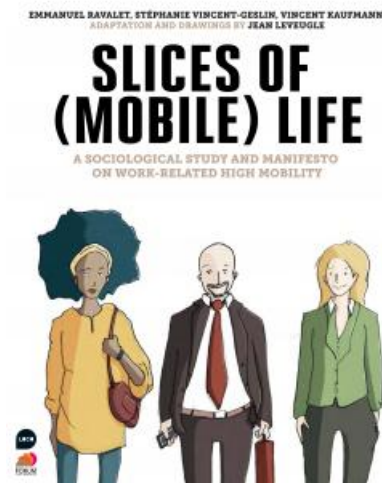


## FORUM'S BOOKS

11/03/2014



## Slices of (mobile) life

A sociological survey and manifesto on work-related high mobility

**3 November 2014**

So, you think all highly mobile people wear suits and ties, and rush about pulling suitcases on wheels? That high mobility is simply an affair of the rich and educated, a small handful of directors, sports figures and celebrities? What if you're wrong?

What if your sister, brother, neighbours and colleagues were also highly mobile people?

Somewhere between a graphic novel, a sociological study and a political manifesto, Slices of Mobile Life shows the issues associated with a European phenomenon that is anything but anecdotal: work-related high mobility.

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### The author

Forum Mobile Lives

**available online**

- Amazon

### Presentation

'Highly mobile people', you say? Who are they?

> People who spend a significant proportion of their time traveling for work.

This investigation focuses on people like Gaby, Martin, Émilie and Jean, men and women whose lives are shaped by their transport experience. Their day to day is made real in this graphic novel, revealing to the reader the many forms and perceptions of work-related mobility. Far from usual stereotypes of highly mobile people, this book is a window into the lives of people we see and meet all the time.

These slices of life are accompanied by a text written by the researchers who conducted the investigation, providing a scientific analysis of the impact and social conditions of high mobility. The study aims to better understand the lives of highly mobile people in contemporary societies, whose lifestyles combine working and private life. To provide better support for such people, the book concludes with several ideas for developing genuine mobility policies. Businesses and governments have only to seize them.

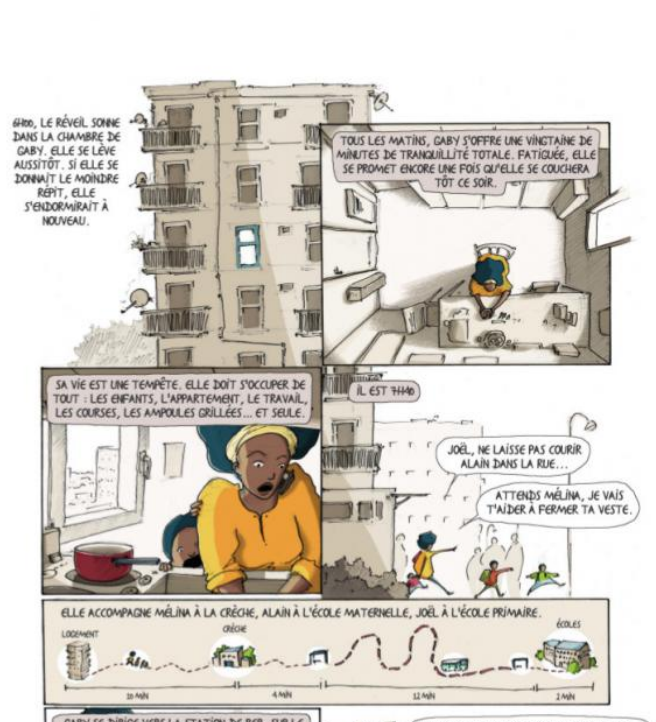
The elements and situations described in this book come from the second part of a large-scale European sociological study conducted from 2006 to 2013. The Mobile Lives Forum financed the updating of the 2006 research in France and Switzerland, conducted by the École Polytechnique de Lausanne's Laboratory of Urban Sociology, under the direction of sociologist Vincent Kaufmann, scientific director of the Mobile Lives Forum.

The book will allow readers to discover high mobility from a new angle, through themes such as:

- Highly mobile people: a societal phenomenon
- High mobility: a trying phase that is becoming the norm
- High mobility: a social indicator
- Towards the institution of corporate high mobility policies
- Regulating high mobility and facilitating other lifestyles

## Extracts

- [Gaby \(download the pdf\)](#)





- [Behind the drawings \(download the pdf\)](#)

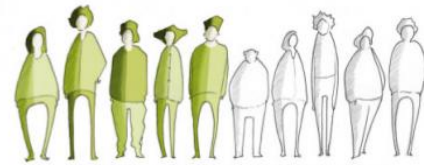
## BEHIND THE DRAWINGS



48

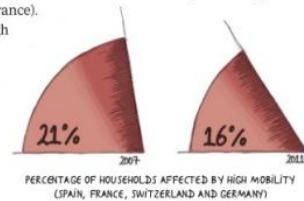
## IDENTIFYING HIGHLY MOBILE INDIVIDUALS

Through the portraits, our first goal was to emphasise the extremely ordinary nature of high mobility. We are surrounded by people who either spend a great deal of time commuting to work each day, or who spend the working week away from their partners because their workplaces are geographically far apart, or who travel the region, the country and the world as part of their job.



In 2007, between 18 and 25% of European households were affected by high mobility. Among adults aged 25 to 54, 9% were highly mobile and 8 to 11% had a mobile partner. In addition to those identified as highly mobile at the time of the interview, it appears that high mobility is a phase that many experience at one time or another. In 2011, many of the 30 to 59 year-old respondents had experienced a period of high mobility (from 38% in Spain to 57% in France).

As the graphs (right) show, high mobility decreased slightly between 2007 and 2011 among respondents, confirming the hypothesis that such phases are less frequent as people get older.



- [Political designs \(download the pdf\)](#)

## POLITICAL DESIGNS

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## HIGH MOBILITY: A SOCIETAL PHENOMENON

In the past several decades, the distance between the home and workplace has continued to grow. With increases in transport speeds, one can work a hundred miles from home without having to relocate. We immediately think of this lifestyle of so-called "reversible" mobility as being the prerogative of business people, corporate executives, researchers and high-powered lawyers, like George Clooney's character in *In the Air*. Yet, we forget that those most concerned by high mobility are long-distance transport drivers. What has changed, however, is that many other service sectors - including sales, teaching and administration - are now affected as well. In fact, today, half of working households in France include a highly mobile person at one time or another.



Whether the job involves a two-hour daily commute, making frequent business trips or "overnighting", high mobility has become a societal phenomenon. In fact, we could say that this lifestyle that obliges so many to travel for work, while attempting to stay locally 'rooted', is emblematic of modern life. But what do highly mobile people really think?

A European research project helped us define them at the social level, to find out what they think, feel and want, and to better understand their practices, experiences and desires - in other words, to understand their way of life. In keeping with this research

conducted in Germany, Spain, France and Switzerland in 2007 and again in 2011, the Mobile Lives Forum aims to propose tools for developing and implementing veritable mobility policies, not just transport policies. Its goal is to reach all those affected by work-related mobility. This includes collective entities such as businesses and government administrations with highly mobile employees.

## About the authors

**Vincent KAUFMANN** is a professor of urban sociology and mobility analysis at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. He heads the laboratory of urban sociology (LaSUR) and is president of the steering and perspectives committee of the Mobile Lives Forum, the centre for research and exchanges created by SNCF for exploring future mobilities.

**Jean LEVEUGLE** is an urban planner and illustrator with a post-graduate degree in development (University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) and a graduate of the ENS of Paris and the Estienne School. Originally trained in sociology and political science, he works on questions of mobility, poverty and exclusion, and attempts to share and popularise the results of social science research through illustration.

**Emmanuel RAVALET** has engineering training, as well as a PhD in transport economics from the University of Lyon and a PhD in urban studies from the INRS-UCS (Montreal). He currently works as a senior researcher at the Laboratory of Urban Sociology (LaSUR) at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.

**Stéphanie VINCENT-GESLIN** is research director at the Laboratoire d'économie des transports (LET) at the École nationale des travaux publics de l'État (ENTPE, Vaulx-en-Verin) and a research associate at the LaSUR (Lausanne). With a PhD in sociology from the University Paris-Descartes, her research focuses on understanding mobility behaviours and changes therein.

**The Mobile Lives Forum** is the mobility research and exchange institute supported by the SNCF. It ambitions to imagine the good lives of tomorrow and prepare the mobility transition. The Mobile Lives Forum wishes to supply the means to understand, anticipate and act on the transformations of our ways of life.

## Book References

SLICES OF (MOBILE) LIFE : Mixed Format, text and graphic novel (hard cover) – Editions Loco – available in bookstores November 13, 2014.

Price : 17 €

Format 19 x 24 cm - 120 pages

Co-Editor : Forum Vies Mobiles



Mobility

Broadly, the word mobility can be defined as the intention to move and the

realization of this movement in geographical space, implying a social change.

More

## Lifestyle

A lifestyle is a composition of daily activities and experiences that give sense and meaning to the life of a person or a group in time and space.

More

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Keywords : Lifestyles, Public Policy, Art, High Mobility, Commuting

Disciplines : Humanities, Social sciences

Transport mode(s) : Automobile, Airplane, Bicycle, Bus, Coach, Pedestrian, Subway, Train, Tramway

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## Forum Mobile Lives

Professional

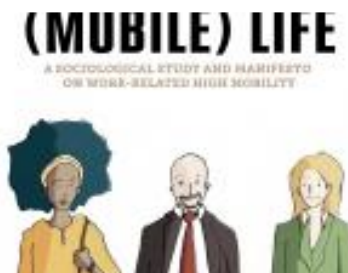
Official account for Mobile Lives Forum's team

### From same author - See all publications



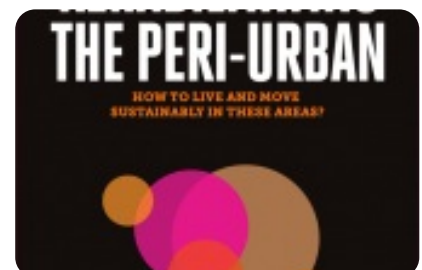
#### Making of identities and movement control in transit places

Forum Meetings by Forum Mobile Lives



#### Slices of (mobile) life

Publication by Forum Mobile Lives



#### Rehabilitating the peri-urban

Publication by Forum Mobile Lives

### To quote this publication:

Forum Mobile Lives (2014, 3rd of November), « Slices of (mobile) life », Mobile Lives Forum. Connexion on 25th of September 2018, URL:

<http://en.forumviesmobiles.org/publication/livres-forum/2014/11/03/slices-mobile-life-2642>

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<sup>12</sup> <http://en.forumviesmobiles.org/mots-cles/modes-vie>

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<sup>15</sup> <http://en.forumviesmobiles.org/mots-cles/grande-mobilite>

<sup>16</sup> <http://en.forumviesmobiles.org/mots-cles/pendulaire>

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