

**THIS MONTH FORUM'S PICKS**

02/07/2020

**ISA-RC21 : The im|mobile city:  
methodologies, justice and right to  
mobility**

Scientifique

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Conference session

**Start date** : 6 July 2020 09:00**End date** : 8 July 2020 17:00**Where** : Antwerp | Belgique**Hosted by** : ISA RC21**Information sources :**<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/rc21-sensing-the-city/>

Convenors: Karol Kurnicki (University of Warwick), Cosmin Popan (Manchester Metropolitan University), Ragnhild Dahl Wikstrøm (University of Oslo)

**Themes**

The urban experience is a mixture of movement and stillness produced in the relations between people, places and things. The sensory, bodily, and affective aspects of movement and urban life are at the centre of reflection in both mobilities and urban studies. The ways in which the urban and mobility processes are structured closely interrelate. Thinking about how these interrelations engage embodied, sensual and technologically mediated experiences can open up new critical concepts of justice, emancipation and inclusion.

The session seeks to explore conceptual exchanges between mobility studies and urban studies, addressing the overlapping interests between these two fields. We aim to investigate possible meeting points that could strengthen critical thinking about planetary urban processes and analyses of particular circumstances and situations that engage people and things in the production of space. We want to explore how concepts, imaginations and methodologies already in use in im|mobility studies can be productively used to investigate contemporary urban challenges and bring to the surface the complexity of global processes reflected in everyday reproduction of power and domination . We also want to explore the potential that discussions in urban studies have for the exploration of im|mobilities in contemporary urbanisation.

The session will be a platform for papers that consider how the experience of the city – involving everything from everyday life to major structural processes – is relevant for understanding moments of movement and stability. Are there ways of tracing movement and stillness in cities that help shed light on processes of exclusion and inclusion? How is im|mobility practiced, lived, enacted and constructed in “ordinary cities” in different geographical and social contexts? What materials, objects, atmospheres and affects can be engaged for a better understanding of shifting

privatisation, financialization, exclusions and dissent in cities around the globe? How can right to the city and mobility justice be understood as practical achievements of active citizens and urban movements?

Both smart and micro mobilities are productive topics through which we can consider issues of mobility justice and the right to the city: the uneven geographies created by internet platforms (which cities and which city areas they cover); the new forms of mobility governance enabled through sensors and programming environments; the mobile data mined and used as commodities for commercial purposes; the emerging mobile digital precariat resulting from platform capitalism (mobile workers in the gig economy) etc. The rapid proliferation of food delivery digital apps, hail riding apps, home delivery services as well as the surge in dockless bike schemes and electric scooter services diversify the range of mobile technologies and invite us to consider what appropriate methods can be used to critically investigate the surge in technologies enabling, mediating and governing urban mobilities. We want to explore the consequences of mixing old and new means of movement in rapidly changing urban landscapes, asking if there is an element of dissent, diversion, commoning and emancipation in contemporary im|mobilities.

Papers of empirical and/or conceptual nature will be considered. Suggested themes include (but are not limited to):

- Im|mobile theories of urban space
- Im|mobile multi-sensory experiences of urban spaces
- Mobile methods and creative methodological approaches
- Digitalization of sensory experiences of space and im|mobility
- Production of im|mobile spaces and citizen engagement
- Studies of infrastructures, urban transport policy and planning for im|mobility
- Urban mobility futures, sustainable mobilities and urban development
- Mobility justice, im|mobile exclusion and inclusion
- The right to the city - the right to im|mobility

#### **Practical informations :**

Submission guidelines

Please submit abstracts of maximum 250 words.

The deadline for submission is March 15th 2020. All submissions must be done via conference website: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/rc21-sensing-the-city/call-for-papers/submit-your-abstract/>

Notifications of acceptance will be sent in mid-April.

In case of any questions please contact us at: [karol.kurnicki@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:karol.kurnicki@warwick.ac.uk);  
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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.forumviesmobiles.org/agenda/2020/02/07/isa-rc21-immobile-city-methodologies-justice-and-right-mobility-13195>

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.forumviesmobiles.org/la-communaute/agenda/list%3Ftype%3Dall>

<sup>3</sup> <https://en.forumviesmobiles.org/la-communaute/agenda/list%3Ftype%3Dselection>

<sup>4</sup> <https://en.forumviesmobiles.org/la-communaute/agenda/list%3Ftype%3Dfvm>

<sup>5</sup> <https://en.forumviesmobiles.org/data%3AApplication/octet-stream%2CBEGIN%253AVCALENDAR%250D%250AVERSION%253A2.0%250D%250APRODID%253A-%252F%252Fproject%252Fauthor%252F%252FNONSGML%2Bv1.0%252F%252FEN%250D%250ACALSCALE%253AGREGORIASensory%2Bexperiences%2Bof%2Burban%2Bspaces%250D%250A%250D%250A%25E2%2597%258F%2Bmobile%2Bmethods%2Bthe%2Bbright%2Bto%2Bim%257Cmobility%250D%250A%250D%250A%250D%250A%250D%250A%250D%250A%250D%25195%250D%250ASUMMARY%253AISA-RC21%2B%253A%2BThe%2Bim%257Cmobile%2Bcity%253A%2Bmethodologies%252C%2Bjustice%2Band%2Bbright%2Bto%2>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/rc21-sensing-the-city/>