

## AUDIO CHRONICLES

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# Cycling as a tourist attraction

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Why is the everyday cycling in Copenhagen so fascinating for tourists?

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### The author

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## Transcription

Copenhagen is by many known as a city of cyclists with a large amount of people cycling on a regular, everyday basis. In the summer months, the very throng of Copenhageners cycling is one of the main tourist attractions. Pictures of women in high heels and short skirts, kids alone or in cargo bikes, men in suits and so forth, seem to be one of the preferred subjects for tourists to photograph.

And it is not only the cyclists but also the system they are moving around in. With many bike paths, traffic lights for cyclists, and so forth, the Copenhagen cyclist is an integral part of the traffic system – just as the car. In my research I have many times been baffled by the similarities between car drivers and cyclists. The feeling of flexibility, autonomy and freedom is very present when they tell stories about their everyday mobilities. Also both groups have clear memories of the first vehicle, how it looked and felt.

Even if the cycle is part of the traffic system it doesn't mean that there are no differences

Even if the cycle is part of the same system, doesn't mean that there are no differences in power. On a daily basis, cyclists in Copenhagen fight for space on the roads, both with cars and other cyclists. So maybe the tourists are not only fascinated by the different types of cyclists, but also they sense that cyclists despite the fighting show they have a right to space on the roads. And cycling in Copenhagen means being part of a strong community on the move.

Keywords : Non motorized, Lifestyles, Système socio-technique, Planning, Collective representations

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