

# Women commuters and their unequal access to mobility infrastructures in Delhi

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# Aim

to explore women's unequal access to the city through bus journeys

# Concepts

- Delhi's growth as urban sprawls (Mohan, 2013; Roy, 2014)
- Right to the gendered city (Fenster, 2005)
- Inter-sectional categories to explore transport inequalities (Crenshaw, 1991)

# Methods

- Field site: Delhi
- 22 in-depth interviews on travel routines
- Observations on women's transport usage



Photograph by Saakshi Joshi

# Findings

- **Gendered division of labour**

“I wake up by 5-5.30 a.m. Then I freshen up, prepare food for my children, get them ready for the school, drop them off. Then, I return home and there are the usual chores...by 9.30-10 a.m. I leave for my job.” – 32-year-old participant

- **VAW and responses to it**

“People bad-mouth a lot, that she might be like this or like that...that’s why I get scared. If anything reaches my parents (I’m) not sure if papa will allow me to go out or not.” – 20-year-old participant

- **Surveillance**

“There is this mentality of families that you need to return home by 8 pm.” – 22-year-old participant

- **Infrastructure**

“There were 2-3 bags with me and already a child on my lap, where was my son going to sit?” – 39-year-old participant



# Conclusion

- Bus journeys are **door to door mobilities**
- **Burden of manufacturing** travel experiences on women
- Travels have **spillover effects** on women’s everyday routines