Solutions-led perspectives on inclusive and sustainable mobilities: New pathways, fresh horizons

Second Annual Interactive Bi-weekly Webinar Series

STARTS 30th SEPTEMBER 2021 at 2:00pm (UK time) on ZOOM

(then every second Thursday until 9th December 2021)

This webinar series seeks to offer fresh insights on emergent practical approaches to facilitate the complex mobilities and accessibilities of low-income settlements and vulnerable populations as they intersect with transport and urban planning, socio-economic inequalities, informalities and sustainability transitions. Drawing on diverse and vibrant perspectives and experience, the webinar series seeks to reflect on opportunities for transformation.

SERIES PROGRAMME AND REGISTRATION

SESSION 1: NEW PERSPECTIVES FROM EMERGING LANDSCAPES
Thursday 21st May 2020 at 2:00pm BST

The first session in the series highlights the work of INTALInC partners working in locations the network has not yet fully explored. As INTALInC continues to expand its membership and activities globally, we have exciting new opportunities to broaden understandings of transport and accessibility for low-income communities in Chile, India and the Caribbean. In particular, the session will focus on the work of Fiona Rajé (Manchester Metropolitan University), Ajay Bailey (University of Utrecht), and Juan Carassco and Alejandra Rasse (CEDEUS/Universidad de Concepción) who will present ‘Just beyond paradise...’; ‘Inclusive cities through equitable access to urban mobility infrastructures for India and Bangladesh’; and ‘CEDEUS urban laboratories: Refocusing urban accessibility on a microscale’. While we do not seek to create blueprints, the session aims to understand some of the cross-contextual commonalities and differences, which might provoke transferrable solutions to meet the mobility and accessibility needs of the poorest and most vulnerable populations worldwide.
JUST BEYOND PARADISE
Fiona Raje, Manchester Metropolitan University

We’ve seen the images of turquoise seas, vivid blue skies and golden sands. Music, rum, relaxation - a playground for the visitor. The Caribbean is all of this but so much more. Behind the smiles, people’s lives play out amidst social, economic and environmental challenges, often made more difficult by small island state geographies. This presentation will reflect on the realities of mobility and transport for low-income communities in the Region. It cannot be comprehensive within the time limits. However, it is hoped that it will serve as a basis for prompting further thought as we build a network of practitioners and researchers exploring the realities of lived mobility and accessibility experience in the Caribbean, as well as looking at the similarities of experience in other places and, in tandem, the differences. Overall, this talk seeks to encourage cooperation to share learning, develop knowledge and shape sustainable travel solutions to improve daily lives of vulnerable populations.

CEDEUS URBAN LABORATORIES: REFOCUSING URBAN ACCESSIBILITY ON A MICROSCALE
Alejandra Rasse and Juan Antonio Carrasco, Universidad de Concepción and CEDEUS

During the past four years, the Chilean Centre for Sustainable Urban Development (CEDEUS) has collaborated with public sector agencies in specific territories. Those works have generated both diagnoses and proposals on urban accessibility for three specific neighborhoods. These ‘urban laboratories’ have allowed us to re-signify accessibility starting from specific subjects: children, caretakers, and elderly people. Because of their individual conditions and urban situation, all these urban subjects are more tied to a micro-local scale -sometimes narrower than a neighborhood.

Working together, we developed participatory diagnostics and public space interventions, local mobility plans, and bottom-up urban agendas. This effort focused mostly on promoting children, caretakers, and older people’s visibility and participation in urban spaces, decision making, and city management.

INCLUSIVE CITIES THROUGH EQUITABLE ACCESS TO URBAN MOBILITY INFRASTRUCTURES FOR INDIA AND BANGLADESH
Ajay Bailey, Utrecht University

Cities in the global South are rapidly growing in size, but many marginalised and vulnerable residents (such as lower-income households, older adults, women and people with disabilities) do not have affordable, safe and accessible public transport, which reduces their ability to have decent work, healthcare and social life. In order to cope with rapid urbanisation, countries in the global South have implemented many transport-related infrastructure projects (e.g. highways, rapid transit systems) to improve access for urban residents. The crucial question is whether these transport systems provide equitable access not only for the young, rich, male and able-bodied but also for the vulnerable groups. This project takes a user-centred intersectional approach that recognises how multiple forms of social stratification (e.g. class, caste, gender, age and disability) intersect to produce urban mobility inequalities for marginalised groups. Through in-depth empirical work across four cities (Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Dhaka) we explore the implications of physical and social barriers to urban transport. By applying a range of innovative methods, both before and during the pandemic, we are able to map the barriers, evaluate existing infrastructure solutions and unpack the ambiguities in the governance of urban transport. Our data reveal how vulnerable groups (women from lower-income households and older adults) negotiate public space, tolerate micro-aggressions and live with/confront harassment during every day journeys for work, health care and social life. Through various stakeholder consultations we aim to co-design an inclusive urban mobility evaluative framework that can provide guidelines for inclusive transport in cities.