

Theme for EUSP 2018 Toulouse: The future of mobility

1. Carbon-neutral transport

Transport generates almost a quarter of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions, with road transport responsible for more than 70 per cent of emissions in the sector. How can we transport people and goods more efficiently? How could alternatives like electric or hydrogen-powered vehicles reduce emissions? What infrastructure do we need to support new types of vehicles? Can we produce biofuels from waste? And how can we speed up the transition to carbon-neutral transport?

2. Driverless vehicles

Truly autonomous vehicles are not just operated remotely, but respond intelligently to their environment. Automated subway trains have been operating for decades. Now the first driverless cars, buses and trucks are hitting our roads. Unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, are also being tested. What role will these vehicles play in future transport systems? How should they be regulated? And how can they be integrated into existing transport systems?

3. Neo-nomads and digital natives

People are becoming more mobile in physical and digital space. Modern communication technologies may seem to negate the need for physical mobility, but are we travelling less frequently? How does our mobility vary across work, free time and holidays? What are the environmental and ethical consequences of travel? How are our habits changing and what does that mean for our mobility in the future?

4. Aviation and space flight

While not an everyday mode of transport, aviation moves people and goods globally and emits a considerable quantity of greenhouse gases. In contrast space flight remains a small scientific endeavour aimed at exploration rather than tourism or mass-transit. Closer to the ground, small autonomous aircraft known as drones are being tested for deliveries. How can the carbon emissions from aviation be reduced? How should drones be regulated in civil air space? And will commercial space flight become a reality in our lifetimes?

5. Mobility in the city

In large cities, millions of people and tonnes of goods move around every day. The city's liveability is affected by roads, traffic, bicycle lanes and public-transport networks. Which modes of transport should have priority in urban planning? How does transport infrastructure use space in a city? And how does that affect pedestrians, cyclists or people dining outdoors? Is the concept of a personal car out of date?