Mobility Justice and Mobility Discrimination in a Historical Perspective

7/7 Session for the Annual Conference of T2M

In recent years, different authors have addressed the relationships, causes, and consequences between mobility and discrimination, pointing out how the restrictions of access to circulation and means of transportation can promote or aggravate exclusionary practices. Many of these works can be included in the field of mobility justice that identifies cases of unjust access to mobility and offers solutions to correct them. The field of transport history has not vested so much interest in this subject and a want in studies that analyse the interconnections between mobility and discrimination is noticeable.

The mobilities paradigm has shown that the access to mobility, circulation, and transportation (or lack thereof) are shaped by patterns of power and can reinforce old and create new patterns, especially in a day and age when physical mobility became a key aspect of daily life for work, leisure, housing, culture, etc. Research about globalisation from a historical perspective have highlighted how the emergence of the nation-state placed restrictions not only to global flows, but also to transnational or cross-border fluxes, determining very clearly who could circulate and who could not (often using nationality or ethnicity as main criterium). Of course, imperial/colonial, and postcolonial studies have highlighted the existence of different forms or racism and discrimination, both in the former colonies and in the former metropolises. These limitations had consequences on how territories were perceived and structured. Mobility promotes the use of different areas by certain groups who perceive those areas as their own. If mobility is restricted, the appropriation of those territories will by unequal, according to which group can move and which cannot.

In this 7/7 session, we invite researchers to present proposals that address these and other issues related with mobility (transportation, circulation) and discrimination (class/social status; race/ethnicity; gender; xenophobia). We welcome both papers based on primary sources and speculations about mobility and discrimination in a historical perspective in any geography or timeframe. We encourage debates about the lessons transport history has to offer that may help us today to address similar issues, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is a 7/7 session, which means that each author must present seven slides in a seven-minute time slot. The goal is to focus on the main argument, providing plenty food for thought for the general discussion.

Researchers interested in participating should send an email to Hugo Pereira (hjs.pereira@fct.unl.pt) and Aparajita Mukhopadhyay (A.Mukhopadhyay@kent.ac.uk) with their proposal, including the title of the proposal, a short abstract (around 200 words), and a short bio. The deadline is April 23th 2021.