

1. Events

Event Details

'Southern Diaries': mobilities in the Global South @ Mobile Lives Forum

Artistique

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2st Call for participation

Start date : 1 April 2017 19:15

Date de fin : 15 November 2017 18:15

Where : Paris

Hosted by : Mobile Lives Forum

Information sources :

Mobile Lives Forum

Southern Diaries

The Mobile Lives Forum is pleased to announce a second call for papers for a thematic section of its website entitled 'Southern Diaries' with the aim of promoting mobilities research in the Global South.

Traditionally research has privileged the realities and problems of societies in the 'North' and the aim of Southern Diaries is to give greater visibility to lesser known issues and researchers in southern societies. Since April 2017 this thematic section is regularly featuring research on a wide range of mobility issues.

Researchers and practitioners working on mobility-related issues in the Global South are invited to submit articles (1500 words) about any aspect of their work. Selected articles will be published in the Mobile Lives Forum's website and regular newsletter (reaching +10,000 academics and practitioners all over the world).

Published contributions will be illustrated and we encourage selected authors to propose professional photographers whose work will appear alongside the text.

The Mobile Lives Forum's research focus is on people and their lived experiences rather than solely the technical aspects of transport infrastructures. Broadly understood this categorisation gives scope for a wide range of topics and approaches examining the role of mobility in social life and its territorial and environmental implications. Submissions with a specific emphasis on people's ways of life and aspirations and the challenges and opportunities of ongoing social and cultural transformations for sustainable mobility transitions are encouraged. So too are contributions about case studies and projects with a strong component of 'public sociology' (see below).

Articles for the second call for papers can be submitted until November 15th 2017.

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Further information

About us

The Mobile Lives Forum is a research institute created in 2011 to foster critical research and debate about mobility futures. In collaboration with academic and civil society institutions worldwide we bring together practitioners, artists, scholars and the general public to discuss and raise awareness about the plurality of ideas of the good life in contemporary societies and the role of mobility in the pursuit of individual and collective aspirations. Through this dialogue we seek to inform policies for sustainable mobility transitions.

The Mobile Lives Forum is a not-for-profit organization based in Paris and supported by the state-owned SNCF (French railways).

'Global South'

There are multiple, changing and contested conceptual and geographical understandings of the notion of 'Global South'. Acknowledging this plurality of views, the 'southern perspective' encouraged by this initiative loosely refers to contexts, experiences and ways of framing research that can illuminate other realities 'beyond the North', their particularities but also their connections with other places and experiences. In adopting this loose definition we would also like to encourage submissions from peripheral areas in southern and eastern Europe.

Public social sciences

Mobilities research is being produced in multiple places and with different purposes. Some research is conducted by well-resourced universities, concerns mostly conceptual matters or high-profile policy issues, and tends to be disseminated through high ranking British and North American academic journals or as eye-catching media reports. Behind this world of highly visible, relatively well funded research, the everyday reality in poor universities and southern countries is often characterised on the one hand by intense teaching commitments, and on the other by a vocational engagement with local communities, neighbourhood associations, labour movements, environmental associations, and minority groups. While retaining the academic rigor and methodologies of sociology as a discipline, this style of doing research seeks to illuminate and address problems through a dialogue with different sections of the 'public'. This kind of public engagement involves varieties of participatory action research and the development of alternative techniques of collaborative research. Since Michael Burawoy's 2004 Presidential address to the American Sociological Association, the term public sociology or public social science is widely used to describe the effort of these researchers 'working tirelessly and invisibly in the trenches of civic society'. Public sociology is practiced in every society and exists wherever sociologists engage in a dialogue with a public. It is however in southern countries where it is most active. Latin America and South Africa, for example, are today epicentres of a publicly oriented social science.

Submissions will consist of a short essay that could involve, for example, the description of projects informed by public sociology or the presentation of research that questions assumptions cherished by a particular public, or reorients a public's focus to issues that are being overlooked. Ideally the case studies described would enrich discussions of mobility in the North.

Writing public sociology

Writing public sociology is not just writing in an accessible manner, avoiding jargon. It involves a familiarity with the lifeworld of a specific public, taking into consideration the ideas, knowledge,

debates, and frames of reference of that public. It is about using a style and developing a content that resonates with the audience one wishes to engage with.

Mobility

For the Mobile Lives Forum, mobility is understood as the process of how individuals travel across distances in order to deploy through time and space the activities that make up their lifestyles. These travel practices are embedded in socio-technical systems, produced by transport and communication industries and techniques, and by normative discourses on these practices, with considerable social, environmental and spatial impacts.

En savoir plus x

Practical informations :

Submissions will be acknowledged on receipt and authors will be notified about the decision.

The length of the article should be 1500 words. We encourage submissions written with a clear and accessible style. Our aim is to publish engaging, interesting stories based on empirical research.

Submissions should be accompanied by a one-page cover letter including a brief biographical note (up to 100 words) and a brief introduction to the theme and relevance of the submitted text.

Who can participate: Submissions are encouraged by anyone working on the Global South. Scholars from poorly resourced universities in Europe's periphery and the Global South are particularly encouraged to submit their work.

Entries should be sent to [jcaletrio \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:jcaletrio@gmail.com)

Please allow two weeks for receipt of submission acknowledgement.