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TGRG page ☆
Ashgate series – transport and mobility

In association with Ashgate Publishing, the TGRG has established a research monograph series under the heading, 'Transport and Mobility'. The study of transport and mobility from a social science perspective is an interdisciplinary pursuit. However, despite the centrality to the social sciences of the current debate on the nature and processes of globalization and the network society, transport is often treated as little more than an incidental assumption in these arguments. In part, this neglect reflects the traditional ways in which transportation planning and policy-making in their many forms have been driven by technology, engineering and an emphasis on modal analysis. Now, however, if most particularly in Europe, the emphasis is moving towards the relationships between transport, mobility, behaviour and social change. The series aims at developing a research agenda articulated through a set of monographs, which engages with these issues.

While individual monographs in the series will have a specific geographic focus, we envisage its general role as having a global remit. Transport and mobility are implicated in the transformation of global societies in numerous ways. These include:

- the changing processes of social reproduction as new patterns of social inclusion/exclusion are forged at a variety of scales ranging from the global to the local;
- the dramatic modifications in household, population and labour structures in the IT society, which are both inducing and reflecting new transport technologies and patterns of mobility;
- the transport-specific connotations of IT, which is permitting enhanced management of mobility, but is also acting as a substitute for movement;
- the apparent paradox that travel is increasing and transport demand accelerating as access to IT expands;
- the ability of technology to control mobility and its environmental externalities at a variety of scales.

These and other issues are manifested in different ways in different countries, most starkly between Europe and the United States and, more generally, between the developed and developing worlds. Differences in economy, culture and public policy shape contrasting attitudes to the relationships between social change and mobility and to the comparative importance of technology/engineering or behavioural modification. In sum, we see two inherently conflicting factors as dominating the interfaces of transport, mobility, behaviour, and processes of social change. On one hand is the need to restrain mobility growth for sustainability reasons; on the other, we have the emergence of a increasingly fluid and flexible network society dependent on unconstrained mobility.

In addressing this nexus of contestation, it is our intention that the research included in this series will address issues that include:

- institutional regimes and policies for mobility and the array of scales involved – sometimes incompatible – at which these work;
- mobility and the changes in labour markets, especially the post-Fordist flexible labour force;
- the role of transport and transport intermodality in the rise of the network society and its sets of flexible interconnected nodes;
- globalization and its array of mobility enhancing attributes, especially those related to flexible production processes;
- the converse processes of social exclusion, poverty and inequality in wealth and mobility;
- the meaning of personal mobility and the contrasting attitudes expressed in different societies;
- contrasting attitudes towards transport, mobility and environmental sustainability;
- the role of electronic networks in mobility substitution;
- the planning policies that might attempt to reconcile at least some of these issues.

The series is being edited jointly by Brian Graham (Professor of Human Geography, University of Ulster) and Richard Knowles (Reader in Geography, University of Salford). We are currently seeking proposals for authored or edited texts, which contain research addressing these issues or other aspects of transport and

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mobility. Outline submissions should be sent to either of the series co-editors:

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