PERGAMON

Journal of Transport Geography 9 (2001) 83–84

JOURNAL OF TRANSPORT GEOGRAPHY

www.elsevier.com/locate/jtrangeo

TGRG page ☆
TGRG biennial postgraduate seminar

The TGRG held its biennial postgraduate seminar at the RGS-IBG in London on Wednesday 13th September 2000. As on previous occasions, the event was split into two sessions, the first consisting of postgraduate presentations, and the second of a round-table discussion of the UK government's *Transport 2010* document. The event was informative and constructive, with four postgraduates at varying stages of their doctoral studies presenting research papers and offering their ideas about future transport policy.

Following a brief introduction from Iain Docherty, the TGRG Treasurer, Matthew Steele (University of Newcastle) summarised his recent research into the 'community interface' in transport planning and policy making. He described the often-complex relationships between central and local government and the communities they serve, and showed that, in some cases, there is room for considerable improvement in the strategies adopted by local authorities to involve community groups in decision making processes. Donald Houston (University of Glasgow) presented evidence from his recently-completed PhD research which sought to test the 'spatial mismatch hypothesis' using evidence from firm relocations in Glasgow. He showed that 5–10% of workers, usually those most at risk of unemployment or who do not own/have access to a car, leave their jobs when firms move, and suggested policy measures which may help relieve some of the undesirable social consequences of firm relocation.

Maria Attard (University of Malta) discussed the growing incidence of car dependence in Malta. Having only just begun her doctoral studies, she sketched out numerous ideas for future investigation into this theme and considered potential research strategies. She has already collated an impressive collection of data sources and detailed enquiry and analysis is shortly to commence. Finally, Chris Price (University of Plymouth) focused on the fear of crime as a barrier to mobility on rail systems. He provided an update on his research, which was discussed at the previous postgraduate seminar in 1998, on the c2c rail network in Essex, England. The work has progressed significantly from its formative stages two years ago, and data analysis is revealing the importance of people's *perception* of crime, rather than the reality, in influencing their travel behaviour.

The round-table discussion about *Transport 2010* was facilitated by TGRG Committee member John Preston, and enabled the postgraduate delegates and several academic TGRG members to share their views about current transport policy in the UK. The discussion was wide-ranging and considered many aspects of the policy at a variety of levels. Fundamental questions addressing the assumptions underpinning *Transport 2010* were raised alongside thoughtful critiques of certain 'operational' aspects of the document. The group considered, for example, whether the schemes proposed in *Transport 2010* will in practice result in true modal integration where it is needed, or instead whether they are simply a loose association of policy ideas at the macro level which are ill-thought-through in terms of their implementation. All involved viewed the exercise as extremely worthwhile and thought-provoking, and several of the ideas put forward are being incorporated in the research plans of those present.

The TGRG Committee would like to thank Iain Docherty for organising the event, which it intends to repeat in 2002, John Preston for facilitating the round-table discussion and Jon Shaw, TGRG Secretary, for chairing both sessions.

TGRG transport and mobility book series

The first monograph in this series, *Competition, Regulation and the Privatisation of British Rail*, by Jon Shaw, was published in November 2000. Full details are available on the Ashgate website (www.ashgate.com). As noted in the previous TGRG page, the series editors, Brian Graham and Richard Knowles, would like to invite suitable contributions from transport researchers for future publication in this series, and will be happy to receive enquiries and/or suggestions from prospective authors. The series editors can be contacted by e-mail

☆ TGRG: Transport Geography Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers).

PII: S0966-6923(00)00043-0

(bj.graham@ulst.ac.uk and r.d.knowles@salford.ac.uk) or by post at the address on the inside front cover of this journal.

Jon Shaw
TGRG Secretary
Department of Geography,
University of Aberdeen, Elphinstone Road
Aberdeen AB24 3UF, UK