Journal of Transport Geography 74 (2019) 407

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Transport Geography

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jtrangeo

Book review☆

G. Meyer, S. Shaheen. (Eds.), Disrupting Mobility: Impacts of Sharing Economy and Innovative Transportation in Cities. Lecture Notes in Mobility, Springer, Cham (2017).

The many contributions in this volume focus on different aspects of transport innovation and the (so-called) sharing economy and how these are 'disrupting mobility'. The contributions are divided into three parts, with a four-page preface by the collection editors Gereon Meyer and Susan Shaheen. The chapters represent some of the best contributions to the 2015 'Disrupting Mobility Summit' organised by a team spread across Europe and North America but held in Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA). The contributors are similarly international (reaching India and Australia), and from a range of backgrounds, including government, urban planning, research institutes, consultancy, automotive industry and university research.

The volume is divided into three sections of unequal sizes, and unfortunately there is no concluding chapter to round off the volume that could have added a critical editorial and identified gaps or future directions, given that the chapters are so diverse. I am not convinced that the material in the book is designed to appeal to a policy or practitioner audience, despite the editors' hope that the "contents stimulate fruitful discussions, proactive choices, and informed decision making around the future of mobility" (p viii). This is because the style is traditionally academic, though Part I's two papers are both from public sector contributors: Mendez et al. offer a US Department of Transportation perspective on mobility to 2045, and Karim from City of Toronto presents a model for building planning capacity for urban mobility.

Part II is focused on 'Sharing Economy and Multimodal Mobility' and is the largest section with 11 contributions. These are diverse in both method and focus, though there is a slight majority of papers that touch on the direct impacts of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a mobility facilitator for users. Five of the papers explore the user-side of ICT, particularly arising from smartphones: Schechtner and Hanson's chapter examines the impact of apps on shared mobility in Asian megacities; Lisson et al explore why people use 'Intelligent Transport Information Systems'; Shaheen et al focus on how smartphone apps have evolved through a user survey; Davidson examines how ICT access to maps and information influences mode choice; and finally Shaheen et al explore how ride-sharing is facilitated and taken up through online and mobile ICT. Another aspect of the ICT contribution to disruptive mobility comes from outside the transport sector: Dinning and Weisenberger focus on the important contribution made by innovations to deliver payment convergence, which has been greatly advanced by a varied mix of technologies, ranging from radio-frequency identification, through contactless cards (whether dedicated smart cards and banking cards), automated systems for road-pricing, through to mobile payments and mobile ticketing.

The remaining chapters in Part II explore techniques for evaluating the potential scale of impact from disruptive mobility. Scenario approaches are used by Ciari and Becker's chapter on large-scale sharing and by Gruel and Stanford who focus on the system effects of Level 5 automated vehicles. Newer forms of shared mobility are the key focus of the other three chapters in this section. Iacobucci et al. consider the impacts on traditional transit systems and Henao and Marshall present a framework for assessing the impact of ride-sourcing on transportation. Wilhelms et al. turn the telescope back towards the users, seeking to understand the motives of participants in peer-to-peer carsharing;

Part III, 'Innovative Transportation Technologies and City Design' has seven chapters. In this final part of the book, the editors have gathered papers which relate more to urban design. Some take a more spatial approach or assess the effect on mobility patterns: Rode et al. consider accessibility and urban form; Ronald et al. explore the potential effects of three different but related innovations (sharing, autonomous and connect vehicles on patterns of mobility) and Adams et al. consider cycling in relation to pervasive ICT in cities); Two take a sustainability approach to considering mobility innovations: Lennert and Schönduwe are interested in decarbonisation; Grush and Niles consider the vitally important question of shared-use of autonomous vehicles and how to ensure that their spread would support sustainability.

The final two chapters of Part III were more challenging for me, as they were further beyond my current areas of expertise. Ferreras' chapter explores how drone technology can be used in intelligent transport systems to help solve urban transport problems, and Garcia-Verdugo explores the design side of the challenges posed by automation and the notion of mobile landscape design (Mobilescapes) - for someone not steeped in the ways of the design world, the concepts in this chapter are challenging to grasp but well worth the effort as food for thought.

With 20 chapters or papers, this is a dense hardback volume, with quite small age-unfriendly print. The book is also available electronically, and I expect this would be the most useful mode of access for many readers. Nevertheless, whilst the book is not really a linear read, I have made use of several chapters in my own work, in the manner of journal articles. It is not entirely clear how the contents of the individual chapters have been shaped by attendance at the Disrupting Mobility Summit or whether they are just based on the presentations that each contributor made at that Summit. If the latter, then this volume is perhaps a missed opportunity for a truly progressive dialogue about the good, the bad, and the ugly side of disruptive mobility innovation. Nevertheless, the collection is a useful resource for academic researchers with material that I have not come across in the journals.

Kate Pangbourne,
Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
E-mail address: K.J.Pangbourne@leeds.ac.uk.

☆ Disrupting mobility book review for JTG

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2018.12.013

Available online 15 January 2019
0966-6923