

University of Toronto

**GGR 424: Transportation Geography and Planning**

Winter 2019, Wednesdays, 9am – 11am, SSH 5017

Dr. Anna Kramer

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 pm & Wednesdays, 12:30-2:30 pm, or by appointment, Room 5063

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**Course Description**

*Transportation geography touches everyday life and transportation planning generates intense interest. This course is an interdisciplinary, introductory overview of major issues in urban transportation. Using geographies of mode and drawing on case studies from around the world, we will explore transportation economy and finance, politics and path dependencies, congestion and demand management, social equity and justice, sustainability and resilience.*

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**Evaluation and Due Dates**

**Travel fieldnotes (25) due Feb 1**

Your personal impressions of various modes of transportation as you experience them. Using auto-ethnography and thick description, you will write about your feelings, perceptions and observations taking various forms of transit, walking, cycling, and/or driving. 5 pages single spaced (2,500 words).

**TTS data analysis & interpretation (25) due March 1**

An analysis and interpretation of some aspect of data from the Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS). This trip diary is collected every 5 years across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area and asks people to describe their travel on one day. It includes a wealth of information that is the basis for transportation demand models and transportation planning. Variables include trip origins and destinations, purpose, mode, time of day, length, household/individual vehicle ownership, income, size, gender, and housing type. Your assignment is to query this database and communicate your findings on an issue or question of interest to you. The report should be approximately 5 pages and will include charts, graphs, and maps along with textual interpretation.

**Transportation plan (25) due April 5**

Building on your travel notes and data interpretation, you will make a transportation plan. This plan can vary by mode, geography, and goals. You will be evaluated on how evidence-based and well-reasoned it is as well as how effectively it is communicated. Big and small ideas welcomed, as well as imaginative ones that address particular problems that exist in the transportation landscape and issues such as transportation equity, sustainability, potential mode shift, efficiency. You should demonstrate how your plan achieves some aspect of the public good. The plan should be 7-10 pages. Feel free to consider using a variety of communication methods for your plan, including design, story-maps, street plans and sections, and sketches or perspectives.

**Plan presentation (10) – March 27 or April 3**

You will present your plan to the class in a 7-minute presentation of your transportation plan, followed by questions and discussion. This feedback can be incorporated into your assignment.

## **Participation – reading review (5), attendance and in-class engagement (10)**

The quality of your learning experience depends as much on your participation as what the instructor brings. Each week, 3 or 4 students will together review and briefly discuss the week's readings, giving short summaries and commentaries, seminar-style, in class. There will be many interactive aspects to the class, including discussion and reflection exercises. Attendance will be noted.

### **Course contract**

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#### **Accessibility Needs**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please let me know and contact Accessibility Services: [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

#### **Course Website**

The course website is available through the University of Toronto course website ([q.utoronto.ca](http://q.utoronto.ca)). All students enrolled in the class should be able to view the link to the course with your UTORID and password. All course materials will be posted on the website and assignments will be uploaded there.

#### **Academic Integrity and Respect**

Plagiarized work (which includes the submission of someone else's work as your own and the re-submission of academic work that had been previously submitted in another course for credit) is not accepted. Please consult the "Rules and Regulations" section of the Arts and Science Calendar [here](#) for further information and check the 'How not to plagiarize' website [here](#). Your essays will be submitted to Turnitin software to compare it to other known writings and a database of student papers.

In class discussion, we operate on principles of respect and reciprocity. We listen to each other and take turns contributing to the discussion. We encourage a diversity of perspectives.

#### **Writing**

Clear writing and communicating is essential. You will be expected to write clearly and effectively on assignments. The University provides some resources through the writing [centres](#). Brief advice on specific elements of writing for university courses can also be found [here](#).

#### **Late assignments**

Unless you have arranged an extension with the instructor, late assignments will be docked 10% daily.

## Schedule

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### January 9      **Introduction to transportation geography and Planning**

Review syllabus, assignments especially travel fieldnotes, class participation; introductions and names. Overview of course material and themes. Learning objectives. Choosing days for reading reviews.

### January 16      **Automobility**

How the infrastructure of automobiles has transformed transportation and urban design.

Zacharias, J. (2012). Resisting motorization in Guangzhou. *Habitat International*, 36(1), 93–100. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2011.06.007>

Freund, P., & Martin, G. (2009). The Social and Material Culture of Hyperautomobility: “Hyperauto.” *Bulletin of Science Technology Society*, 29(6), 476–482. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0270467609349053>

Henderson, J. (2006) Secessionist Automobility: Racism, Anti-Urbanism, and the Politics of Automobility in Atlanta, Georgia. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 30.2, p 293-307.

### January 23      **The future of cars?**

The implications and potential impacts of ridehailing, electric vehicles, and autonomous vehicles.

Dudley, G., Banister, D., & Schwanen, T. (2017). The Rise of Uber and Regulating the Disruptive Innovator. *Political Quarterly*, 88(3), 492–499. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-923X.12373>

Fagnant, D. J., & Kockelman, K. (2015). Preparing a nation for autonomous vehicles: Opportunities, barriers and policy recommendations. *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*, 77, 167–181. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tra.2015.04.003>

Millard-Ball, A. (2018). Pedestrians, Autonomous Vehicles, and Cities. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 38(1), p6-12.

### January 30      **Urban form and history of the street**

How urban design and transportation are linked.

Berman, M. (1988). Modernism in the streets. Excerpt from Chapter III (Sections 3, 4 & 5) in *All That is Solid Melts Into Air: The Experience of Modernity*. London: Penguin Books, 148-171.

Norton, P. (2007) Street Rivals: Jaywalking and the invention of the motor age street. *Technology and Culture*, 48(2), 331-359.

Handy, S. (2018) Enough with the “D’s” Already – Let’s get back to “A”. *Transfers Magazine*, [here](#).

### February 6      **Active transportation**

Review the TTS assignment

Walking and cycling in the city.

Hess, P. (2009) Avenues or Arterials: The struggle to change street building practices in Toronto, Canada. *Journal of Urban Design*, 14(1), 1-28.

Pucher, J., & Buehler, R. (2008). Making cycling irresistible: Lessons from the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany. *Transport Reviews*, 28(4), 495–528.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01441640701806612>

Norcliffe, G. & B. Gao. (2018) Hurry-slow: Automobility in Beijing, or a resurrection of the Kingdom of Bicycles? Chapter 5, in Mackintosh, P. G., Dennis, R. & D. Holdsworth, editors. *Architectures of hurry – Mobilities, Cities and Modernity*. Oxon: Routledge, p 83-99.

### **February 13     Public transportation**

The theory and practice of public transportation network design and operations.

Ocejo, R. E., & Tonnelat, S. (2014). Subway diaries: How people experience and practice riding the train. *Ethnography*, 15(4), 493–515.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1466138113491171>

Taylor, B. D., & Morris, E. A. (2015). Public transportation objectives and rider demographics: are transit's priorities poor public policy? *Transportation*, 42(2), 347–367. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11116-014-9547-0>

Walker, J. (2012). Frequency is Freedom. Chapter 7 of *Human Transit: How Clearer Thinking About Public Transit Can Enrich Our Communities and Our Lives*. Washington: Island Press, 85-96.

### **February 20     Reading week – no class**

### **February 27     Environmental justice**

Unequal access and impacts of transportation systems.

Sheller, M. (2015). Racialized Mobility Transitions in Philadelphia: Connecting Urban Sustainability and Transport Justice. *City and Society*, 27(1), 70–91.

Farber, S. & Allen, J. (2018) Transit in Toronto: Socioeconomic Status and Transit Availability ([Storymap](#) here)

Kramer, A. (2018) The unaffordable city: Housing and transit in North American cities. *Cities*, in press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2018.05.013>

### **March 6            Transportation democracy and demand**

Review the transportation plan assignment.

Transportation management, travel patterns and planning.

Karner, A., & R. Marcantonio. (2018) Achieving transportation equity: Meaningful public involvement to meet the needs of underserved communities. *Public Works Management & Policy*, 23(2), 105-126.

Grengs, J. (2002). Community-Based Planning as a Source of Political Change. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 68(2), 165.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01944360208976263>

Turner, S. & N.T. Hạnh. (2018) Contesting socialist state visions for modern mobilities: informal motorbike taxi drivers' struggles and strategies on Hanoi's streets, Vietnam. *International Development Planning Review*, early view.

**March 13      Transportation politics and economics**

Transportation evidence and decision-making, budgets and finance.

Muhammad, U. (2018) *Politicizing public transit in Toronto*. The Bullet, Online [here](#).

Wachs, M. (2001). Forecasting versus Envisioning, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 67(4), pp. 367–372.

Watch Political Blind Date Episode 2: Doug Ford and Jagmeet Singh on TVO [here](#).

**March 20      Global case studies and potential for transformative mode shift**

We look at a selection of places around the world to discuss a variety of transportation issues, and we discuss the potential for transformational mode shift. No readings this week.

**March 27      7-minute presentations**

**April 3      7 minute presentations**