SPINOFFS OF MOBILITY: Technology, Risk & Innovation

Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA, USA
September 18-21, 2014

Call for Papers

12th Annual Conference of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T^2M)

Spinoffs of Mobility: Technology, Risk & Innovation
Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA
September 18-21, 2014

Deadline for Abstract Submission: March 31st, 2014
Send CV and Abstract, max. 1 page each, to submissions@t2m.org

The International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T^2M) invites proposals for papers to be presented at the 12th International Conference on the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility, to be held at Drexel University on **18-21 September, 2014**. The conference is co-sponsored in association with Drexel's Centers for Mobilities Research and Policy and Science, Technology and Society, the Pan-American Mobilities Network and the Smithsonian Institute's National Air and Space Museum.

Papers may address any social, cultural, economic, technological, ecological and political perspectives on the history and future of transport, traffic and mobility. However, preference will be given to our conference theme: **Spinoffs of Mobility: Technology, Risk & Innovation**.

The conference theme addresses intended and unintended positive, negative, surprising and alarming side effects and collateral damages of mobility in relation to the fields of technology, innovation and risk. Innovations in transportation and mobility systems are often driven by state-sponsored military research and development. But innovation also occurs through people's everyday appropriation of new technologies for their own purposes. We are interested in the history of "spinoffs" of transportation, energy and mobility technologies that spread from the military to the civilian realm, from specialized niches to more general usage, or from one part of the world to another. How do

transportation systems and mobile technologies move? In what ways do new technologies disrupt existing systems or create opportunities for new spinoffs? And how do such mobilizations of technology create new risks or raise new ethical dilemmas?

For example, the research and investment in the materials and technologies for military aviation and air power in the early 20th century led to a world-wide civilian flight network; the Space Race of the 1960s, the logistics revolution, the creation of the Internet, and the invention of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles have each led to unexpected spinoffs and the proliferation of new technological systems as well as new risks. One of the greatest challenges facing our current systems of mobility is their contribution to climate change. What are the ethical questions involved in seeking a transition toward low-carbon technologies? What can we learn from past technological transitions in the realm of traffic, transport, energy and mobility? And given the complexity of our current systems, what kinds of innovations help societies to prepare for disruption or system failures?

New technologies of traffic, transport, energy and mobile communication also produce waves of imagination of new mobilities, whether in science fiction, architecture and design, or fashion and film. What spinoffs result from the *imaginaire* of new socio-technical systems? How is culture mobilized in producing large-scale technological transitions? How do cultural "scares" such as natural disasters, disrupted mobilities, or terrorist attacks contribute to new framings of mobility and immobility, safety and security in transport? Can we imagine new ways of addressing disability, health, urbanism and climate justice through new mobilities?

Panels could focus on topics such as:

- The Space Race and technological "Spinoffs"
- SciFi, HiFi, WiFi: changing visions of "smart" transport & "smart cities"
- Military Mobilities & Ethics: from ground war to air power to UAV's
- Cyberinfrastructure and emergency planning for transport
- Risk management and risky mobilities
- Comparative histories of infrastructure development: highways, airways, bike lanes
- New frontiers of transport technology transitions
- Energy, transport, and climate change
- Imaginary mobility: fact, fiction, or future?
- Disrupted Mobility: natural disasters and system failures
- IT and social networks: surveillance, privacy and displacements
- Climate change and moving to safety
- Vulnerable populations, mobility, and disaster
- Disability, transport, and designing for accessibility
- Mobilities of pleasure: tourism, leisure, recreation
- Urban mobilities in the Global South
- Road safety, smart infrastructure and connected mobility
- The ethics, social and environmental sustainabilities of transportation systems
- Healthy traffic and active mobility
- Racialized and gendered (im)mobilities and transportation justice

Participants are encouraged, though not required, to organize panels on these or any other related themes. A panel consists of a chair and normally up to three speakers; no commentator is required. We especially encourage transnational, comparative and interdisciplinary approaches, and welcome proposals exploring theoretical or methodological issues as well as those of a more empirical nature. We especially invite recent entrants to the profession and graduate students to submit proposals.

This conference will be hosted by Drexel University in Philadelphia, USA.

The conference language is English (only). The deadline for abstracts and a short cv (max. 1 page each; Word or rich text format only) is **31 March 2014**.

Send proposals to: **submissions@t2m.org**. A notification of acceptance will be sent by 1 May 2014. The full text of papers accepted must be submitted by 1 August 2014 if they are to be included on the conference CD-ROM sent in advance to all participants and if they are to be eligible for T2M Awards. All participants are required to register.

For enquiries about the program, please contact **Hans Dienel** (dienel@ztg.tu-berlin.de) For information about local arrangements please contact mimi.sheller@drexel.edu. For details of T2M and of previous conferences, please visit: **www.t2m.org**. Further details of the 2014 conference will be posted there in due course.

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