

Special Session Proposal ERSA 2019

Students, University and the City: Location Choice and Mobility behaviour

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The university, through the quality of its academic training and research, is an important factor of economic attractiveness and social mix for the city, through the flow of students and researchers and activities it generates. But to maintain its attractiveness, the university also needs a sufficient supply and quality in terms of housing, transport and urban facilities.

Universities are recognised as a major activity generator in housing and transportation planning processes. Large university campuses contribute in a variety of ways to the housing and travel demand. Faced with major challenges related to sustainability issues, several campus managers and planners are pushed to deal with the increasing demand of their campus community by developing housing and comprehensive transportation plans. As a particular social group belonging today to the so called Gen Y & Z or millennials, students housing choice and mobility behaviour differ significantly from other typical working adult especially when regarding socioeconomic characteristics, lifestyle, attitudes and preferences. These young adults appear to be leading the trend in term of changing travel and housing behaviour (decreasing of car use in favour of alternative modes, variability of travel and housing behaviour, car and home sharing with partial abandon of the private property...). However, our understanding of the socioeconomic, spatial and lifestyle drivers of this trend among students is still limited. They remain under-studied in the residential and travel behaviour analysis arena and only a few documented surveys focusing on university communities exist in the research literature.

This special session welcomes both theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions to help advance our understanding of the housing and mobility behaviour of students and their potential contributions to the complex interactions between the university and the city.

All topics under this general theme are welcome, some suggestions are:

- Daily mobility and residential patterns of student /university communities in the city
- Modal choice, home/campus accessibility and urban form (including residential self-selection effects)
- Residential choice, residential mobility, accessibility and housing markets
- Migration, international mobility and housing access
- New lifestyles, changing mobility and residential behaviours (car-sharing, biking, shared housing, co-working...)
- Mobility behaviour, housing choice and equity issues (long distance travel, multilocality, spatial isolation, financial resources...)
- Digital transformations and students mobility/housing behaviour
- Intrapersonal variability of mobility and housing behaviour
- New methods on data collection in a university context (potential and limits of web surveys, smartphone travel data, smartcard ...)
- Sustainability constrains, housing policy, transport policy and travel demand management strategies