



Urban transport politics: Exploring the role of urban publics in transport politics

SEMINAR

Transport planning has always been political. In the ‘urban age’, marked by the urbanization of city-regions and increasingly fashioned by the emergence of new political orderings and socio-technological relations, transport will retain its centrality as a city-shaping force. Also transport will continue to structure the urban experience in a variety of ways. Comparison of the institutional-political arrangements driving transport planning with social responses to transport interventions reveals an unevenness of experience. This manifests as differences across city-regions related to access, mode choice and delivery of socially and environmentally responsible transport outcomes. Whether transport planning responds to this unevenness or reproduces it is in part shaped through urban transport politics and the active participation of different publics. This paper will draw on case study illustrations from Australian and Canadian cities where transport planning has centered on the construction of freeway (Australia) and light rail transit (Canada) systems, but have given rise to political assertions and urban antagonisms that position urban publics as increasingly influential and interventionist forces. The aim of this paper is to cast a critical lens onto the multiple politics and experiences shaping two contemporary transport systems and to open the conceptual space for new epistemologies surrounding the role of urban publics in transport politics in the 21st Century city.

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VIDEOCONFERENCE NATHAN & GOLD COAST

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Gold Coast: building G23, level 3, room 3.01

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