



17th International NECTAR Conference
Brussels, Belgium, 3 - 5 July 2024

Perceived accessibility and ease of travel

Call for papers for the thematic session of Cluster 6 “Accessibility”

Accessibility – the ease of reaching destinations – is an objective land use and transport performance measure that is often used in transport planning to indicate people’s ability to reach out-of-home activities using a specific mode of transport. However, accessibility metrics based on spatial data only partly reflect how people experience traveling to various destinations given travel circumstances and travel consequences and how easy they find it to reach their desired destinations. Perceived accessibility is mediated by people’s perception of travel circumstances, but also their socio-demographics, travel abilities and preferences. Studies have shown that perceived accessibility does not always correspond with objectively-measured accessibility, and that perceived accessibility strongly affects travel behaviour and activity participation. In that sense perceived accessibility is related to concepts such as transport poverty/adequacy.

Perceived accessibility is strongly influenced by how easily people can travel. This ease of travel (EoT) is affected by people’s travel motivations and travel skills, and also their available travel options and the quality thereof. Low levels of EoT may result in transport poverty and people not being able to travel to their desired out-of-home activity (social exclusion). Hence, people’s available travel options may not be adequate to easily get them to their destinations. Despite research on transport poverty and social exclusion in the past two decades, many aspects of how easily people feel that they can travel (EoT) and how adequate their available travel options are to get them to the places they want (travel adequacy) are underexplored. This includes 1) existing measures on perceived accessibility and people’s ability to travel; 2) the determinants of perceived accessibility and ease of travel; 3) the effects on travel behaviour and activity participation (strongly influencing people’s quality of life and subjective well-being); 4) how perceived accessibility and travel ease are influenced by the built environment; and 5) specific forms of perceived accessibility and the potential to travel, e.g., focusing on specific travel modes (or modal combinations), population groups, and geographical areas.

Topics of interest

For this special session we welcome abstracts on various aspects related to perceived accessibility and people’s ease of travel (EoT). Potential topics which can be addressed include, but are not limited to:

- New measurements of perceived accessibility/EoT;
- The determinants of perceived accessibility/EoT;

- The relationship between perceived accessibility/EoT and the built environment/objectively-measured accessibility;
- The effects of perceived accessibility/EoT on activity-travel behaviour;
- Perceived accessibility/EoT variations across (new) travel modes, population groups, geographical areas, etc.;
- Equity and justice aspects in relation to perceived accessibility/EoT.

Deadline for abstract submission

The deadline for abstract submission is January 31, 2024. Abstracts (max. 500 words) should be submitted electronically, using the form available on the conference website and following the instructions found there: <https://mobilise.research.vub.be/nectar-conference-2024-general-call-for-papers>

A copy of the abstract should also be sent to: Jonas De Vos (jonas.devos@ucl.ac.uk) and Dick Ettema (D.F.Ettema@uu.nl).

Criteria for acceptance

Criteria for acceptance are scope, scientific quality, NECTAR membership and the possibility to fit the presentation in a coherent conference session. The number of participants of this thematic session will be limited to 8.

Venue

The NECTAR conference will be organized by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and hosted on its campus.

Participation and NECTAR membership

Registration, meals, and accommodation for one night will be offered to NECTAR members, for only one author per paper. One night of hotel accommodation will be offered to participants who have confirmed their participation before April 30, 2024. One night of hotel accommodation might be charged in case of late cancellations. All practical details will be communicated through the conference website. In order to participate in the conference, a consecutive and current two-year NECTAR membership is necessary (2023-2024). Non-members can find details of how to join the association on the "Membership" page of NECTAR's website: www.nectar-eu.eu/membership.

Important dates

Abstract submission: Jan 31, 2024

Notification of acceptance: Feb 29, 2024

Confirmation of attendance: April 30, 2024

Session organisers

Jonas De Vos, University College London (United Kingdom)

Dick Ettema, University of Utrecht (Netherlands)

Benjamin Büttner, Technical University of Munich (Germany)

Juan Carlos Martín, Universidad de Las Palmas (Spain)

Aura Reggiani, University of Bologna (Italy)

Ahmed El-Geneidy, McGill University (Canada)

NECTAR is a European-based scientific association. The primary objective is to foster research collaboration and exchange of information between experts in the field of transport, communication and mobility from all European countries and the rest of the world. It is a multidisciplinary social science network bringing together a wide variety of perspectives on transport and communication problems and their impacts on society from an international perspective. For further information on NECTAR, use the link: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu>.