

Newsletter December 2017

Editors: Robin Kellermann, Dhan Zunino



Contents

- Editorial by Robin Kellermann
- Final Presidential letter by Mimi Sheller
- Welcome letter by the new T2M President Mathieu Flonneau and his team
- Highlights of the "Mobile Utopia" Conference (Lancaster, November 2017)
- T2M 2017 Election Results
- T2M Travel Grant Winners
- John Scholes Prize 2017 - Winner announced!
- Welcome to Montreal 2018 (next T2M annual conference)
- Award to the T2M treasurer M. Luísa Sousa
- Obituary: Clay McShane

**International Association for the History of
TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & MOBILITY**

Editorial

Dear readers,

welcome to the December 2017 issue of the T²M newsletter.

Our association is opening a new chapter. Mimi Sheller has served as the

President for the last three years and passed the baton to our new President, Mathieu Flonneau, just a few days ago.

We are greatly thankful for Mimi's efforts, especially in widening T²M's network towards the Americas and not least for stimulating a stronger integration of historical perspectives within the 'mobility turn'. Among the many fruitful initiatives under her presidency, it might have been most inspiring to see and experience her emphasis that the study of mobilities clearly involves the need to historicize mobile (and immobile) phenomena. Such a perspective, which also materialized in a row of jointly organized conferences with other associations over the last years, has led to rethinking the disciplinary boundaries between history, sociology, geography or anthropology. In this vein, for historians the mobility turn has opened new and innovative fields of analysis as well as motivated an emphasis of interdisciplinary cooperation with and across other fields.

In this spirit, let's now look all forward to another chapter under the new presidency!

This shorter newsletter issue features Mimi Sheller's last presidential letter, followed by a warm welcome of our new President Mathieu Flonneau who would like to introduce himself and his delightful new team.

In addition, we have a review of the Mobile Utopia conference in Lancaster provided by Dhan Zunino, who, by the way, I may gladly introduce to you as our new second newsletter editor! As Vice President and active EC member, he is probably well-known to our association.

Furthermore, the issue features news about the T²M election, winners for travel grants and the John Scholes Prize 2017. Adding to these celebrations, we're glad to announce that the T²M's treasurer M. Luísa Sousa has been awarded for a paper published in JTH.

Finally, we pay tribute to Clay McShance, one of the masterminds of transport history, who passed away recently. Dignifying a key person to our field, Gijs Mom, T²M's first President, provided a very personal obituary.

A final word about the newsletter itself. In the future, we are aiming to refresh this format in terms of contents, regularity and design. Therefore, we would once more like to encourage you to support this refreshment by sending us news, reports and articles for the next issue(s) to newsletter@t2m.org. The next "big" issue will arrive in March 2018. The deadline for items to be included in that issue is Monday 5 March 2018.

Have a happy read!

Robin Kellermann

Final Presidential Letter by Mimi Sheller



Dear T²M Members and friends,

It has been a great honour to serve as T²M's President for the last three years. We have accomplished so much together, and I am now pleased to hand over a stronger organization and vibrant association to our new President Mathieu Flonneau, who will be assisted in the Secretariat, now based in Paris, by Etienne Faugier and Cecile Welker.

From the beginnings of my service in 2014, the year I chaired and hosted the annual conference at Drexel University in Philadelphia, to our wonderful subsequent conferences in Caserta, Mexico City, and most recently Lancaster, I thank you for placing your confidence in me. I also thank all of our members for your energy, commitment, and enthusiasm, which have made our success possible. Our more than 90 members live in 24 different countries, and I am pleased that we continue to attract students, who are more than 25% of our membership. This year's joint conference on Mobile Utopia attracted 180 participants from 31 different countries. We are truly an international organization and a bridge for scholarship from around the world. We owe great thanks to the Centre for Mobilities Research and the Cosmobilities Network for co-organizing such a successful event that included not only scholarly panels, but also a stimulating art exhibition, mobility experiments, and a PhD school, as reported on more fully elsewhere in our Newsletter.

I especially want to thank this year's Executive Committee members who have each contributed their time and efforts to T²M in so many ways: Vice Presidents Dhan Zunino Singh and Martin Emmanuel, Treasurer M. Luisa Sousa, Secretary Julia Hildebrand, Newsletter Editors Robin Kellermann and Thiago Allis,

Webmaster Hiroki Shin, *Mobility in History* Blog Editor Mike Bess, *Journal of Transport History* Editor Massimo Moraglio, Scholes Prize Committee Chair Mike Esbester, and general members Irene Anastasiadou, Jorgen Burchardt, Anne Conchon, Peter Cox, Valentina Fava, Carlos Lopez Galviz, Anna Lipphardt, Victor Marquez, Paul Stephenson, and Paul van Heesvelde. We are happy to welcome new EC Members Pierre Barrieau and Tarini Bedi, and returning members Julia Hildebrand and Robin Kellermann.

As she will be stepping down as Secretary, I want to especially mark the incredible contributions of our Secretary Julia Hildebrand, who as you know has served so admirably as the first port of call and public face of T²M, while also doing the hard work of updating all of our back office systems. We are thrilled that she will still be playing a role on the Executive Committee, as well as helping to hand over day-to-day running of the Association to the new Secretariat.

We also must include thanks to Gijs Mom, Editor of the journal *Transfers*, who has facilitated its extension to our membership. We took the opportunity this year to celebrate his contributions to the Association and to the field with a reception sponsored by Berghahn, and to mark the occasion of his retirement and announcement of the new editor of *Transfers*, Dagmar Schäfer, who will be assisted by Georgine Clarsen and Peter Merriman.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting in Montreal 2018, where Pierre Barrieau will be chairing the Local Organizing Committee and several of our EC members will join the Programme Committee. Save the dates, October 31-November 3, and start making your plans!

best wishes,
Mimi Sheller

Welcome letter by the new T²M President Mathieu Flonneau and his team

Post-conference...and post-combustion. Ready for Take Off!

Dear T²M members, dear sympathizers of the community, and let us hope far beyond!

It seems obvious to us that first of all we should thank everyone for a successful and exemplary conference in Lancaster. The post-conference phase also marked the almost immediate take-off of a new presidential team under the harmonic sign of the *concord* or, given the fact the new team is French,

should we better say the *Concorde*? Using the symbol of this extraordinary post-combustion aircraft for representing the successful French-English cooperation, we aim to increase T²M's cruising altitude in the coming years!



Thank you for allowing us to express some words and impressions to introduce our future activities and collective works. Cécile, Etienne and myself, are very happy you trusted us.

Our statement of candidacy was a tribute to the history of the association and the various actions of its former presidents Gijs Mom, Hans-Liudger Dienel and Mimi Sheller. Adding to this institutional tribute we would like to add a personal tribute to Clay McShane, who regrettably passed away not long ago. Therefore, a solemn tribute is addressed in this newsletter.



Etienne Faugier, Official Secretary / Mathieu Flonneau, President / Cécile Welker, Event planning support

Like the previous presidential teams, we shall try hard to be attentive to the most accomplished and most innovative trends of the research and to the

fundamentals of the mobility field strengthened by journals, blogs, workshops and active websites.

It's a great pleasure to be, from now on, in the driver's seat of T²M, which of course is coupled with a big pressure! All advice given by any active member, the Executive Committee and the vice-presidencies (on whom we count strongly), will be useful in this collective responsibility.

Best wishes, enjoy the end of year 2017, and all the best for T²M next year!

Mathieu Flonneau,

Etienne Faugier,

Cécile Welker



Present to the new president at the Lancaster conference. It's all about Mobilities again!

Save the Date: T²M 2018, Montreal

After the conference is before the conference 😊! We are excited to announce that the 2018 T²M Annual Conference will be held in beautiful Montreal from **October 31st to November 3rd**. The theme of the conference will be "Boom, bust & what after? The lives of mobility hubs" and it will be hosted by the Université de Montréal, Faculté d'aménagement. Local committee chair is Pierre Barrieau, Université de Montréal and Scientific committee chair, Govind Gopakumar, Concordia University. Have an eye out for the CfP early next year.



Highlights of the "Mobile Utopia" Conference (Lancaster, November 2017)



The last annual conference co-organized by Cemore-T²M-Cosmobilities was another great opportunity to gather colleagues from different mobilities networks and disciplines, even, artists! Inspired by later John Urry's academic

and political concerns (social futures) and Ruth Levitas' *Utopia as Method*, organizers from Lancaster University proposed to think about future mobilities from our past and present, stimulating a rich debate. For T²M members, mainly interested in history, it was a nice challenge to include the importance of a time-line analysis in the discussions about futures. Rather than planning "the" future, debates were more speculative, reflective, and creative. In this sense, to invite artists to think together with mobilities scholars was a great initiative which should be considered for next T²M conferences. The conference was preceded by the Mobile Utopia Bonfire School which, like the T²M Summer school (Berlin, 2011), was a great opportunity for young scholars. Both, the conference and the school, became spaces of intellectual interchange as well as experiment signed not only by research papers but participatory activities, theoretical and political debates.

As usual, the themes of the panel sessions show a wide diversity which goes beyond a transport-based focus. Nonetheless, the automobile was an important subject as shown by the panel "Autopia" (which included two sessions). Transport was also approached in panels where museums, future mobilities, and infrastructure were the main theme. Likewise, walking occupies two sessions mixing up past, present, and future views on this mobility practice, generally unexplored in transport studies. More geographical and sociological themes such as cities, place, work, community were also approached from a mobility perspective. Big data and drones appeared as clear issues of our present and future. The importance of the past was straightforwardly stated by the JTH panel session. Utopia was also put under question in some panel sessions, discussing about time, projects, or dystopias. Frictions or the politics of mobilities were also relevant as shown by the panel "Mobile Justice."

The way in which panels were arranged (short presentations and large discussion) allowed the public to participate further. Provocations and short statements triggered interesting interchanges like in the panel proposed by Transfers or the plenary sessions. As mentioned, themes were varied. The two keynote speakers, the curator Rob Le Frenais and the STS professor Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga, were a good example of such diversity. Probably in this conference, many of the insights coming from STS were circulating in different presentations -which should not be a surprise for the T²M, as an organisation closely-related to SHOT. Nonetheless, questions about humanism or post-humanism were probably new for our conference debates.

As usual, the conference was a great opportunity for sociability. The venue helped to keep us in contact all the time and meet up old and new colleagues. There was a good atmosphere and people looked happy. Reception and banquet were moments for announcements (book launch, research centres, academic events, John Scholes Prize winner and travel grants winners). Gijs Mom was honoured by his contribution to the T²M in the year of his retirement and we had a very moving moment when Mimi Sheller gave her last words as T²M president and welcomed Mathieu Flonneau as a new president. We also strongly thanked Julia Hildebrand for her great work as the T²M secretary.



Gijs Mom was honored for his efforts in T²M.



Mathieu Flonneau takes over as president right after the elections.



Old and new actors of T²M rowing up during the banquet.

In short, it was a very well-organised event hosted by an emblematic research centre like Cemore. We experienced once again a stimulating meeting in our search for creating a space of intellectual debate where historians can dialogue with other mobilities scholars. Such a nice experience was possible thanks to cordiality of the local organisers: Monika Buscher, Carlos López Galviz, Jen Southern, and Aurora Trujillo.



More pictures and impressions about the conference can be found [here](#)

<https://storify.com/Cemore/getting-started>
<https://www.facebook.com/T2Minternational/>

Mobile Utopia Bonfire School

An inspiring Mobile Utopia Bonfire School along with exciting Mobile Utopia Experiments preceded the joint conference of Cemore, Cosmobilities, and T²M. Participants from around the world such as Brazil, Chile, USA, Denmark, and Germany among others spent over three days discussing mobile utopia as a concept and method. Presentations, paper discussions, master classes, a writing session, a walking session, and other creative formats for developing ideas and approaches amounted to an incredibly enriching and innovative pre-conference. **Congratulations to Monika Buscher and the Cemore team at Lancaster for organizing this amazing Bonfire School! We can't wait to have another one.**

– Julia M. Hildebrand



[For more impressions on the Bonfire School click here.](#)

T²M 2017 Election Results

Besides Mathieu Flonneau as new T²M President along with the Etienne Faugier and Cecile Welker as T2M Secretaries, we welcome two new and two returning members to the Executive Committee. Pierre Barrieau and Tarini Bedi join the T²M leadership this year. Robin Kellermann was re-elected and continues in his role as newsletter editor. Likewise, former T²M Secretary Julia M. Hildebrand will continue to serve on

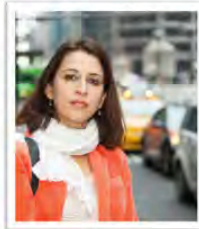
the Executive Committee as an elected member.

New Members of the Executive Committee

T²M



Pierre Barrieau
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Tarini Bedi
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Robin Kellermann
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Julia M. Hildebrand
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Announcement of T²M Travel Grant winners

This year's travel grants committee consisted of Martin Emanuel (chair), Carlos Lopez-Galviz, and Malene Freudendal-Pedersen. Among the somewhat 20 applications, we were able to distribute travel grants to 1 MSc student, 3 PhD students, and 2 early career scholars from different corners of the world: from Belgium, Greece and Russia to Australia and Brazil – unfortunately a recipient from the Philippines was in the end not able to make it to Lancaster. This year's recipients came to present papers on the following interesting topics:

- *Christina Vasilopoulou*, PhD Student, Greece, Roads of Asphalt: Another Chance for Modernity to Enjoy Utopian Impulse
- *Maria Alice de Faria Nogueira*, Early career scholar, Brazil, Host cities and the Olympic Gaze
- *Clare McCracken*, PhD Student, Australia, Dys/U/Topian: Vision and dialogue about local impacts of climate change and technology through socially engaged art
- *Claire Pelgrims*, PhD Student, Belgium, Embodiments of slow mobility utopia

since the second half of the 20th Century. The example of Brussels

- *Evgeny Karchagin*, Early career researcher, Russia, Urban, Spatial and Mobility Justice: utopia, thought experiment, STS



John Scholes Prize 2017 - winner announced!

During the conference in Lancaster, the winner of the 2017 John Scholes Prize was unveiled. The prize is awarded annually to the writer of a publishable paper based on original research into any aspect of the history of transport and mobility.²At the T

The prize is named after the first Curator of Historical Relics at the British Transport Commission, and administered by the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility.

This year it was a really tough field, with a big increase in the number of submissions over previous years – a sign of the vitality and promise of our field. We had entrants covering the early modern to the present, geographically reaching from Britain and Ireland, via Italy to Eurasia, and modes from automobile, train and foot to elephant!



Several of the submissions were close to publication standard, but the outstanding entry – and winner – was **Luca Zenobi**, a PhD candidate at the University of Oxford, for his paper **‘Borders as Sites of Mobility: Crossing the Frontier between Venice and Milan in the Renaissance’**. It was excellently crafted, a polished and engaging piece, with a fresh approach to border spaces and the fluidity of mobility, forcing us to rethink ideas about barriers to movement. Luca also made interesting use of previously overlooked sources. All in all, it was a fascinating look at an unusual topic, helping push transport and mobility history forward, and Luca is encouraged to submit his winning piece to the *Journal of Transport History* for full peer review and hopefully publication. Our warm congratulations to Luca: bravo!

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Prize Committee this year for their hard work, without which awarding the prize would not be possible.

2017 is done, which of course means **the prize competition for 2018 is now open**: all Early Career Researchers are encouraged to submit a piece.

Entry is limited to researchers who, at the time of submission, are not yet in or have just commenced a permanent / tenured academic (or equivalent) position, and who are just starting to publish research.

Essays (in English, double-spaced) should not exceed 8,000 words (including footnotes). Sources must be documented fully. Entries must be submitted electronically, to arrive no later than **Tuesday 31 July 2018**, sent with a cover letter and one-page CV to jth.editor@gmail.com. Please include in the subject line ‘John Scholes Prize entry 2018’ and in the body of the message let us know how you found out about the prize.

For any queries, please contact us!

Mike Esbester

Award for M. Luísa Sousa

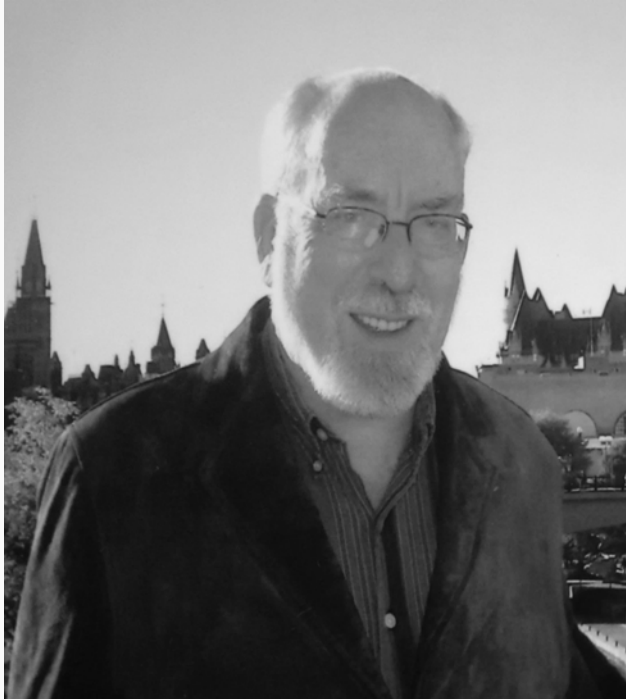


Congratulations to our T²M Treasurer M. Luísa Sousa! She was awarded the 2017 edition of the Young Researchers award, from the [Portuguese Association for Economic and Social History](#), for the article "Roads for the 1940 Portuguese Nationality Commemorations: Modernising by excess in a context of scarcity", published in the Journal of Transport History, Vol. 37:2 (2016)

You can access the article here for free for four weeks:

<http://journals.sagepub.com/d.../full/10.1177/0022526616666092>

Obituary: Clay McShane



Clay McShane has gone! We knew for some time that his health was poor, but the message nonetheless came to me as a shock, and I am quite sure that many others in our community of mobility scholars feel the same.

I remember Clay as an erudite historian and a generous teacher, a modest but humorous Irish-American raconteur, a loving father (and a secret smoker). He had already established himself as an urban historian and classic empiricist through his dissertation on Milwaukee's transport history. But his fame came with his ground-breaking *Down the Asphalt Path*, a

kaleidoscope of scholarly innovations, including automotive popular culture studied through newspaper sources, gendered transport history and a critical stance towards the automobile unusual among his peers. His history of the urban horse-as-tool, co-authored with Joel Tarr, was no less path-breaking. As a reviewer of my texts he was a very strict teacher in applying grammatically correct English (he changed hundreds of my passive sentences into active ones...), and he was always at the ready to suggest literature he discovered while surfing through obscure databases. I owe Clay much as the one who put me in contact with the editor of Johns Hopkins University, which published my first monograph on his recommendation. I know he did this for several other friends. As a friend he was fun to meet on conferences, and his emails often started with a joking remark that made me laugh out loud. We discovered we had a lot in common, both being raised as Catholic boys. And as a loving father... well, I know that Mathieu Flonneau once called him his scholarly father, but here I recall his being an amateur soccer trainer of the team his granddaughter played in. When staying at his home, we often took a walk to discuss our mutual interests and to smoke his secret cigarette, which his wife Carolyn, a trained nurse, smelled of course when we came back in. I never asked him whether he knew that she knew...

One of the giants in the field of transport history has died. We remember him with love and will miss him dearly. May he rest in peace.

Gijs Mom

Our Institutional Members:



Our newest Institutional Member is **The ArtCenter in Pasadena, California** and its intriguing **Undergraduate and Graduate Programs in Transportation Systems and Design**. [Learn more about the ArtCenter here.](#)

We also thank the **Danish Railway Museum** for their continued support as yearlong T2M institutional member. [Learn more about the Danish Railway Museum here.](#)



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