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| WCTRS RESEARCH NEWSLETTER | | | |
|  | **WORLD** **CONFERENCE ON** **TRANSPORT** **RESEARCH** **SOCIETY** | | **SECRETARIAT OFFICE OF THE WCTRS** Institute for Transport Studied  The University of Leeds  Leeds, LS2 9JT England  Email: [wctrs@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:wctrs@leeds.ac.uk)  Website: [www. wctrs-society.com](https://www.wctrs-society.com/) |
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WCTR2022 Montreal COVID-19 Impacts Questionnaire**  Kindly fill before: ***March 31, 2021***  For details, visit: [link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qO3qvR3IzkWGPlIypTW3y8zeX1rTxG1JqFgpIPIleuVURDFGSU9VWEhLUTg1RkNWSEc1V0FZR1c0NC4u)  **4. CODATU is looking for an expert in urban mobility**  Deadline: ***March 29, 2021***  For details: [link](http://www.codatu.org/actualites/terms-of-reference-for-the-provision-of-expert-support-to-design-a-big-data-and-ict-strategy-for-smart-traffic-management-in-the-city-of-larissa-greece/)  **5. Registration is now open for the 24th ATRS World Conference to be held from August 26-29, 2021**  Abstract submission deadline: ***April 11, 2021***  For registration: [link](https://www.atrsworld.org/registration)  For details on abstract submission: [link](https://mcusercontent.com/22af46ff39c8631d65b79bffe/files/d7769836-37ff-4a13-bd55-2a21706645e5/CALL_FOR_ABSTRACTS_20210321.pdf)  (Please note that abstracts originally accepted for the (cancelled) ATRS 2020 conference will be immediately accepted for ATRS 2021. However, these abstracts need to be resubmitted)  **WCTRS society journals**    [Transport Policy](https://www.journals.elsevier.com/transport-policy)  (the journal's 2020 CiteScore Tracker is already at 6.8, an improvement over 2019 CiteScore of 6.1)    [Case Studies in Transport Policy](https://www.journals.elsevier.com/case-studies-on-transport-policy)  **WCTRS book series**  For details, visit: [link](https://www.wctrs-society.com/wctrs-publications/wctrs-and-elsevier-transportation-book-series/)  **Find us on**            **Visit us on**  <https://www.wctrs-society.com/>  <https://wctr2022.ca/>  **Email to us at**    **Editorial team of WCTRS Research Newsletter**  **Editor**    **Prof. Dr. Ashish Verma***,*  *IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab), IISc Bangalore, India*  [ashishv@iisc.ac.in](mailto:ashishv@iisc.ac.in)  **Assistant editor**    **H. Gayathri,**  *Research Scholar, IST Lab, IISc Bangalore, India*  [gayathrih@iisc.ac.in](mailto:gayathrih@iisc.ac.in) | About WCTRS COVID-19 Taskforce  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | In early April 2020, the WCTRS COVID-19 Task Force was formally established. It aims to investigate the impacts of COVID-19, to clarify what our society had prepared for such a pandemic, to reveal what measures our society is currently taking to fight against this pandemic, to suggest what our society should do after this pandemic and how to generalize the findings from the above tasks to tackle the next waves of COVID-19 and future pandemics. Soon after its establishment, the Task Force immediately took actions to announce "President Messages" and Taskforce's "Appeals". |   By mid-May 2020, a worldwide expert survey was implemented and a report based on it was released by the end of May 2021. From May to August 2020, more than 40 task force members made great efforts to write and release country-specific and topic-specific reports. In September and October 2020, two calls for Virtual Special Issues in the journal Transport Policy were made and the two issues are now under edition: “Impacts of COVID-19 and Other Pandemics on the Passenger Transport Sector and Policy Measures”, guest-edited by Junyi Zhang and Yoshitsugu Hayashi; and “Impacts of COVID-19 and Other Pandemics on the Freight Transport, Logistics and Supply Chains, and Policy Responses”, guest-edited by Thierry Vanelslander and Edwin van Hassel. From October to December 2020, an Elsevier book titled “Transportation Amid Pandemics: Practices and Policies” was proposed and approved (editors, Yoshitsugu Hayashi & Junyi Zhang). The book is scheduled to be published in June 2021 as one of the Elsevier WCTRS series. Furthermore, on December 7-11, 2020, the Task Force organized the first pandemics conference in the transport sector “International e-Conference on Pandemics and Transport Policy (ICPT2020)”. There were more than 60 presentations (authored by more than 140 researchers) made during the conference from all over the world, representing the state-of-the-art and reflecting state-of-the-practice at the timing of the conference. The ICPT2020 included the following 10 sessions (two sessions per day), each of which included six presentations: (a) public and air transport, (b) risk-sensitive social distancing and design; (c) behavioral policy in passenger transport; (d) accessibility, lifestyle changes, & equity; (e) spatial relationship and behavior; (f) change in urban transport and sustainability; (g) policy interventions in transport and tourism; (h) social distancing policy; (i) new normal and long-term impacts; and (j) nationwide policy responses, in addition to the opening and closing sessions. There were more than 500 participants over the five days.  The Task Force welcomes contribution and collaboration as well as suggestions in any means. We are looking forward to your active involvement!  **Prof. Yoshitsugu Hayashi,** ***Chubu University &*** **Prof. Junyi Zhang,** ***Hiroshima University*** About Social Media Outreach of WCTRS  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | In its outreach, the Society has an active social media presence. The Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/wctrs.org](https://www.facebook.com/wctrs.org )has a good number of followers with over 430 in the first few months of 2021. It is also a good record of the Society events and initiatives and contains photos of past events and conferences. It also serves as a communication tool with several new members asking about Society news and procedures. |   The Society also interacts on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/WCTRSoc>) with the handle @WCTRSoc. There are over 500 followers on this social media platform and the Society reaches over 600 individuals and organisations through its posts and tweets. Twitter is a fast moving and effective dissemination tool and has proven to be useful to many WCTR members and member organisations. We are now working on establishing a presence on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/wctrs-society-17096a207>) and connect with other efforts developed by our Special Interest Groups within the Society. Some of these also have their own twitter and LinkedIn accounts to disseminate their information.  As social media coordinator, I do invite members to visit our social media platforms and share our events. We are also open to new ideas so please let us know how we can be more effective and ensure information is timely and relevant.  **Prof. Maria Attard, *Publicity Coordinator, WCTRS***  ***University of Malta*** Introduction to Topic Area A – Transport Modes: General  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | Topic Area A (Transport Modes: General), hosts 4 SIGs: A1 on air transport, A2 on maritime transport and ports, A3 on rail transport, and A4 on high speed rail.  SIG A1 was planning to hold its annual conference of the Air Transport Research Society in Sydney 2-5 July 2020. However, it has been cancelled and postponed to August 2021. Furthermore, 28 papers were presented at WCTRS in Mumbai 2019, and selected six papers have been under the review for a special issue of Transport Policy. |   SIG A2 has just finalized four special issues from 2018 SIG A2 Conference in Antwerp (Case Studies on Transport Policy, WCTRS Book Series ‘Maritime Supply Chains’, Maritime Business Review and Urban Planning). Equally, it has finalized two special issues from WCTR 2019 SIG A2 sessions (Maritime Policy and Management and Journal of Shipping and Trade). Currently, SIG A2 is preparing for its three-yearly workshop to be held in 2021 in Antwerp early May 2021, with 153 abstract submissions. SIG A2 is also setting up closer relationships with shipper, shipowner, terminal, forwarder and seaport organizations from North America, Europe, and Asia. A first concrete supporting initiative started for the International Association of Ports and Harbors being launched. Equally, the SIG has two book chapters under preparation on COVID impact based on SIG A2 survey, in a book coordinated by Junyi Zhang.  SIG A3 has developed links with the UIC-Universities High Speed Rail Alliance. A webinar planned for the autumn of 2020 was not able to take place due to other commitments because of Covid-19. SIG A3 also contributes to two conferences:   * The 5th International Conference on Railway Technology: Research, Development and Maintenance, 7 - 10 September 2020, Palma, Mallorca, Spain. This has been postponed to 2021. * The 9th International Conference on Railway Operations Modelling and Analysis will be held in Beijing, 2021 (provisionally 3-7 November, previously April)   From the 2019 WCTR, three papers were recommended for Selected Proceedings and three for submission to Journal of Rail Transport Planning and Management.  SIG A4 contributed to two conferences:   * ADBI-WCTRS Webinar, 2 and 3 June 2020 * ADBI-Chubu University Virtual Conference on Transport Infrastructure Development, Spillover Effects, and Quality of Life (12-16 October 2020)   The SIG established close relationships with Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI). The SIG is planning an ADBI publication Titled (Tentatively) “Frontiers in High-Speed Rail Development” based on the call for papers in ADBI-Chubu University Virtual Conference on Transport Infrastructure Development, Spillover Effects, and Quality of Life, 12-16 October 2020.  Equally, the SIG published a book: Yoshitsugu Hayashi, KE Seetha Ram, and Shreyas Bharule (2020) Handbook on High-Speed Rail and Quality of Life, ADBIPress, ISBN：978-4-89974-201-2 (Print)978-4-89974-202-9 (PDF). SIG A4 also had a special chapter on Effects of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Transportation and Logistics by Junyi Zhang, Yoshitsugu Hayashi, K E Seetha Ram (Under-Preparation). A publication under preparation is on ‘A Transport Policy Model for COVID-19 response – A Mosquito/Malarial Analogy’ by Yoshitsugu Hayashi, Hiroyuki Takeshita.  The SIG’s October conference hosted a Graduate Student Colloquium inviting 7 student presentations from across the globe. The upcoming Learning series also focuses on students with a long-term aim to develop teaching and learning materials for students.  **Prof. Thierry Vanelslander, *Topic Area Manager A, University of Antwerp*** WCTRS- Latin America CAR council  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | The WCTR Latin American countries and regional representatives (CAR) met on February 17 to build their first mobilization plan for the WCTR Montreal ‘22. In a virtual session with participants from several countries, Professor Tae Oum, president of the WCTR Society, praised the mobilization initiative and stressed the importance of extending this process to other regions. |   Chaired by Professor Romulo Orrico (Brazil), the discussion focused on the preliminary assessments of opportunities in each of the member countries. "The central idea is to disseminate all calls and newsletters about the Montreal Conference through both scientific and professional’s regional transport Associations and engineering, economics and administration Universities Schools" highlighted the professor.  From the virtual section, the need for different approaches was verified. The formation of cooperation agreements with national associations of transportation researchers was highlighted as an important aspect in countries with this structure already well-formed and robust. In this scenario, local representatives of the WCTRS would organize panels, roundtables, and special sessions in these association conferences. In countries where such a structure does not yet exist, the focus is on transportation departments, specific researchers, and regulatory agencies to ensure the necessary dissemination and institutional support as well as participation in the construction of the mobilization plan based on their existing networks. It was also highlighted the need to approach supranational associations, and their respective conferences.  Initially formed by 18 researchers from several Latin American countries, the group intends to meet quarterly for the plan elaboration and implementation.  **Prof. Romulo Orrico, *Alberto Luiz Coimbra Institute for Graduate Studies and Research of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (COPPE-UFRJ)*** Impact of the pandemic might be lasting: Two-part webinar reveals impacts of COVID-19 on transport and spatial development  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | The Special Interest Group on Transport and Spatial Development (SIG F1) hosted in collaboration with the organizers of the symposia series Applied Urban Modelling a two-part webinar titled **“Impact of COVID-19 on transport and spatial development: an international perspective”**. After a call for short presentations resulted in an overwhelming number of proposals to present research on the impacts of the pandemic, the organizers decided to expand the event to a two-part webinar on February 25th and March 11th. The final program and a selection of presentations can be found at <https://www.bgu.tum.de/en/msm/webinar/>. |   A keynote address by Michael Batty (Univ. College London) presented a new simulation model that allows to quickly analyse the impacts of avoiding crowds and public transit at the beginning of the first webinar. The second webinar was opened with a keynote address by Robert Noland (Rutgers Univ.) on the impact of the pandemic on active transportation and the use of public space.  Presentations at this webinar covered several surveys to explore the immediate impacts of COVID-19. Those surveys largely agreed that travel activities have dropped during the various lockdowns around the world, and that in most places travel has recovered only partly to pre-pandemic levels. The share of auto, walk and bike travel commonly increased at the expense of the transit share. Ana Luisa Silva (Univ. of Lisbon) emphasized how the pandemic has affected travel of women more than of men. Giovanni Circella (Univ. of California at Davis) pointed out that low-income households were more severely affected as they are, on the one hand, more likely to be furloughed, and on the other hand, more likely to be essential workers with no option to telework.  While many presenters argued that it is likely that pre-pandemic conditions will be reached after the pandemic, a few presentations hinted at long-term impacts. Rounaq Basu (Massachussetts Institute of Technology) presented evidence of increased car ownership, which is often considered as a long-term decision that affects travel behavior for years. Graham Currie (Monash Univ.) presented evidence of lasting impacts in terms of increased shares of telework and reduced transit shares on commute trips. Doug Hunt (Univ. of Calgary) presented a model showing increased levels of urban sprawl due to the pandemic. SIG F1 will keep a close eye on how land use development, travel behavior and their interaction might change in the long run.  **Prof. Masanobu Kii, *Kagawa University &* Prof. Rolf Moeckel, *Technical University of Munich*** |

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