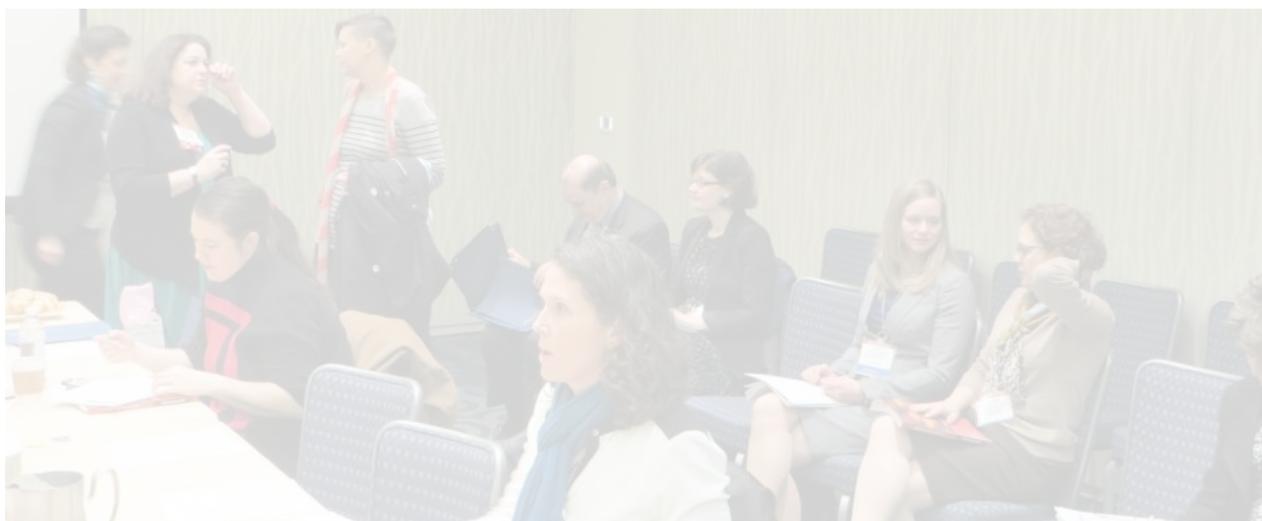


# WOMEN & GENDER IN TRANSPORTATION

*TRB Standing Committee AME20*



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## COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

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## ANNUAL MEETING

The TRB Annual Meeting will take place January 9<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Register here: <https://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/Registration.aspx>

Our committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM ET in the Marriott Marquis, Howard University (M1) Room.

Our committee's sessions are shown on the following page.

## AME20 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM ET, Poster Session

Convention Center, Hall A

“Through the Looking Glass of Gender Issues: Mobility Challenges Across the World”

Monday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM ET, AME20(1) Subcommittee Meeting

Marriott Marquis, Judiciary Square (M3) Room

“Mainstreaming Global Research and Multifaceted Data Collection on Gender Issues in Transportation Subcommittee, AME20(1)”

Wednesday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM – 12:00PM ET, AME20 Committee Meeting

Marriott Marquis, Howard University (M1) Room

“Women and Gender in Transportation Committee Meeting”

Wednesday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM ET, Lectern Session

Convention Center, Room 143

“Gendered Travel and Life Experiences in Diverse Settings”

## TRB CAREERS IN MOTION NETWORKING FAIR

The TRB Careers in Motion Networking Fair will be an interactive event Wednesday, December 8 from noon to 3 pm Eastern. Attendees will have the opportunity to live chat directly with hiring managers, get instant feedback on their qualifications, and learn about job opportunities firsthand. Job candidates will meet and network with dozens of prospective employers from a wide range of multimodal transportation-related disciplines, including engineering, consulting, operations, planning and more!



Anyone who [creates an account and signs up](#) is welcome to attend the fair, whether you are a recent graduate, seasoned executive, or at any other level in your career. To view other current transportation job openings, visit the [TRB Career Center](#).

## CALL FOR AME20 PHOTOS

Do you have any photos that represent our committee members and/or are from past committee events? Please send them to [alyssaryan@arizona.edu](mailto:alyssaryan@arizona.edu)! We are looking to showcase these photos on our website and future newsletters.

## EMERING RESEARCHER'S SHOWCASE FEATURING TARU

By Amy Fong

In your community, where do you look for resources and connection? Where would you go if you wanted to give back to or provide for others in your own community? Who do you trust for knowledge about past and present events and for advice about navigating the world around you? You likely just imagined a community network, made up of many nodes of people, places, and organizations. Where do these nodes fall along the spectrum between formal institutions, like a government or a national media company, to informal institutions, like your neighborhood's Buy Nothing Facebook group or the market down the street where you always bump into someone you know? For each of us, there is a unique mixture of formal and informal institutions that share power and together shape the communities we belong to, from the hyperlocal to the global scale.

Taru is a PhD candidate in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Michigan. She studies the interplay between procedural planning, pluralism and structural conflict, with a focus on postcolonial cities. Her background spans disciplines (architecture, planning, geography, African Studies, and media), context (Ghana, India, Southeast Asia, the US), and socioeconomic systems (migrant workers, urban outdoor trading centers or markets, slum rehabilitation, child rights and human trafficking, and governance systems).

One central theme to her diverse interests is inclusion and justice: in postcolonial cities, formal institutions used systemic violence to hold power over people under the cover of governance and policy. As a result of this trauma, to some of those communities today, empowerment comes in the form of eschewing the formal governance systems installed by outsiders and by developing parallel systems of self-help. These parallel systems become influential and trusted, and as a result are brokers of sociopolitical power. As a result, the formal state must cooperate with them. One example of this in Taru's recent research is her current dissertation situated in Jharkhand State Control Room (JSCR), which is a hybrid state and civil society based organization that was formed during the pandemic. The JSCR leveraged a network of formal and informal, state-based and traditional institutions to assist more a million migrant workers who were left in extreme precarity due to the lockdown. Taru's research examines whether hybrid institutions that embrace complexity are better placed to address complex and time-sensitive challenges - and therefore make for greater socio-economic resilience.




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*"Even coming from a good place we might unintentionally propagate violence because we don't understand the places and the people we are trying to serve." - Taru*

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This work has implications for all of us who are interested in transportation systems, which are made up of formal and informal actors. Ask yourself, what are the concepts, theories, principles, ideas and opinions that I use in my practice as a planner, engineer, advocate or policymaker? In history, whose ideas about how to plan and operate transportation within a community were elevated and taught to me in school? When I approach a new community, do I look for solutions to prescribe, based on what has been normalized to me in the past (*if all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail*), or do I

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*"Challenge the impulse that 'if I don't understand it, it shouldn't exist.' There is an impulse to organize ideas and make them legible and label them, which erases multiple points of views and ways of living." -Taru*

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open myself to the possibility that some communities may want to realize different outcomes than I can understand? How can I incorporate in my work the practice of accepting plural/multiple ways of being in the world and working with people rather than for them?

We each have a unique perspective on living and being in the world. As a community, our multiple ways of living can coexist, and we can each excel in our own way.

You can learn more about Taru at her [personal website](#) or by connecting on [LinkedIn](#).

Showcase author:

**Amy Fong** is a mathematical statistician at the U.S. Department of Labor in the Office of Disability Employment Policy. Amy does research on the employment outcomes and labor force participation of people with disabilities. She is interested in how access to services, utilities and through the built environment (such as public transportation and broadband internet) relate to the well-being and socioeconomic status of people with disabilities.



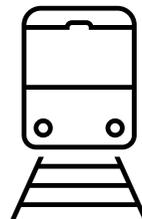
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## PROVIDE YOUR INSIGHT

### *Seeking Best Practices and Insight: Improving Public Transit for Women and the LGBTQIA+ Community*

By Dani McLean

As reports like LA Metro's "[Understanding How Women Travel](#)" highlight, public transit systems are failing to meet the needs of women, from a lack of amenities for caregiving to widespread sexual harassment. Further, much work needs to be done to understand the particular needs and experiences of LGBTQIA+ transit riders. The Colorado Department of Transportation is undergoing research to understand how public transit in the Centennial State can better serve women as well as LGBTQIA+ individuals in terms of functionality, safety, and comfort. **If you have conducted research in this domain, or especially if you have implemented measures to improve safety and services specifically for women and LGBTQIA+ folks, please contact [Dani McLean](#) at [dani.mclean@state.co.us](mailto:dani.mclean@state.co.us); they'd love to hear more about your work and learn from you as we determine how the State of Colorado can help improve gender equity in our transit.**



# LATEST RESEARCH FEATURE

## *Gender relevant research on work-life balance, social mobility and travel time use*

By Bhuvanachithra Chidambaram

A key component of the transformation of an organisation's culture for advancing gender equality is work-life balance. Work-life balance is relevant for all people, including both women and men, to advance their career alongside personal and caring responsibilities. Vienna University introduced the new policy on attractive workplaces and working hours for the personnel. In November 2020, the project on [mobile working](#) - by Institut für Gender und Diversität in Organisationen in Vienna University of Economics and Business - was started. The main aim is to explore the changing work structures with regard to organizational learning. In order to gain insight on work-life balance, the evaluations of family and gainful employment and the intrahousehold work sharing is explored from the gender perspective. As such existing knowledge and resources, as well as expectations, are analyzed, opportunities and risks of different models are elaborated and concrete recommendations for action for a sustainable, diversity-friendly implementation are presented.

Changing the work design measures via mobile working increase the attractiveness of the employer and at the same time enable a positioning in the national and international university landscape with regard to modern working conditions. The flexibilization of work in terms of time and place requires different demands on managers, employees, teams, and the organization. Flexible working time arrangements include how departmental processes, procedures, and practices impact on staff with caring responsibilities or part-time workers, and remote working. This change in work affects processes and structures and results in a cultural change for the organization and family, enables spatial and temporal flexibility: the creation of personal or joint free space for oneself, for the couple, for the family or for social relationships.

In recent decades, emerging research in social mobility has focused on the intergenerational transmission of gender attitudes and norms as determinants of women's labour force participation. This reflects largely in the mobility patterns, where men and women have largely converged in the recent decades. Men experience downward mobility (i.e., low social class) more often than before and women experience upward mobility (i.e., high social class) more frequently. To address the gender dimensions in social mobility especially in migrant families, the Institute for Social Research, Frankfurt, Germany started a new project in December 2020, the [Social Advancement through Education: On Intergenerational Negotiations of Upward Social Mobility Experiences in Migrant Families](#), funded by the German Research Foundation. This research project explores from a qualitative, biographical perspective how such social upward mobility dynamics are individually processed and intergenerationally negotiated in migrant families. It examines how social mobility affects and possibly transforms intergenerational and gender relations, and experiences of belonging and family support.

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*“Men experience downward mobility (i.e., low social class) more often than before and women experience upward mobility (i.e., high social class) more frequently.”*

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The project aims to develop a theoretical model to explain the dynamics of the intergenerational and gendered negotiations of upward social mobility in migrant families. The research reflects on current debates about the meaning of family networks and intergenerational social support in the context of social constraints like employment insecurity in an aging society. The study contributes to the theoretical discussions about the influence of migration and social mobility on the transformation of family, intergenerational, and gender relations. Moreover, it adds to the further development of social mobility research from a subjective, biographical perspective that considers the underpinning social structural conditions.

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*“Gender studies in time-use research suggest that women still perform the lion’s share of unpaid care work in many two-gender households and remain economically dependent on men.”*

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limits due to their commitments with multiple duties like employment, housework, childcare, and family care, while men spend most of their housework time in discretionary activities that can be scheduled to their flexible, convenient time. The overall workload of women exceeding that of men can lead to work-family balance issues and tension within a union aiming for an equitable household division of labour, but it also generates gender differences in well-being. As such, women perceive travel as a buffer between the different roles of being an employee and taking care of household members.

In Germany, women travel mostly with their family members - predominantly with their children. Their time during travel is mostly invaded either by family members or others for socializing activities, while men’s time during travel is predominated by technology for solitary engagement in activities like reading or listening to music. Recognizing the research need on gendered perspectives of travel time use, the Transport Research Group in Technical University Dortmund started a German Research Foundation funded project, [Qualitative and quantitative gendered based multitasking](#), on April 2021. The project aims to unravel men's and women's travel-based multitasking to gain a deeper understanding of time use during travel. The relevant theories on gender dimensions in travel-related multitasking (work-related travel, care-related travel, and leisure travel) are examined to develop key hypotheses. The association between time use during travel and various factors (job, travel attributes, gender roles, interpersonal interactions) is analysed to understand the gendered time use in travel-based multitasking. The subjective feeling of time use with respect to job-related travel will be additionally explored.

Feature author:

**Dr. Bhuvanachithra Chidambaram** is currently working as a research associate in Transport Research Group, Technical University Dortmund, Germany. Her research interest includes: travel time use in everyday mobility, active ageing, travel satisfaction and wellbeing, gender-specific mobility and multitasking.



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## AME20’s Midyear Meeting Summary

By Hilary Nixon

AME20’s midyear meeting, held on August 11, focused on engaging with USDOT leadership on the topic of gender justice. The meeting kicked off with a keynote presentation by [Irene Marion](#), Director of the Office of Civil Rights for USDOT. Marion discussed the [Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council](#) which President Biden signed in March 2021. The purpose of the Council is to coordinate efforts of the federal government in the U.S. to advance gender equity and equality. Marion discussed how the USDOT was responding to the Executive Order and introduced members of the Gender Justice Leadership Team at USDOT. After Marion’s keynote, members of the Gender Justice Leadership Team led breakout sessions with meeting participants to engage in a discussion designed to inform the gender justice efforts at USDOT. The first half of the meeting ended with a large group discussion on the key issues brought up during the breakout sessions before transitioning to the AME20 business meeting.

During the business meeting, a number of topics were presented including highlights from the AME20 member and friend survey, an update on the upcoming committee membership rotation in 2022, and a summary of AME20 member and friend demographics. TRB is changing the way in which they gather and report demographic data. As part of that process, TRB is asking that everyone update their [MyTRB](#) record with this information. Several new partnerships with other TRB committees were announced and updates from AME20 team leads were presented.

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## **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Are you working on a research project you would like featured? Have you participated in a recent event and want others to hear about it related to the committee?

Email Alyssa Ryan at [alyssaryan@arizona.edu](mailto:alyssaryan@arizona.edu)

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## **CONNECT WITH US!**

[AME20 WEBSITE](#)