



15th International NECTAR Conference Helsinki, Finland, 5 - 7 June 2019

Call for papers for a special IGU/NECTAR thematic session on

“Mega events, transport and mobility: Investigating crossed relationships”

Mega events (including the Olympics, world fairs and football cups) can be defined as short-term events of international importance, with long-term impacts on the host area (Ritchie and Smith, 1991; Hiller, 2000; Roche, 2017). They are the result of key political decisions, and involve specific planning processes. Mega events relate to transport and mobility in several ways. First, mega events are often associated with new transport facilities, as was the case in the Beijing and London Olympics. But the related public expenditures compete with needs elsewhere and raise the issue of real use after these events. Furthermore, transport operators are expected to adapt their supply during a mega event in both quantitative (extended capacity) and networks (temporary routes) terms. This may happen on a local scale (within a city), a regional scale (within an urban area) and on a more global scale (long-distance travel). At constant production means, this increase would involve a temporary decrease in production means elsewhere. Finally, while mega events are expected to attract many visitors in and around the area in which they take place, they can also deter residents and other tourists who might have come had the mega event not taken place; for instance, because of increased costs of accommodation and large crowds (Matheson, 2006). Mobility, especially mobility related to tourism, is changing. All this means that mega events raise major issues and are the subject of intense debate among transport planners and policymakers regarding the different host sites in the host city.

This special session is organized by the Transport & Geography Commission of the International Geographical Union (IGU).

Topics of interest

The topics of interest for the special sessions include, but are not limited to:

- How to build transport facilities for temporary use and for ordinary people.
- What is the legacy of transportation networks?
- How do transport operators adapt their supply and does it involve counter-effects elsewhere (at all scales)?
- Does the increased supply of transport remain after the event?
- How can we anticipate the types and structure of travel associated with mega events?

Deadline for abstract submission: **January 31, 2019**. Abstracts should be submitted electronically, using the form available on the Conference website:

<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/towards-human-scale-cities-open-and-happy>

Please also send your abstract to both Marie Delaplace (marie.delaplace@u-pem.fr) and Frédéric Dobruszkes (frederic.dobruszkes@ulb.ac.be).

Criteria for acceptance: scope, scientific quality and NECTAR membership.

Authors of selected abstracts will then be invited to submit an extended abstract (1000 words) before April 30. The extended abstracts will be published on the conference page of the NECTAR website, accessible to NECTAR members only. The number of participants of this thematic session will be limited to 4.

Venue:

The NECTAR conference will be organized by the University of Helsinki and Aalto University. The Venue is the main building of the University of Helsinki. Built in 1832 this historical building is located in the heart of Helsinki, easily reachable by public transport.

Participation and NECTAR membership

Registration, meals and accommodation for two nights will be offered to NECTAR members, for only one author per paper. Two nights of hotel accommodation will be offered to participants who have confirmed their participation by sending copies of travel tickets before April 30, 2019. 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 (2019-2020). 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: January 31, 2019.

Notification of acceptance: February 25, 2019.

Submission of extended abstracts: April 30, 2019

Confirmation of attendance: April 30, 2019

Looking forward to meeting you Helsinki!

Session organisers

Marie Delaplace, Université Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée, Observatory for Research on Mega-Events (ORME) France

Frédéric Dobruszkes, Brussels Free University (ULB), Belgium

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 in an international perspective. For further information on NECTAR, use the link: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu>.