

Museums & Mobility: Forging New Public Histories of Transportation

Call for Panel

2017 T2M/Cemore/Cosmobilities conference – “Mobile Utopias”
Lancaster University, UK
2-5 November 2017

The concept of ‘transport’ has been deeply investigated, defined and criticized as insufficient to understand the movement of people, things and ideas. The rise of the term ‘mobility’ has redefined the horizons, often taking over from ‘transport’, giving room for a ‘mobility turn’. In this landscape, it has been recently argued that transport history is in ‘crisis’, and it could be said that *transport-cum-mobility* history is severely under-theorized, as much as the concepts of ‘movement’ and ‘transit’ are. On top of that, we face weaker exchanges between academia and museums, which make difficult to take advantage of the potentialities of collaboration.

The [Lancaster conference](#) offers a great opportunity to foster interdisciplinary dialog about transportation history within museum settings. What is the state of the field for transportation history within museums? How can collections, exhibitions, and social media interpretation embrace and benefit from new paradigms? Can museums lead the way to new approaches to transportation history by using objects and/or creating community-based histories? What can we learn from various publics about the social and cultural meanings of transportation? The conference includes not only historians but also sociologists and anthropologists. Our intention is to draw more museum-based scholars into the conversation.

We invite papers that address the current and future transport/mobility history in exhibitions and museums, and encourage theoretical and experimental approaches to transport, mobility and the technologies of movement by museums.

Please send your abstracts (max 300 words) to Dr. Kathleen Franz (franzkg@si.edu) and Dr. Massimo Moraglio (massimo.moraglio@tu-berlin.de) by **March 20, 2017**. (Please, let us know if you have travel funding to attend the conference.)

We look forward to hearing from you!
Kathleen Franz | National Museum of American History
Massimo Moraglio | Technische Universitaet Berlin