

Dystopic immobilities: past & future, north & south and everything in between

Panel session

Immobilities and immotilities are deeply threatening to our collective existence and have therefore been associated with various forms of dystopic representations. One common mode of forcibly restricting an avenue of mobility is a favoured disciplinary tool. Ranging from grounding truant children, incarcerating people, imposing a curfew, restricting greenhouse gas emissions, to trade and commodity embargoes on errant nations, individuals and collectives have attempted to impose their will on others' mobility through a wide array of disciplinary technologies and techniques. Another dimension of immobilities that are similarly ominous to our collective imagination are instances of lock-in and gridlock that are usually products of over-subscribed mobilities. Ranging from traffic congestion, disrupted transitions to carbon lock-in, these indicate various forms of metaphorical, ideological, and technopolitical traps that constrain transitions and mobilities in our world. It is therefore not surprising that this range of immobilities – from the enforced to the oversubscribed – often are intimately entangled with dystopian imaginations, locations, and states. Indeed, we could argue, that dystopic propensities of immobilities are often more compelling than the utopian possibilities of a mobile existence. What is the connection between enforced immobilities, inertial movements, dystopian sentiments, and ominous scenarios? Could dystopian immobilities, ironically, be a force of change and movement on a variety of fronts?

Submission:

Please send your 300-word abstract and 100-word biographical note to Govind Gopakumar (govind.gopakumar@concordia.ca) by April 14th.

Further information about the Mobile Utopia: Past, Present and Future conference can be found at: <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/t2mc2c/>

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