

## Inclusive cities through equitable access to urban mobility for India and Bangladesh

### Key focus on people with disabilities and older adults

Department: Human Geography and Spatial Planning  
Research group: International Development Studies  
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### Project description

Cities in the global South are rapidly growing in size, but many marginalised and vulnerable residents (such as lower-income households, older adults, women and people with disabilities) do not have affordable, safe and accessible public transport, which reduces their ability to have decent work, healthcare and social life. Transport planning largely ignores access inequalities but prioritises efficiency and economic benefits. This project will go beyond traditional engineering approaches by taking a novel, user-centred intersectional approach that recognises how multiple forms of social stratification (e.g. class, gender, age and disability) intersect to produce urban mobility inequalities for marginalised groups. The central objective is to develop evidence-based insights for affordable, safe and accessible urban mobility. More specifically, we aim to:

- 1) explore how physical and social barriers to urban transport are widened by the existing systems and the social and economic implications of such barriers (SDG-11&9)
- 2) develop and contextualise measures to improve access to work (SDG-8), healthcare (SDG-3) and social life (SDG-10) through improvements in the public transport system, and
- 3) co-design an inclusive urban mobility evaluative framework that can provide guidelines for inclusive cities.

We will apply an innovative multi-sited mixed-methods approach combining visual surveys, GPS-led-geo-narratives and multi-stakeholder hackathons. Inequalities of urban mobility will be studied in Delhi, Bengaluru and Dhaka, as these cities are experiencing major infrastructural changes and have populations with multiple access disparities. Inclusive cities with affordable, safe and accessible low-carbon public transport lead to a reduction of emissions and improvements in public health and wellbeing.

The project is part of the NWO-WOTRO Joint SDG research programme, 2018 2nd round-Tackling Global Challenges through Use-Inspired Research.

### *Assistant's activities within the project:*

- Reviewing literature on accessibility to public transport for developing countries
- Working (virtually) with the project team in Bangalore, Delhi and Dhaka on instruments for data collection
- Making infographics and short blurbs for website
- Co-designing guidelines with the team for improving access to transport systems
- Co-analyzing qualitative data from the project

## Project proposal Bright Minds Assistantships – February 2020

### Job requirements

- Good writing and presentations skills in English
- Ability to critically synthesize information from diverse sources
- Good time managements skills
- Flair for writing blogs, short notes and updating the website