

Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (21111) - COVID-19: BUMP IN THE ROAD OR REAL TURNING POINT ON THE WAY TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY?

Stefanie Ruf^{1,2}; Daniel Zwangslleitner¹

1 - Associate Professorship of Urban Design, School of Engineering and Design, TU Munich; 2 - Chair of Diagnostics and Assessment, Faculty of Psychology, TU Dresden

Background and objectives

Living in an urban area is attractive due to a variety of social, educational or economic opportunities – at the same time, it has become apparent in recent years that cities, and within cities the mobility sector in particular, account for a large share of global CO₂ emissions and the acceleration of the climate crisis. Additionally, urban mobility is highly unjust, with a disproportionate amount of space being dedicated to motorized traffic. Times of crises show a potential to disrupt deadlocked patterns of mobility behavior, raising the question as to whether the Covid-19-pandemic has the potential for a shift towards more sustainable mobility, or whether the preliminary results that so far have shown some changes towards more sustainable modes of transport will not hold in the longer term.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

The present study is part of the project “Transformative Mobility Experiments (TrEx)” within the Munich Cluster for the Future of Mobility in Metropolitan Regions and is funded by the BMBF. A total of 3 rounds of focus group interviews with 12 expert stakeholders each will be carried out in the urban area of Munich, Germany. It will be investigated what opportunities and challenges disruptive interventions like pop-up bike lanes or travel restrictions that were implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic presented and what impact they had on people's mobility.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

The results will provide information about existing expert knowledge on the (perceived) democratic legitimacy and justness and of such interventions, attitudes towards the temporality or permanence of the interventions, and adaptability beyond the pandemic.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

The study will help understand ways in which crises like a global pandemic can (and cannot) be agents for systemic change in the mobility sector. (Note: At the time of abstract submission, the work is still ongoing. However, it will be completed before the conference.)

Palavras-chave : urban, mobility, focus group, crisis