

Diverse practices and experiences of public transport as a digital and physical public space

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Public transport as a public space



PUTSPACE Public Transport as Public Space in European Cities: Narrating, Experiencing, Contesting

PUTSPACE Website



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Research Questions



What makes public transport a public space?

What tensions do the element of fares reveal about the governance and use of public transport as a public space?

What factors shape the daily experiences of users of public transport as public space?

What practices do users adopt to access and appropriate public spaces on the example of public transport?

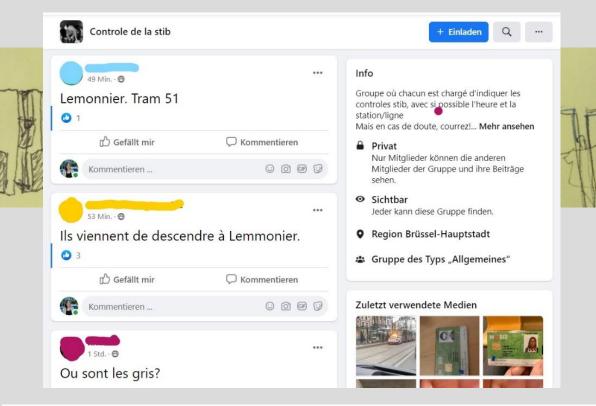
Case Study I: Fare Evasion in Brussels



Methodology

Qualitative research in Brussels

- Observational study in 17 metro stations;
- Interviews with fare evaders (27);
- Digital ethnography.





Lessons from fare evasion



Diversity of practices and motives;

Intertwined physical and virtual spaces;

Fare evasion affects the publicness of transport by enabling encounters and interaction; sharing and creating knowledge; creating a sense of solidarity and community; transgressing material and political boundaries.

Case Study 2: Care mobilities in Tallinn





a.
I did not travel on public transport today.

Please briefly explain how you moved instead and why you did not use public transportation:

Qualitative research in Tallinn

- Semi-structured interviews;
- Travel diaries with photovoice;
- Focus group interviews.

f day	Mode of Transport	Destination	Purpose	Accompaniment
otogi	RAPH			
	a picture today. n what is depicted on the	photograph and why you	took this photograph:	

Insights from Tallinn

Photovoice for valuable insights and discussions;

Individual considerations (time, network, accessibility) for care mobilities;

No fares as relevant for accessing urban spaces.



Ice at the Hiiu Tran station. It's more slippery than it looks. No gravel on it, but plenty on the concrete. I stepped away from the yellow line as the train moved and slipped, which seems dangerous to me. 5:09 pm



Again, because of the free travel, I was able to join extra sessions for my baby. Without this it would become quite expensive and I would probably not go. (Diary entry on 19.11.2021)

Conclusions

Diverse perceptions of mobility constraints and transport dependency;

Varying travel behaviour and care responsibilities;

Novel research approaches incorporating virtual and physical spaces of transport.