

“Public transport and the digital condition: research, experiences and uses”

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Within this presentation, I explore how the digital condition is influencing and changing public transport, in relation to contemporary research on it, as well as the everyday, urban experiences and practices of public transport. First, I look at the existing research on public transport, which is strongly dominated by the trends of automation, electrification and sharing, and identify a research gap in the influence of online environments and services for transport. I then highlight the importance of the under-researched everyday urban experience of public transport, and use examples from my ongoing field study to show how virtual environments and practices influence these experiences, particularly in relation to the spaces of control and practices of fare evasion. I argue that the virtual interactions of passengers and novel information channels fundamentally change both the everyday practices and the public character of public transport.

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