

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

A tale of two cities? Moving around edge estates in Oxford

- **Format:**

Presentation in person.

- **Author(s) Name:**

Dr. Tim Jones and Dr. Ben Spencer

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

School of the Built Environment, Oxford Brookes University

- **Abstract (300 words):**

Oxford, UK, conjures up images of dreaming spires, and streets bustling with tourists, dons and locals moving around the city centre on foot and by bike, and of course, bus. The city is compact and distances between edge estates and the city are never more than 3 miles. Since the 1970s the city has operated a policy of restricting access by car to the city centre. It was the first city in the UK to operate Park and Ride. More recently it has announced the phased implementation of a zero emission zone which will ultimately ban all petrol and diesel powered vehicles in the city centre by 2035. Despite the seemingly 'ideal' conditions for walking and cycling the situation is very different on the more car oriented edge estates around Oxford.

This paper will discuss how inhabitants of edge estates navigate their neighbourhood, and access the city, and their experiences of doing so. It will draw upon examples from research conducted with local participants who took part in the ESRC Healthy Urban Mobility project (www.hum-mus.org.uk). This involved interviewing residents while they made a regular journey from their neighbourhood. The benefits of this approach to co-producing knowledge, eliciting situational experiences of place, and indeed, reflections on broader themes, for example, belonging, will be demonstrated and represented through a series of geo-narratives. Short video clips from participatory video, where residents were trained in using

video production techniques to shoot films about mobility experiences in these areas, will also be used to illustrate key issues.

In summary, the paper will argue that conditions for walking and (particularly) cycling are very different on edge estates in Oxford and that more could, and should, be done to integrate residents with the city and provide better opportunities for healthy urban mobility.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Dr Tim Jones is Reader in Urban Mobility at Oxford Brookes University and Principal Investigator on the Healthy Urban Mobility (HUM) project funded by the ESRC - see www.hum-mus.org This is a mixed-methods study to understand the impact of personal (im)mobility on both individual and community health and wellbeing of contrasting neighbourhoods in the UK and Brazil. Previously Tim was Principal Investigator on the RTPI Academic Research Award (2017) winning EPSRC cycle BOOM project (www.cycleboom.org) and Co-Investigator on the influential EPSRC Understanding Walking and Cycling project.

Dr Ben Spencer is Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes University also working on the Healthy Urban Mobility (HUM) project. He is experienced in conducting mobility life-histories, mobile interviews and community engagement including co-created film-making.

Previously Ben worked as an Urban Designer for a multinational planning consultancy, for Sustrans managing a sustainable travel programme and then as a researcher on cycle BOOM, the EPSRC funded project investigating the potential for enabling more cycling by people in later life. Key outputs from cycle BOOM (winner of the RTPI Academic Research Award 2017) included a summary report with recommendations for practice and policy, briefing notes for specialist audiences and a suite of documentary films capturing the participant's experience of the wellbeing trials, see www.cycleboom.org.