CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD: QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

• Paper / Proposal Title:

Planning for Plurality of Streets: a Spheric Approach to Micro-Mobilities

• Author(s) Name:

Alexandre Rigal, Farzaneh Bahrami

• University or Company Affiliation:

UC Berkeley-EPFL, University of Groningen

• Abstract:

Today, we observe an indisputable resurgence of micro-vehicles that can represent opportunities to flip the urban mobility into a new system, beyond car dominance. An encompassing theoretical framework is needed to render these vehicles comparable, to enable an assessment of their impacts and capacities. In this paper, we adopt a historical perspective, looking into the emergence of vehicular innovations as a response to the early problems of the car system in cities and trace their evolutions to the recent proliferation of ‘micro-vehicles’. Making use of the notion of Sphere, as developed by Peter Sloterdijk (2011; 2014; 2004), we identify a set of vehicle properties, allowing to propose a classification and analysis of micro-vehicles, evaluating their impact on their immediate environment, and their capacities of cohabitation with other modes in the urban space. Finally, we discuss the spatial implications of the classification of transport modes based on their spheric properties, attempting to enable new perspectives and potentially new socio-spatial relations towards plurality of streets.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):
**Alexandre Rigal** is a doctor of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, associate researcher at the Laboratory of Urban Sociology, and visiting scholar at UC Berkeley. He works on forms of lifestyle change.

Farzaneh’s research is on the interplay between mobility systems and urban forms. She holds a Ph.D. from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne (EPFL), Laboratory of Urbanism. Her PhD research, on futures of mobility, sought to identify the levers of change for a transition from car dominance in cities. She is currently working on the role of spatial planning in steering the evolution of smart mobility and its adoption in the future cities.