

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2017  
London, Tuesday 29 August – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017

### Call for papers

#### EXPLORING THE SOCIO-SPATIALITIES OF URBAN GOODS MOBILITY

**Convenors:** Debbie Hopkins and Tim Schwanen (TSU, University of Oxford)

**Sponsors:** Transport Geography Research Group (confirmed), Urban Geography Research Group (under consideration), Economic Geography Research Group (under consideration).

As centres of production and consumption, cities rely heavily on the mobility of freight for the provision of goods and services to residents, visitors, firms and organisations. Volumes of freight mobility are increasing and courier, express and parcel (CEP) services are growing rapidly with ongoing urbanisation and changes in consumption and shopping habits and delivery structures. Further change can be expected in light of the ongoing restructuring of logistics and supply chains and the rise of the smart city and vehicle automation. Yet the parcels, distribution centres, vehicles and pipelines that make up the systems of freight delivery often remain invisible in geographical studies of transport and mobilities. Similarly, policies to reduce the negative impacts of road freight transport are seldom focused at the city scale, and urban mobility is rarely prioritised in urban planning. In this session, we seek to address these gaps, through in-depth explorations of the social-spatialities of urban goods mobility. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Innovations in urban freight and logistics -- e.g., urban consolidation centres, drone delivery, electric and autonomous vehicles, cargo-bikes;
- Freight and logistics in the 'smart city';
- The political economy of urban goods mobility;
- Geographies of new business models for CEP services in cities; and
- The lived experience of freight mobilities.

We are seeking **abstracts (c.250 words)** for oral presentations to explore the socio-spatialities of urban goods mobility from wide-ranging perspectives. Abstracts should include a title, and the names, affiliations and email addresses of all authors.

#### Timeline:

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**
- Responses from session convenors by: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017
- The session convenors will communicate the RGS response as soon as informed by the organisers after the 17<sup>th</sup> February session proposal deadline
- Deadline for reduced rate ('early-bird') registrations: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- RGS-IBG International conference: Wednesday 30 August to Friday 1 September 2017

Abstracts should be submitted to [Debbie.hopkins@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Debbie.hopkins@ouce.ox.ac.uk) by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017.