



Public Lecture Series on Migration, Mobility and Crises

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Thursday, 23 March 2023

Emergency (Im)mobilities: (Im)mobile Lives in Crisis

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Discussant: Francisco Klauser, University of Neuchâtel

18:00 – 19:30 h

This talk will be held in person at the University of Neuchâtel, Espace Tilo Frey (FLSH), room R.S.38, on WEBEX ([link](#)), as well as live-streamed on the nccr – on the move YouTube channel ([link](#)).

Abstract

In this paper I pick back up on a position paper I published in *Mobilities* in 2016 which tried to set out some of the terms of a debate around mobilities and the way they are governed and lived in emergencies. However, overlapping crises have exposed the intersections of emergency mobilities through the complex combinations of reactionary and anti-immigration controls, precarious journeys, ‘vital’ health (im)mobilities of blood flow and breath (Sodero 2019), disease and societal lock-downs, border controls, the impacts of climate change and intensified weather events (Sodero 2022), alongside military conflict and humanitarian disasters, somehow paralleling or interrupting the strangely entwined ordinary, privileged, or fraying mobilities of leisure, travel, commuting, traffic, migration, and across dissonant vehicle, material infrastructures and landscapes. Moreover, a politics of emergency has been extended and rethought to reconsider different scales, speeds and agencies within emergency, as social justice movements claim civil emergencies within the weathering of racisms, domestic and intimate violence, sexual harassment, historic police abuses, to cost of living and inflationary pressures, so that chronic emergencies are realised and exposed from the global to the intimate, and in contexts where everyday life can be disastrous. Different constellations of (im)mobility (Cresswell 2010) appear to reach through from the past, compounded, intensified and sometimes reconfigured in multi- scalar, temporal, and (post)colonial mobility injustices (Sheller 2018). In this paper, I work through a range of contexts and examples, some from evacuation (im)mobilities, and concepts and methods more sensitive to the aesthetic and affective life of emergency, to present other ways of attending to emergency (im)mobilities.

About the Speaker

Peter Adey is a Professor in Human Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London. His work lies at the intersection between space, security and mobility, and Cultural and Political Geography. He has published widely in academic journals and edited collections and is member of the international advisory boards of the journals *Mobilities*; *Resilience*; and *Geography Compass*. Professor Adey has been the recipient of fellowships from the ESRC and AHRC, standard grants from the EPSRC-AHRC, ESRC, Agence National de la Recherche, the Leverhulme Trust and a visiting fellowship from UCL.

Selected Publications

- Adey, P., Hannam, K., Sheller, M., & Tyfield, D. (2021). “Pandemic (im)mobilities”. *Mobilities*, 16(1), 1-19.
- Adey, P. (2017). “Mobility”. Routledge
- Adey, P. (2016). “Emergency mobilities”. *Mobilities*, 11(1), 32-48.
- Adey, P., Bissell, D., Hannam, K., Merriman, P., & Sheller, M. (2014). “The Handbook of Mobilities”. London: Routledge.
- Adey, P. (2006). “If mobility is everything then it is nothing: Towards a relational politics of (im) mobilities”. *Mobilities*, 1(1), 75-94.