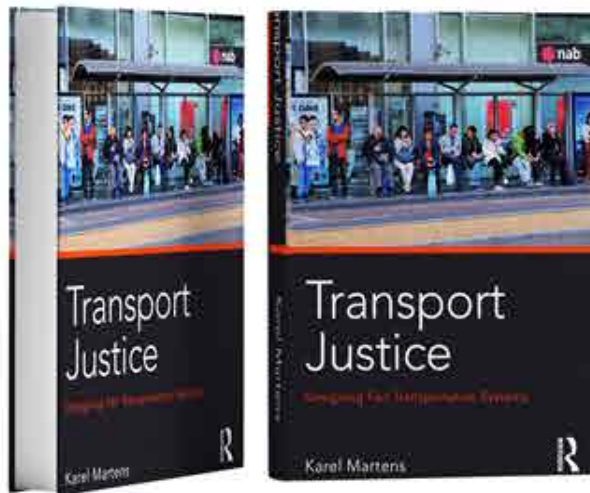


WORKSHOP

Transport Justice – Designing Fair Transportation Systems



Prof. Dr. Karel Martens



Prof. Dr. Mark Zuidgeest

23 August 2022 | 09:00 – 16:30 HRS | Amaryllis Hotel, BT



Transport Justice – Designing Fair Transportation Systems

Introduction

From 22 – 25 August 2022, the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) will host transport planning researchers from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, University of Cape Town, University of Witwatersrand, and University of Rwanda. The researchers will undertake a number of transport planning related initiatives in the City of Blantyre.

On Tuesday, 23 August 2022, Professor Karel Martens, from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel and Professor Mark Zuidgeest of the Centre for Transport Studies in the University of Cape Town, facilitate a Workshop on Transport Justice. Professor Martens studies how Theories of Justice, as developed in political philosophy and ethics, can change the way we think about and implement transport planning and policy especially in response to the ever-increasing inequities that are visible in our transport systems. Professor Mark Zuidgeest is the SANRAL Endowed Chair in Transport Planning and Engineering at the University of Cape Town in the Centre for Transport Studies (CfTS). His research interests span transport geography, choice modelling, travel demand modelling, network modelling and optimisation, and transport-related social exclusion, all in the context of emerging and developing economies. This Workshop will inform participants about state-of-the-art theory and concepts of transport justice, but also reflect (with help of the participants) on how these concepts can be applied in the Malawian context. The workshop is part of a wider initiative under the auspices of the Volvo Research Fund (VREF).

Background

In Malawi, most transport project investments are informed by the modelling outputs of the Highway Development and Management (HDM-4) software, and Economic Rate of Return (ERR) analyses inform the prioritisation of road projects by the Roads Authority (RA) in its Annual National Roads Programmes (ANRP). The implementation of such projects depends on the funds made available to the RA by the Roads Fund Administration (RFA). Current methods of transport planning, including the HDM-4 and the 4-Step Modelling, for example, focus on the functioning of transport systems, rather than on services received by the people using it. Hence, road congestion has been seen as the main transport problem, and investments to ease congestion as the proper solution. While this approach enhances the mobility of people with access to a private car, it often does little to alleviate the transport challenges of large segments of the population. If poorly designed, roads may even negatively affect people who rely on walking for most of their trips. Transport planning that focuses on the functioning of transport systems risks ignoring the mobility and accessibility difficulties experienced by different groups within a population. This is especially



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problematic in many African countries which face high levels of spatial and social inequality. The ongoing VREF research adopts a novel approach to planning transport systems that is based on the concept of justice. The novel approach calls on transport professionals to no longer focus on the transport system, but instead systematically analyse the ease of movement and level of accessibility experienced by different population groups.

The purpose of the VREF project is to determine to what extent and how the Transport Justice approach and underlying analytical methods can be applied in Sub-Saharan Africa. For this purpose, the potential for a justice approach to transport planning is being explored in Kigali, Rwanda, and Blantyre in Malawi. Engagement with stakeholders in these cities revealed their existing transport planning practices, which will then inform how the justice approach of transport planning can be applied in these contexts. The specific outputs of this research include an adaptation of the existing state-of-the-art transport planning based on principles of justice method to the African context, an open-source analytical toolbox for transport planning based on principles of justice, and an illustrated guidebook and a worked example for transport practitioners in Africa.

The Workshop

The main objective of the workshop is for participants to understand the shortcomings of the current transport planning and policy paradigm and value the ideas and opportunities that a new paradigm based on principles of justice can bring in transforming Africa's transport system to one that is more inclusive and fairer, with a specific application to the case of Blantyre. Following the structure of Martens' 2017 book 'Transport Justice-Designing Fair Transportation Systems' the Workshop will consist of a number of lectures and a workshop-discussion, including:

1. A critique on traditional approaches towards transport planning [lecture].
2. Fairness in transport-philosophical explorations based on Rawls' and Dworkin's concepts of justice [lecture].
3. Transport planning based on principles of justice [lecture].
4. The fairness of Malawi's transport system [workshop-discussion].
5. Seeking transport justice [conclusion].

The lectures will be informal with lots of space for discussion.

What can each participant expect from the Workshop?

1. Gain up-to-date knowledge of current discourses in the domain of transport planning and policy.
2. Appreciate the theory of justice and its relevance to transport.



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3. Learn a new approach to transport planning based on principles of justice.
4. Think along with fellow participants as to how this new theory can contribute to Malawi's unique challenges to distribute equitable services vis-à-vis transport.
5. Think along with fellow participants as to how governments can go about fulfilling their duty by providing practical rules for transport planning based on justice principles at all levels of government.

Who should attend the Workshop?

1. Transport professionals in the planning, implementation, and regulation sectors.
2. Urban planners.
3. Policy practitioners.
4. Community development practitioners and NGO's staff working in the transport sector.
5. Advocacy organizations.
6. Academics and post-graduate students with an interest in transformation in the transport sector.

The Workshop costs are covered by the research project funds.

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