

Call for Abstracts for the symposium: **Urban transport justice: Navigating transport and mobility innovation in times of transformation [05. – 06.11.2026, Berlin]**

As transport planning increasingly moves beyond narrow concerns of efficiency and infrastructure provision toward broader societal goals such as sustainability, inclusion, and participation, questions of justice have become central to debates on urban mobility. While doing that, dominant assessment frameworks often rely on implicit assumptions about justice, societal norms, and desirable futures. Yet there remains no comprehensive framework for reflecting on the (mostly implicit) assumptions of what constitutes “just” mobility. Contemporary approaches to transport and mobility justice often lack the conceptual and empirical approaches necessary to adequately capture the complexity of societal needs and transport-related inequalities.

In this symposium we seek to address this gap by broadening the scope of justice-oriented transport research and by bringing ethical perspectives more centrally into debates on mobility. Since ethics provides tools for critically engaging with normative assumptions, allowing justice to be considered alongside other values of good mobility. Urban transport systems shape and determine access to public life and, in doing so, reflect broader societal values and power relations. At the same time, technological innovations - from digital mobility platforms to autonomous vehicles - are transforming how mobility is organized, experienced, and governed. It is thus important to connect the assessment of current transport systems with transformative planning processes and responsible technology development.

The aim of our interdisciplinary symposium is to bring together these areas to advance critical perspectives on urban mobility, transport justice and transport ethics.

We invite contributions that engage with, but are not limited to, the following questions

- How is justice defined in contemporary transport and mobility research? What methods and indicators are used to evaluate justice in mobility systems? Which frameworks should be considered and why?
- How can spatial analysis and modeling support transport justice research and decision-making?
- How do explicit and implicit value judgments shape transport planning, technological design, and evaluation? How can ethical reflection deepen our understanding of transport and mobility justice?
- How are innovations such as smart mobility systems, autonomous vehicles, or mobility-as-a-service reshaping mobility landscapes? Which kind of guidance is needed for the assessment of envisioning and planning of good urban mobility?
- How can foresight methods and futures thinking inform strategic decision-making in urban mobility planning? What role do anticipatory approaches play in identifying, negotiating, and shaping just mobility futures?

Interdisciplinary perspectives from philosophy, STS, foresight and future studies, geography, urban and transport planning, transport research, and related fields are welcome. We are probably able to provide a travel allowance for contributors without institutional funding. If this would enable you to attend, please mention it in your submission.

The Symposium is hosted as part of the project “Transform Mobility – A Human Centered Turn towards Responsible Urban Mobility by Transformative Vision Design” funded by the Berlin University Alliance in the Grand Challenges Initiative from 12.2024 until 12.2026.

<https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/commitments/grand-challenge-initiatives/RITT-Projekte/TransformMobility/index.html>

<https://berlinbequem.de>

### **Submission Details**

Please submit an abstract of 300–500 words outlining your contribution, including its main argument, approach, and relevance to the symposium themes and please add a short biography/CV, as well.

Submissions until: **17.07.2026**

Submissions and inquiries should be sent to: [schoenherr@tu-berlin.de](mailto:schoenherr@tu-berlin.de)

We are looking forward to your submission,

Prof. Dr. Sabine Ammon, Nora Schönherr  
(Berlin Ethics Lab, Technical University Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Tobia Lakes, Marek Sierts  
(Applied Geoinformatics, Humboldt University)

Prof. Dr. Christine Ahrend, Melanie Arz  
(Integrated Transport Planning, Technical University Berlin)