

Call for papers “Building Transport History Ontologies”

Extended deadline 5 October 2020

[The Journal of Transport History](#)

[The Journal of Transport History](#) is launching this [Call for Papers](#) devoted to further developing the ontology of Transport History.

We argued how, in past decades, transport history changed its foci, approaches and research areas, opening up new investigation avenues and taking advantage of the work done in the fields of cultural, global, urban history, as well as history of technology and business studies.

However, we are still missing an ontology of transport history, that is, (i) why transport and mobility discourses “are irreducible to other social or technological processes”³ and (ii) what are its own ontological characteristics?

In this vein, The Journal of Transport History is launching this Call for Papers devoted to further developing the ontology of Transport History. The papers can have any format or length (between 2 and 8 thousand words) and take on innovative analytical approaches.

As a non-binding suggestion, we consider here two possible main avenues of research.

- The first one should be able to better elaborate some paradigmatic concepts for transport history and eventually frame these ideas in the wider historical and theoretical debate. The goal is to gauge transport history with other subfields, including, but not limited to, urban history, global history and history of technology. In addition, we encourage exploring relations between transport history and more theory-driven fields such as urban theory, STS, political geography, or organizational studies, to name a few. This should lead to a more active and open discussion, questioning the values and limits of the current paradigms present in other historical disciplines.
- The second avenue of research should critically address the role, relevance (and limits) of the mobility turn. Transport history must play a relevant role in questioning how history can add to the discussion around the mobility turn, but also addressing the ever-present risk of a-chronological mobility investigations, which investigate the present patterns and form of movements as unprecedented and undoubtedly novel. History has the full potential to avoid “chronocentrism” and to display both the recurrences and novelties of present patterns. The latter point is even more important considering the magnitude of the mobility/immobility patterns triggered by Covid-19.

The papers collected for this CFP, which will be published in the JTH, will eventually – with the authors’ agreement – be used as the foundation for a future Handbook of Transport History, which may take the form of a print volume or an on-line depository.

Special issue Guest Editors: Massimo Moraglio, Michael Bess, Greet De Block, Mike Esbester, Valentina Fava, Dhan Zunino Singh. For more information, please see the recent editorial from the journal:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0022526620927592>

The papers can have any format or length (between 2 and 8 thousand words) and take on innovative analytical approaches. Papers will be subject to a double blind review process.

Abstracts are welcome until ~~30 August 2020~~ **extended deadline 5 October 2020**, to be sent to JTH Editor-in-chief Massimo Moraglio jth.editor@gmail.com