

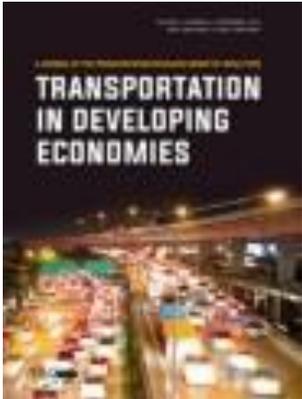
Transportation in Developing Economies

Special Issue on **Shared Urban Mobility Systems in the Global South (SUMS)**

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AIMS AND SCOPE



Urban areas in the global south are characterized by high population density; informal, often unorganized modes of public transport/paratransit; and a growing rate of personal vehicle ownership. Although the high density, along with the compact growth patterns, ensure distances between land uses to be short, thereby encouraging travel by sustainable modes, but the growth in personal vehicle use is offsetting such an inherent advantage. As the urban areas continue to be the engines of economic growth, the travel demand in these areas is also rising. This travel demand growth is mostly being catered to by the private vehicles, as their ownership continues to grow due to increase in discretionary spending, particularly among the middle to-higher income groups. This is being complimented by lower public transit choice ridership, as their fleet continues to grow at a slower pace, leading to greater vehicle kilometers travelled, ultimately affecting global climate. In addition, the provision of necessary and safe infrastructure to promote use of sustainable modes of transport is often neglected or not prioritized. These sets of factors are further worsening the air quality, increasing travel time, reducing productivity, and also adversely affecting the overall quality of life of the urban population in the global south. The advent and subsequent proliferation of internet technologies and location-based services has contributed to the rise of shared urban mobility systems (SUMS), a subset of the larger concept of shared economy, which is being seen as a panacea to many of the abovementioned urban transport issues. Currently existing in many forms, shared mobility is a transport system where users either share a vehicle simultaneously or over-time. This also allows users access to the transport system on an as-needed basis. The shared mobility typology includes traditional public transit and carpool/vanpool systems, along with the new age systems that include bike/scooter sharing and the services offered by transportation network companies (TNCs). These services, either ride-sharing/ride-splitting, or ride-hailing/ride-sourcing (RHS), have revolutionized the world of shared urban mobility by providing the comfort of a personal automobile without the need of owning one. SUMS has the potential of reducing vehicle kilometers of travel and vehicular emissions, and at the same time cater to the growing travel demand. However, the penetration of such disruptive services in the global south is limited till-date, and studies estimating their impact on the environment are scarce as well. SUMS, in its traditional form, have been in existence for decades, but studies measuring the impact of the relatively news systems on urban mobility are still in their infancy, with most of the studies coming out of the global north. Such studies indicate that RHS, for example, has seen mixed results in developed nations. On the one hand, they might be reducing personal vehicle ownership, but on the other hand they may be drawing riders from public transit, and leading to an increased number of vehicles on the streets, resulting in higher emissions and congestion. Due to the proprietary nature of the services provided, data is often not shared, which further makes it difficult to assess its impacts. In the global south, the services offered by the TNCs as well as bicycle sharing systems have gained popularity. TNC service providers such as Uber, DiDi, Ola, Pathao, Grab, Careem, etc. are in operation, while several public bicycle sharing systems have been established in various cities, including Bike Itau in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Hangzhou Public Bicycle in China, and Trin Trin in Mysuru, India. While bicycling is prevalent in many cities of the global south, but it comes with a stigma of being a mode for the “not so well to do” people, and this could be one of the many reasons why the

bike sharing programs are not being able to sustain their operations. This necessitates a deeper and robust understanding of the ridership, or lack thereof, patterns of SUMS, so as to take necessary actions that would stimulate their demand in the cities of the global south. As the global south continues to power the world's economic growth, there is a need for them to do so in a sustainable manner. Effective urban mobility policies will allow the urban areas to work towards achieving their sustainability goals. The urban mobility initiatives in the global south are often implemented in isolation, and likely adapted from successful implementations in developed economies. In either case, literature regarding the experiences of the developing nations with such solutions is scarce and unorganized. Thus, the aim of this proposed special issue is to discuss the improvement in urban mobility conditions that may come about, or has been achieved, as a result of implementing SUMS.

This special issue will provide a unique opportunity for exchanging and disseminating knowledge on emerging practices in various developing economies around the globe. Specifically, the guest editors encourage submissions of original research articles that report significant research contributions including, but not limited to:

- Mobility as a service (MaaS) and travel behavior
- Energy implications of shared urban mobility systems
- Last-mile connectivity and micro mobility systems
- Quality of service in shared transport
- Operations and management of shared urban mobility
- Impact of Covid-19 on shared urban mobility
- Innovative data and methods for analyzing urban travel behavior

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please refer to the given link for submission guidelines: <https://www.springer.com/journal/40890/submission-guidelines>

IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission deadline: **30 June, 2022**

Please submit your paper by **30 June, 2022** through the online Editorial Management System: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/tide/default1.aspx>. If you are a new user, please create a login and password. During submission, do not forget to select that your paper is for the special issue entitled “**Shared Urban Mobility Systems in the Global South (SUMS)**.”

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