WALKING AS AN INTERSECTIONAL TOOL TO FIGHT EXCLUSION
Peer research as a method for mobilities research with girls, women and other vulnerable groups

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Uneven power relationships: implications for the transport and mobility sector in Africa

- Uneven power relationships are widely in evidence in Africa’s *transport and mobility sector* - Affects who goes where, when, by what mode
- Impacts on access to education, health, work, recreation
- Specific groups that commonly face mobility disadvantage:
  - Women
  - Children
  - Older people
  - People with disabilities
  - Minority disadvantaged ethnic groups
- Many people face *multiple disadvantages* because they belong to more than one of these groups
How to move things forward?

Working to understand and help address the barriers to improved mobility/access of vulnerable groups requires deep knowledge of their circumstances, experiences, needs, aspirations.
How can we achieve this?

• **Peer-research** can offer a powerful base and complement to conventional academic research on mobility

• Peer research involves training people from vulnerable groups as CO-INVESTIGATORS so they can go into their community and conduct effective research

• This means peer researchers can build their own evidence:
  • helps academic researchers to understand local issues and identify key questions for wider research studies
  • Peer researchers may draw on their experience for direct engagement with policy makers and practitioners
Field practice

Peer research with in-country academic and practitioner collaborators, 2004- , in a series of mobility/transport studies with vulnerable groups

- Children 9-18y, 2006- [Ghana, Malawi, South Africa]  
  www.dur.ac.uk/child.mobility/  
  www.dur.ac.uk/child.phones/

- Older people 60+, 2011- [Tanzania] with HelpAge

- Young unemployed women, 2019- [Tunis, Abuja, Cape Town] :  
  https://transportandyouthemploymentinafrica.com
Learning to do peer research with children 2006-

• 70 ‘child’ researchers, 11-19 years [Ghana, Malawi, South Africa]
• 1-week training workshop [2 per country]
• Young people select methods, location, time-scale
• Field support from RAs and academic staff
• Findings feed into larger adult academic research study – identifies key questions
Training with HelpAge in Tanzania
Our peer researchers use their own evidence to tell Tanzania’s Chief Medical Officer for Health why he needs to pay more attention to transport issues.
Our current project:
Youth engagement in Africa’s transport sector: promoting a gender agenda
Working with unemployed young women - Tunis, Abuja, Cape Town
2019-2021

- **Main objective**: To help disadvantaged young women living in urban peripheries improve their transport-related skills and thus improve their employment opportunities
  - As transport Users
  - As workers in the transport system
- **Focus on 1 poor peri-urban and one city-connected rural site per city – young women c. 18-35y**
- Collaborator team: Universities of Durham, Sokoto, Jos, Cape Town + Transaid
- **Started with peer research training – 6 unemployed women per city**
Our peer research team at work in Tunis
Our peer research team at work in Abuja
Our peer research team at work in Cape Town
The project Consultative Group: an essential complement to peer research

• Set up at/prior to project inception – meets at regular intervals
• Aimed at garnering advice and support, ensuring dissemination of project information, influencing policy
• Membership: peer researchers + government, NGOs, CBOs, private sector, local community leaders, transport unions, academics etc.
• Aim at wide recruitment - not just the transport sector – also education, health, etc.
Concluding reflections on working with peer researchers

• A long process!
• Needs intensive time inputs from support staff
• Ethical considerations – e.g. remuneration, field hazards
• Disappointment if no positive impacts/outputs

BUT

• Ensures key questions/issues embedded in academic-led qual/quant research
• Identifies hidden problems, hidden opportunities
• Community confidence to tackle experts
• OVERALL, stronger confidence that we are asking the right questions that can help improve the lives of vulnerable groups
• AND that communities feel OWNERSHIP as active participants in data collection, the review process and engagement with policy makers and practitioners
Further material on peer research

• [www.dur.ac.uk/child.mobility/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/child.mobility/)  
  [this includes links to a booklet written by the child researchers]

• Porter, G. 2016 Reflections on co-investigation through peer research with young people and older people in sub-Saharan Africa. *Qualitative Research* 16 no. 3 293-304.

• For other material on the work with children and older people as peer researchers please contact Gina Porter:  
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Segundo López - WRI

Gender approach in road safety

Including gender approach in road safety is key for having wider and fair results in actions
Bogota insights

• Bogota has experienced an increase in urban cycling – but this increase has been mostly male

• Locations with higher concentration of women traffic crashes victims are in local roads – 75% of those fatalities were pedestrians or cyclists

• Lack of gender approach in road safety might be having a negative impact on accessibility

#WomenAndTransport
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Gender approach in road safety

Bogota has experienced an increase in urban cycling – but this increase has been mostly male
Risk is increasing for women cyclists

- Share of women cyclists trips decreased from 25% to 21% (2011-2015)
- In the last five years, the share of women cyclists reported as victims of traffic crashes increased from 15% to 22%.
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Different geographical patterns between men and women victims of traffic crashes as cyclists
Similar pattern for pedestrians
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Gender approach in road safety

In Bogota, locations with higher concentration of women traffic crashes victims are in local roads – 75% of those fatalities were pedestrians or cyclists

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Higher concentration of women victims of road crashes in local roads.

76% walking or cycling

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Lack of gender approach in road safety might be having a negative impact on accessibility
Intersectionality plays an important role

- Women take **11% more in work trips**
- Women living in low income households take almost **twice the time** of women in high income.

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Jobs accessed by bicycle are located more diversely.
Travel time for work trips is lower for women cyclists
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Gender approach in road safety

“ Including gender approach in road safety can be an effective way for promoting safe cycling and walking for all...

While saving lives.”

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Mary Mwangi – Flone Initiative
Research on Walking, Safety & Security

A Safety Analysis of Mombasa
HOW?

Safety Audits done from 6 – 9 PM.

Done for 7 days

Done on all roads in Mombasa Island except Mama Ngina

12 Volunteers from Mombasa engaged

A total of 1091 audits have been generated.

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Findings: Safety Score

Overall, the Safety Score for Mombasa is rated 3.9/5 i.e. Good.

Indicated in the pie chart is the percentage distribution of pins in each range.

Only 4% of the audit points were rated poorly, which implies a safety score less than 1 out of 5. 76% of the audit points have been rated as good which covers the central region of the island.

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1. Lighting - 1.9 / 3

- Most street lights are non operational

2. WalkPath - 2.4 / 3

Mombasa Island has paved walk paths for pedestrians to walk at most places in Mombasa.

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3. Visibility
1.4 / 3

The boundary walls make the street more inactive that instill a sense of fear in the pedestrians.

Image 9 shows vendors on the street and the presence of women and children.

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2019 WOMEN and TRANSPORT AFRICA CONFERENCE

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Dr. Deyala Tarawneh and Ronja Schiffer

The Last Mile – A Gendered Perspective on Walkability in Amman

A pilot study funded by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung’s Regional Climate and Energy Project MENA

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A pilot study to show how to develop inclusive and socially just last mile and public transportation policies – as we need to transform the transport sector to deal effectively with the climate crisis

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The Last Mile –
A Gendered Perspective on Walkability in Amman

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How can you navigate walking with a stroller?
The Last Mile – A Gendered Perspective on Walkability in Amman

**DANGERS ASSOCIATED TO LAST MILE**
- Car accidents/ Run overs: 40.4%
- Harrassment: 11%
- Stray animals: 6.1%
- Theft: 15.5%
- Potential delay: 15.5%
- Fights (between driver/conductor/passengers): 11%
- Slipping (in winter times): 7.2%

**SIDEWALK CONDITIONS IN LAST MILE**
- Extremely poor: 1.6%
- Just okay: 32.5%
- In good condition: 65.6%

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Examples of developed recommendations:

**Establish a Comprehensive Database on Walkability and Land Use.** Current efforts by GAM to have reliable data on walking need to extended and sped up. By incorporating the universities in surveying, both the students get hands on training as well as that there are more human resources to accomplish the task.

**Create a sustainable and inclusive strategy for the Last Mile and Bus Stop Design and Network for the new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System.** By including accessibility, gender justice and sustainability in the building process, expensive remodeling can be avoided. International examples, such as from India, are already there and can be applied in feasibility studies to the BRT and its feeder system.

**Include an intersectional gendered lens into university education and urban design.** By incorporating intersectional approaches, which highlight the different obstacles faced by citizens, so that urban designers can become advanced in accommodating for these different groups. Teaching intersectional feminism improves not only the lived reality of women, but for all marginalized groups.

#WomenAndTransport
Dr. Deyala Tarawneh and Ronja Schiffer

The Last Mile – A Gendered Perspective on Walkability in Amman

"When boys were put to play the role of women, they had absolutely no idea, what they will be going through. I noticed that they were surprised that we actually go through every day"

How can we change the ownership of men over public space?

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WALKING AS AN INTERSECTIONAL TOOL TO FIGHT EXCLUSION