

**FRIDAY, 22 April**

**9.00 - 10.20 Parallel Sessions**

**Art and Research on Public Transport (part 1)**

*[Tramway — Ground floor]*

Convenors

Aleksandra Ianchenko (Tallinn University and Åbo Akademi University)

Anton Polsky (Partizaning)

**Giada Peterle, DiSSGeA, University of Padua**

***Graphic (im)mobilities: moving with comics as a research practice***

Starting from the perspective of a researchers-artist, in this presentation I embrace a creative narrative approach and propose comics as a research practice in mobility studies. My exploration of 'graphic (im)mobilities' starts with a simple question: What are the peculiar im/mobilities of comics? In comics mobility is both experienced and thought, it is not simply represented in the page, through mobile subjects and transport means, but also necessarily practiced and embodied every time we make the event of the page happen (Cresswell 2006, p. 4; Hones 2008, p. 1301). From a processual perspective, then, comics themselves are agents that produce mobility. Their 'spatial grammar' is intrinsically mobile, as it asks for pluridirectional movements to be performed by authors and readers throughout the comics page. Comics move, in the sense that they cause emotional reactions and physical alternations of motion and stasis. What are the challenges of doing comics-based research in mobility studies? Considering the original geoGraphic story Lines. Moving with stories of public transport in Turku I have realised for the project PUTSPACE, this presentation explores how comics as a research practice permit us to explore multi-layered perceptions of time-space in urban contexts, and to access mundane and affective aspects connected to everyday mobilities. Through comics-based we challenge our positionality in the field, becoming ourselves part of the (im)mobilities that animate urban assemblages.

**Natalia Irina Roman, Bauhaus University Weimar**

***Along the Lines: A self made art residency and art research with the German Railway***

Along the Lines is an artist in residence with the German Railway (Deutsche Bahn) initiated by the independent artist, curator and city researcher Natalia Irina Roman. The residency has been ongoing since 2017 and includes art interventions, exhibitions in public space, practices of space-making, interviews, public talks and practice classes at the Bauhaus University Weimar. These formats feed into Natalia's ongoing art research of the aesthetic of train travel and the potential of former interlocking towers to be transformed into art spaces for the train passengers. During this talk the public is invited to get insights into Along the Lines and learn about art designed in the railway context. This is a talk particularly for the railway fans out there, but also for anyone curious about every day train travels and city railway.

**Anton Polsky, Partizaning**

***Urban Interventions as a Research Method***

What motivates artists to go into research and why do researchers tend to use artistic approaches to learn more about our cities? From practicing street and socially engaged art, I

have turned to studies of art history and sociology. Based on my experience, I will show different examples of artistic interventions in public spaces (and public transport) that can illustrate how art and research are tied and mutually reinforced.

**Michael Zinganel, Tracing Spaces**

**Michael Hieslmair\*, Tracing Spaces**

***Exhibiting Nodes and Vehicles of Long Distance Public Transport: Mobile Research, relational tools and assemblages of artifacts and art works***

In a project, investigating the recent effects of the transformation of major pan-European road corridors, we choose to literally drive the triangle between Vienna, the twin cities of Tallinn and Helsinki and the Bulgarian-Turkish border with a couch (and a ferry boat), perceiving both the vehicles, the terminals and the routes as parts of a 'networked network'. Especially at such places where the flow of mobility stops or is stopped, ephemeral "publics" may emerge from the exchange of shared experiences or the pragmatic solution of everyday problems only to dissolve shortly afterwards. Therefore we applied live mapping as a relational technique to gain information from mobile experts from a wide range of mobilities – from serving for the transport company, transnationally commuting between their multi-sited 'homes' to (forced) migration. In a continual rhythm of research, dissemination, and re-evaluation, we produced and exhibited graphic and 3d representations on site to trigger further feedback and/or we also offered guided bus tours to selected nodes for disseminating our research findings. Intending to privilege narratives from a variety of individuals' motives and experience we augmented maps with graphic novels and audio tracks – and we finally we even produced an animated graphic novel. Referring to our own long distance travel experience we decided to go for a 'geographical' spatial concept of the final exhibition in Vienna: Visitors had to walk from room to room, from North to South and back, like we drove during our trips, through an assemblage of research findings, reference works and artistic representations, representing the many shades of grey we encountered during our tours.

Link to the exhibition catalogue:

<http://stopandgo.weblog.mur.at/publication/roadregisters-catalogue/>