

FRIDAY, 22 April

10.40 - 12.20 Keynote talk

Michael Vogt, Director of Dresden Transport Museum

[Tramway — Ground floor]

Chairs: Tauri Tuvikene (Tallinn University) and Wladimir Sgibnev (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography)

30 min

Michael Vogt, Dresden Transport Museum

Shaping Today from Tomorrow – Museums as Public Places for Opinion Making on the Transport Turnaround

Alongside the energy transition and digitalisation, the transport and mobility transition is the most important sector of social change. Museums do not only play a reflective role in the processes of change, but also an informative, moderating or propagating role. They themselves become actors of social change. At the same time, their responsibility to deal self-critically with the interpretive power of the museum as an institution is growing.

Museums are places of self-understanding, of reassurance and of identity formation. In addition to entertainment, they always offer learning opportunities and orientation. In its permanent exhibitions, the Dresden Transport Museum shows the economic and socio-historical development of transport technology on the basis of historical objects of rail, road, sea and air transport. These testimonies of past change point to the mutability of current mobility technologies and thus to the fundamental openness of future developments.

Building on this, the Dresden Transport Museum is establishing the "Forum Mobility Dresden" as a permanent place for discussion with the city's society. In addition, a thematic special exhibition on the urban transport revolution will shed light on the origins, causes, possibilities and goals of modern urban mobility solutions. In this way, the Museum of Transport wants to create a resonance space where people not only from avant-garde, technology-savvy milieus, but above all from conservative, technology-averse milieus can meet and inform themselves about backgrounds, exchange views and ask questions.

On the basis of sound opinion-forming, i.e. knowledge – visitors to the exhibition are to be given the opportunity to participate creatively in the future development of the urban transport system, the urban spaces and living environments for a better life in cities.

CV

Dr. Michael Vogt

Studied physics and philosophy in Rostock and St. Andrews (GB). Doctorate in philosophy on the concept of motion in modern physics. Professional career: Editor at Cornelsen-Bildungsverlag; research assistant at the Dresden Technical Collections, head of experimental field, project management and curation of "Erlebnisland Mathematik Dresden"; head of student laboratories at the University of Zurich and at the Helmholtz Centre Dresden-Rossendorf; project management at the Central and Regional Library Berlin for the "World of Languages" experience exhibition at the Humboldt Forum Berlin; cultural management at the cultural office of the state capital Magdeburg, project management of the Telemann festival year "Telemania 2017", curation of the experience exhibition "Listen,

Telemann! "; Head of the Press Office at the University of Rostock; since October 2020 Director and CEO of the Verkehrsmuseum Dresden gGmbH.

Q&A

10 min

Sasha Disko-Schmidt, Deutsches Museum (Munich)

Bettina Gundler*, Deutsches Museum (Munich)

The redesign of the permanent exhibit on urban public transport at the Deutsches Museum, Verkehrszentrum

Although officially called a "Verkehrszentrum" – a museum of transport – our museum's focus is on mobility as a socio-technical concept – foregrounding networks and systems rather than solely focusing on the technical specificities of individual modes of transport. Our approach to the collection is expressed in the exhibition design: the presentation highlights conceptual fields that combine perspectives on the intersections between mobility, society and technology. Modes of transport are not presented in isolation from one another, but rather are framed as both technological and social artifacts. They are thus potent carriers of affective meaning making, however, the emotions evoked are neither predetermined nor are they stable, but are part of a social-technical dialogue that varies according to intersectional subject positions.

We are currently in the process of renewing the permanent exhibits in Hall 1, the hall dedicated to urban traffic, including public transport. A primary aim of our redesign is to strengthen the visitor's positive response to public transport and to encourage the imagination of new narratives about urban public space, including public transport as public space. One way of achieving this is through bringing in visual and literary narratives to provoke surprise through new associations.

10 min

Andres Seene, Estonian Road Museum

Enhancing traffic safety in public space through the lessons of history (Public)transport history as case study method for teaching safer traffic behaviour

Estonian Road Museum is owned currently by Estonian Transport Agency. The Agency has a special section for prevention of traffic accidents. The section raises public awareness through public campaigns and educational programmes oriented to children and adult audiences. The Road Museums one mission has been through its 20+ year existence also to promote traffic security. We work in close in co-operation with prevention specialists.

Around 2016-2017 museum made attempt to find funding to build a new exhibition hall (Machinery Hall). Part of funding came from the state budget. One precondition for public funding was that exhibition had to focus more to traffic safety issues. The hall was opened in 2019. In exhibitions and in educational programmes we have introduced different stories related to safety issues from history. There are artefacts and issues from the mobility history that we have combined with problems and parallels from today's traffic security concerns. For instance we have a Soviet period lorry with open box on display with different stories from the 20 century when travelling in open car boxes was very common (also accidents were frequent). Still today studies estimate that up 45 percent of intercity bus travelers do not fasten seat belts. These stories enable to introduce for visitors the eternal rules of traffic and physics from the different angle. The museum also has in its collection few historic busses which are opened for visitors and telling some stories from the past. There are lot of

interesting documents, photos and films in museum collection which we share in social media – to promote awareness of risks in public space. Using original artefacts and real stories from past raises public attention and awareness and we hope it enhances safety in public space.

Q&A

Discussion on museums' role in generating public knowledge and interest in the topic of public transport as public space.