

The 2023 Global Mobility Humanities Conference (GMHC) and Annual Conference of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T²M)

Call for Paper

Organiser	Anna-Leena Toivanen		E-mail	anna-leena.toivanen@uef.fi
Academic Affiliation	University of Eastern Finland, Finland			
Participation Type	On-site (In person)	Online	Number of Presentations	
Type of Session	7/7		Debate	Panel
Title of the Session	Poetics and Ethics of Mobility in Postcolonial Literatures			
Session Proposal 300 Words	<p>Literary scholars have been “slow to hop on the mobilities bus” (Pearce 2020) – this is clearly the case of postcolonial literary studies. While postcolonial theories of dislocation overlap with the themes of mobilities research, postcolonial studies tend to focus on the outcomes of mobility rather than on mobility itself (Aguiar, Mathieson, and Pearce 2019, 6, 19). ‘Mobility’ in postcolonial literary studies is frequently understood as a synonym for migration or as a metaphor thereof (Toivanen 2021, 1-2). This erases the plurality and relationality of mobilities (Hui 2016, 71) and the “convergence between categories of movement” (Averis & Hollis-Touré 2016, 4). The metaphorization of mobility blurs the tangible experience of being on the move and “risks neglecting the material conditions which affect and constrain [...] movement” (Grayson 2018, 514).</p> <p>This session approaches postcolonial literatures from the perspective of mobilities research to explore their <i>poetics</i> and <i>ethics of mobility</i>. While the ethics of mobility in postcolonial contexts relates to the questions of mobility justice (Sheller 2018), politics of mobility (Cresswell 2010), racialized mobilities (Nicholson & Sheller 2016), and the ‘moving’, transgressive or liberatory potentials of literary mobilities (Bond 2018, 7; Upstone 2014, 42; Pfalzgraf 2022, 246), poetics of mobility pertains to narrative strategies that translate mobility into the literary form (Toivanen 2021, 209; Davidson 2017; Ewers 2018). Inspired by Boehmer’s (2018) ‘postcolonial poetics’ as a notion that captures both the political/ethical drive and the literariness of postcolonial fiction, this session welcomes papers revolving around the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of formal strategies are used in postcolonial literary representations of mobility? • What ethical concerns do postcolonial literary portrayals of mobility practices, modes of transport, mobile infrastructures, or spaces of transit articulate? • How are the poetics and ethics of mobility linked in postcolonial literatures? • What is the contribution of postcolonial literary analysis to understanding the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of mobility? <p>The proposals should be sent directly to Dr Anna-Leena Toivanen by email by 15 May.</p>			

