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Mobilities Controversies - Place, Justice, Democracy

Confirmed keynotes: Mimi Sheller (US) Anthony Elliott (AU) Nikolaj Schultz (DK)
Conference theme To state that the world is facing challenges seems to be an understatement. Not since the Second World War has a totality of nations and continents been hit by so many challenges and crisis as now. The environmental, energy and ecological crisis has been building up over decades, but it's coinciding with the global epidemics of Covid-19, the global refugee crisis, and now the war in Ukraine almost seems like the 'perfect storm'. The facing of 'wicked problems' on an unrepresented magnitude is a wake-up call not just for policy makers, business leaders, and the civil society. The global research communities are also called upon by these troubled times. Various forms of research that addresses such challenges - from the globe to the body - is highly needed. During this plethora of troubles, we find mobilities to be at the very heart of contestation and controversy. The sheer magnitude of moving of matter, goods, people, information, data, virus, weapons etc. should make it clear that we are facing serious global challenges. Next to this 'hypermobility' we are also facing problematic immobility or restricted mobility as for instance when humans are moving for survival but curbed on their mobilities due to 'politicized forms of friction'. The 'Mobilities Controversies' want to chase the genealogies of these controversies. Not only in time, but also across spaces and infrastructural landscapes. Mobilities are contested in various fields of policy and planning, as well as multiple research disciplines offer different interpretation of the causes and consequences. By applying the notion of 'controversy' we partly want to pay homage to the now late Bruno Latour, an unorthodox thinker whose oeuvre has left a permanent imprint on the mobilities turn. Partly we want to acknowledge the line of enquiry coming out of 'controversy studies' that critically problematize notions of singular causality and foundational explanations in a hunt for 'matters of fact'. Exploring contemporary mobilities as 'matter of concern' in the light of controversy is thus to have an open mind to the many human and non-human systems, agencies, and infrastructures that shapes the world we now inhabit. To reduce some of this complexity the conference wants to home in on three important dimensions of these

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<https://vbn.aau.dk/da/organisations/situated-mobilities-and-sensing-bodies>

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