

**PhD position** : Inclusive Cities through Equitable access to Urban Mobility Infrastructures for Bangalore-India (EQUIMOB).

Applicants are invited for a PhD position within the project “Inclusive Cities through Equitable access to Urban Mobility Infrastructures for India and Bangladesh”. The project is funded by NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development, awarded to the principal investigator, Dr. Ajay Bailey and consortium members from India and Bangladesh.

### **The project**

Cities in the global South are rapidly growing in size, but many marginalised and vulnerable residents (such as lower-income households, older adults, women and people with disabilities) do not have affordable, safe and accessible public transport, which reduces their ability to have decent work, healthcare and social life. Transport planning largely ignores access inequalities but prioritises efficiency and economic benefits. This project will go beyond traditional engineering approaches by taking a novel, user-centred intersectional approach that recognises how multiple forms of social stratification (e.g. class, gender, age and disability) intersect to produce urban mobility inequalities for marginalised groups.

The central objective is to develop evidence-based insights for affordable, safe and accessible urban mobility. More specifically, we aim to:

- 1) explore how physical and social barriers to urban transport are widened by the existing systems and the social and economic implications of such barriers (SDG-11&9) ,
- 2) develop and contextualise measures to improve access to work (SDG-8), healthcare (SDG-3) and social life (SDG-10) through improvements in the public transport system, and
- 3) co-design an inclusive urban mobility evaluative framework that can provide guidelines for inclusive cities.

We will apply an innovative multi-sited mixed-methods approach combining visual surveys, GPS-led-geo-narratives and multi-stakeholder hackathons. Inequalities of urban mobility will be studied in Delhi, Bengaluru and Dhaka, as these cities are experiencing major infrastructural changes and have populations with multiple access disparities. Inclusive cities with affordable, safe and accessible low-carbon public transport lead to a reduction of emissions and improvements in public health and wellbeing.

This PhD project involves developing qualitative methodological tools and conducting qualitative fieldwork in Bengaluru, as well as analysing this data. The PhD researcher is expected to collaborate closely with qualitative and quantitative researchers in the other sub-projects.

## Job description

This is an exciting opportunity to join an interdisciplinary research team working on innovative approaches to make cities and urban mobility infrastructures more inclusive in India and Bangladesh. The PhD researcher will:

- Together with other researchers develop qualitative methods and liaise with non-governmental organisations, community groups, public transport companies with whom research will be conducted.
- Carry out data collection through go-along interviews, focus-groups and observations among transport users and non-users.
- Analyse qualitative data and collaborate with researchers to analyse the GIS based data.
- Take a leading role in the conceptual and methodological innovations required by the project, in collaboration with the other researchers on team.
- Write and co-author academic publications together with other members of the team (Minimum of one paper per year as lead author)

## Requirements

We are looking for candidates who have:

- A Masters in Anthropology, Demography, Sociology, International Development Studies, Urban Planning, Geography, Public Health, Community Medicine, or a related field.
- Experience with conducting qualitative interviews and ethnographic field work in developing countries, and preferably in India.
- Experience of working in multi-disciplinary and multicultural research teams.
- Experience with organizing workshops and stakeholder meetings.
- Excellent written and spoken command of English, as demonstrated by an excellent master thesis, publications in English-language journals (desirable) and presentations at national/international conferences.
- A willingness to contribute proactively to the development of the project.
- Good organizational skills.

- Knowledge of Kannada is essential and knowledge of Hindi or Tamil (desirable).

### **The offer**

We offer a 1.0 fte appointment for 4 years. The first year will be a probationary period and, after a positive assessment, the position will be extended for the remaining 36 months. Your position is that of PhD researcher.

The position will be administratively held at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, India. The remuneration is similar to other PhD positions at Manipal. In addition to the salary there are funds available for travel to conferences and visits to Utrecht University over the period of the project.

### **Supervisory team**

**Dr. Ajay Bailey**, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

**Prof. Dick Ettema**, Utrecht University

**Dr. Marco Helbich**, Utrecht University

**Dr. Sobin George**, Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore

### **Key collaborators:**

**Dr. Anindita Datta**, University of Delhi, India

**Prof. Sanghmitra Roy**, Manipal Academy of Higher Education

**Dr. Musleh Hasan**, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh.

**Dr. Shanawez Hussain**, BRAC institute for Governance and Development, Bangladesh.

### **Applications must contain:**

- a motivation letter;
- a full CV;
- an official transcript of the grades during your studies as well as your diploma;
- two names of referees who may be contacted for a letter of reference.

PLEASE submit your applications to [a.bailey@uu.nl](mailto:a.bailey@uu.nl) deadline for application **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Starting date: 01 August 2019 or earlier.

For more information please contact

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