



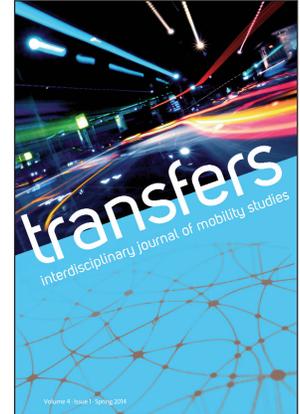
### CALL FOR PAPERS/PORTFOLIO: AFRICAN MOBILITIES

The **African Mobilities portfolio** invites papers that seek to explore something that has never been attempted in mobility, transport, and communication studies as yet: to define and investigate all kinds of mobilities. It welcomes eccentric, risk-taking, ambitious, and original works of scholarship expressing a dedication to theory while also deeply grounded empirically.

The African Mobilities project basically has two defining features. In the first instance, we encourage contributors to *go rogue on the concept of mobility* so that anything that exhibits movement, and is describable, is open to interrogation and submission to this portfolio for publication. When we say African "voices," we broadly mean acting as reflected through the movement, stasis, or inertia not just of people, but *anything* that has it, and what "voices" such states of force and location elicit. Our only insistence is that the narrative must be accessible to a wider audience and provide a new and interesting way of thinking and writing about mobility—whether the subject is beetles or Bentleys, air masses or ancestral spirits, ideas or artefacts, volcanoes or trees, darkness or sound, and so on.

In the second instance, we are asking contributors to *read, think, and represent mobility from Africans' perspectives*, thus contributing to a larger conversation on theorizing from the Global South. Thus papers must not simply use Africa as fodder for imported theoretical constructs, but as generative of modes of thought and practice that have theoretical value in their own right. By "Africa" we do not limit papers to the geophysical shores of the continent but include its global diasporas which are, in themselves, outcomes and expressions of mobilities. Papers that trace two directions of the diaspora of people and things—from outside into Africa and from Africa into the outside world—are particularly welcome. Thus African Mobilities is a way to signal the mobilities of Africans and things African in the world. It recognizes that from antiquity through the Trans-Indian and Trans-Atlantic Ocean trades in people as slaves, all the way to the contemporary moment of heightened voluntary diaspora, Africans and things African have been travellers in the world. Not just mute travellers: African Mobilities is an invitation to enquire into the footprint of Africa out of Africa, and why that footprint has been made where, when, and how it has.

If we see Africa in itineration, not only as elements moving about in Africa, but Africans and things out of Africa travelling in the world, the question also becomes two-fold. First, what is the African element inserted into the world through such mobilities? Second, what has been the impact of this mobility upon the traveling African and things out of Africa? In other words, African mobilities become constitutive of the world outside the continent and vice versa. Thus African Mobilities is a theoretical standpoint—a way of seeing the concept of mobility and making a contribution to the global discussion. African Mobilities serves as a critique of Western notions of mobility that have been universalized, built on nostalgia about what Westerners readily conclude are the technological and scientific wonders of their own civilizations. Our preference is to rethink the concept of mobility from deeper African genealogies, with certain periods of interactions with the outside world as moments in much longer African trajectories. We will therefore be less likely to accept articles that seek to simply theoretically treat Africa as an extension of European, American, Chinese or any other societies' mobilities. The element of interaction between African elements and the outside will be critical to any paper that explains the incoming-resident encounter.



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### SUBMISSIONS

The African Mobilities portfolio welcomes article length papers and requests for book reviews, book review essays, museum reviews, film reviews and ideas for our art section. Authors should submit articles as Word attachments by e-mail, formatted as Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format files. All guidelines on length, formatting, and referencing can be found at [http://www.journals.berghahnbooks.com/\\_uploads/trans/trans\\_style\\_guide.pdf](http://www.journals.berghahnbooks.com/_uploads/trans/trans_style_guide.pdf). Papers will be accepted at any time throughout the year. No paper known to be under consideration by another journal will be reviewed. Please note that all correspondence will be transmitted via e-mail. Submissions without complete and properly formatted references may be rejected. For questions about submissions, please contact:

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