

Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies

SPECIAL SECTIONS GUIDELINES

AIM

Transfers has significant demands on its space, so we invite proposals of **special sections** (rather than special issues), which will only be accepted if they support the journal's core mission more than the individual articles would do—for instance, because they emphasize multiple aspects (developed in the respective articles) of a certain approach:

Transfers investigates the history and futures of mobility—people, things, images, and ideas on the move. Situated at the interdisciplinary crossroads of history, transport, and urban planning; culture, art, and media; and gender studies, geography, anthropology, literature, and philosophy, *Transfers* encourages new approaches and perspectives on institutions, practices, and meanings of mobility.

In other words, a **special section** should help us rethink the very concept of mobility, provoke discussions between different areas in which mobility plays a role, and/or help transcend the fissures between historians and policymakers, planners, engineers, designers, and artists who may benefit from long-term knowledge on mobility. Please state in your proposal how your special issue will contribute to these aims.

Here is how we, after six years, define our editorial policy:

Transfers is emerging as a key peer-reviewed platform for new research into the practices, experiences and representations of disparate mobilities. Our expanded editorial team invite submissions that address our central concern: to “rethink mobility” in the widest possible terms and from a broad range of disciplinary perspectives.

Intellectually rigorous, wide-ranging, and conceptually innovative, *Transfers* combines the empiricism of traditional mobility history with more recent theoretical approaches in the social sciences and humanities. We interpret “transfers” in its many senses: to move, shift, transmit, transform, change, and convey. The journal's scholarly articles; film, book, and exhibition reviews; artwork; photography; and special features are devoted to the ways mobilities have been enabled, shaped, and mediated across time and through technological changes. We are interested in analyses of past and present experiences of vehicle drivers, passengers, pedestrians, migrants, and refugees; accounts of the arrival and transformation of mobilities in different nations and locales; and investigations into the kinetic processes of global capital, technology, chemical and biological substances, images, narratives, sounds, and ideas.

We especially encourage contributions that “rethink mobility” through a transnational, multimodal, or transdisciplinary perspective, and those dealing with subversive (non-hegemonic) and subaltern (non-Eurocentric) mobilities, including a focus on the infrastructures and practices of mobility that contribute to uneven forms of access.

TYPES

There are two types of special sections:

Type A contains **three articles** each of a maximum of **7,500 words** (including endnotes) and an introduction written by the guest editor of **1,500 words** maximum.

Type B contains **four articles** each of a maximum of **7,000 words** (including endnotes) and an introduction written by the guest editor of **2,500 words** maximum.

We realize not all submitted articles may pass the refereeing process. Thus, Type B can evolve into Type A, or in the case of Type A, it could mean that we continue with individual articles. In other words, special section submitters should be aware that some flexibility is asked of the participants. They should also be aware that developing a special section requires some discipline in terms of deadlines. One non- or badly responding author can seriously delay the entire project.

As interdisciplinarity is one of our benchmarks, we will, once the article set nears acceptance, invite a commentator from a different discipline to write a comment (1,500 words maximum), placed at the end. The selection of such a commentator will be at the discretion of the journal editor, but suggestions are more than welcome.

In the case of a historical topic, we often work with a historian as author of the introduction and a transport expert as a commenter, who is invited to connect the articles to current-day issues of policymaking and planning. The comment may signal problems and issues not covered in the previous texts.

SUBMITTING A SPECIAL SECTION

Submitting the material by a **guest editor** for a special section has the following phases:

- propose an **idea** (one page with brief topic, envisaged contributors, if known, as well as surplus value [see under Aim above]).
- submit a **summary**: topic name, titles and abstracts of contributions (a third of a page each), author names and affiliations, brief bios (100 words), abstract of introduction
- full **submission** of all articles, including an **introduction by the guest editor**, or:
- full **submission** of all articles, the **introduction only as a draft** of one or two pages, its full text written during the second cycle of the refereeing process (once it is clear the proposal will be accepted).

REFEREING

Refereeing takes place as follows:

- the guest editor de facto performs a first refereeing cycle by making sure all articles are according to the journal's guidelines and style guide and that they form a unity in the sense that contributors are aware of each other's presence within the package;
- once received by the editor, the individual articles plus the introduction (or its draft) will be sent to referees from the journal's referee pool but if possible also as one package to at least one referee, in order to assess the package's coherence.

Special section submissions and queries should be sent to the editor, Dagmar Schäfer, at transfers@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de.

For complete contributor submission guidelines, please see the general [Transfers style guide](#).