



15th International NECTAR Conference Helsinki, Finland, 5 - 7 June 2019

Call for papers for a special IGU/NECTAR thematic session on

“Geopolitical changes and transport”.

Geopolitical changes are the results of political decisions by governments or by international organisations such as the European Union, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations. These changes can have significant impacts on use of transport, transport routing and transport investment decisions. The changing importance of national borders, including the Schengen Open Borders Agreement and its suspension by Denmark and Sweden in the European Migration Crisis, have significant impacts on cross border traffic, including commuting, and investment in cross border infrastructure, such as the Channel Tunnel and the Danish/Swedish Øresund Bridge. China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), investing in international road, rail and sea transport routes from China and foreign ports, is part of its geopolitical vision as a world power and not just economically motivated. Globalization of trade has been facilitated by lower or zero import tariffs agreed by supranational bodies such as the European Union, North American Free Trade Association and WTO and much lower shipping costs with containerization and bulk tankers. Strategic routes, such as the Panama and Suez Canals, have increased in importance and required investment in higher capacity. Alternative strategic routes include the Nicaraguan Canal and the Russian High Arctic Sea route. Freedom of Passage in international waters (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - UNCLOS) can be a political flash point.

This special session is organized by the Transport and Geography Commission of the International Geographical Union (IGU).

Topics of interest

The topics of interest for the special sessions include, but are not limited to:

- Effects on transport of the European Migration Crisis, including impacts on cross-border rail and car commuting of the re-imposition of checks on the Danish/Swedish border, after 60 years of open borders
- China’s Belt and Road Initiative
- Strategic Sea Routes, including impacts of larger capacity Panama and Suez Canals, and alternative routes

Deadline for abstract submission: **January 31, 2019**. Abstracts should be submitted electronically, using the form available on the Conference website:

<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/towards-human-scale-cities-open-and-happy>

Please also send your Abstract to Richard Knowles (r.d.knowles@salford.ac.uk)

Criteria for acceptance: scope, scientific quality and NECTAR membership.

Authors of selected abstracts will then be invited to submit an extended abstract (1000 words) before April 30. The extended abstracts will be published on the conference page of the NECTAR website, accessible to NECTAR members only. The number of participants in this thematic session will be limited to 4.

Venue:

The NECTAR conference will be organized by the University of Helsinki and Aalto University. The Venue is the main building of the University of Helsinki. Built in 1832 this historical building is located in the heart of Helsinki, easily reachable by public transport.

Participation and NECTAR membership

Registration, meals and accommodation for two nights will be offered to NECTAR members, for only one author per paper. Two nights of hotel accommodation will be offered to participants who have confirmed their participation by sending copies of travel tickets before April 30, 2019. All practical details will be communicated through the conference website. In order to participate in the Conference, a consecutive and current two-year NECTAR membership is necessary (2019-2020). Non-members can find details of how to join the association on the “Membership” page of NECTAR’s website: www.nectar-eu.eu/membership

Important dates:

Abstract submission: January 31, 2019.

Notification of acceptance: February 25, 2019.

Submission of extended abstracts: April 30, 2019

Confirmation of attendance: April 30, 2019

Looking forward to meeting you Helsinki!

Session organizer

Richard Knowles, University of Salford, Manchester UK & University of Huddersfield, UK

NECTAR is a European-based scientific association. The primary objective is to foster research collaboration and exchange of information between experts in the field of transport, communication and mobility from all European countries and the rest of the world. It is a multidisciplinary social science network bringing together a wide variety of perspectives on transport and communication problems and their impacts on society in an international perspective. For further information on NECTAR, use the link: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu>.