

PRELIMINARY DRAFT 05.05.26

The First Symposium at the Hub for Critical Cycling Studies

“Visions for Critical Cycling Studies Futures”

2-4 June 2026 | Ghent, Belgium

DAY 1 — Tuesday, 2 June 2016

Location: [De Krook](#), Ghent

09:00 – Reception & Coffee

All participants will, as part of their registration fee, receive a rental bicycle for the span of the conference from [Fietsambassade](#) (which is located in the basement of De Krook). More details to follow closer to the conference!

09:30 – Welcome & Opening Remarks

Opening by the conference co-organizers:

Martin Zeilinger, Abertay University/Orpheus Institute, and Andrew Bricker, Ghent University

10:00 – PANEL 1: *Velocity, Materiality, Relationality: Critical and Creative Methods*

Chair: *Martin Zeilinger*

Mark F. N. Franke, Professor in and Director of the Centre for Global Studies, Huron University College, Canada

Future Revolutions of Emancipated Mobility through Cycling:

Resisting Spatial Capture of Movement in Capitalist Formations

Pauline Münch, Science Communicator, Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems (IRI THESys), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany, and

James Bonner, Knowledge Exchange Fellow Physical Activity and Health, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland

Hydro-Cycles: Critical Encounters between Water and Cycling

Aaron McCarthy, Artist and Ph.D. Candidate, Robert Gordon University, UK

Material Transitions across Time on the Orkney Archipelago

12:00 – Catered Lunch

13:30 – ROUNDTABLE: *Critical Mobilities: Systems, Infrastructure, Justice*

This session represents a shared investigation of how CCS can resist technocratic framings and foreground lived inequality, discursive conditions, and infrastructural politics. Each participant

will offer a short, [PechaKucha](#)-style lighting talk to kick a collective conversation with each other and symposium attendees.

Potentially hybrid: TBD.

Moderator: *Andrew Bricker*

Nicole den Braver, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Data Science, Amsterdam University Medical Centre, the Netherlands

The Politics of Safe and Active Mobility: A Systems Perspective on 30 km/h Policy

Juan Granero Bellver, Ph.D. Researcher, Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Barcelona, Spain

A Lane That Is Many: The Sociotechnical Construction of Cycling Infrastructure in Barcelona

Eva Van Eenoo, Postdoctoral Researcher, Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Bicycle policy: disruptive or maintaining the status quo? A focus on the Flemish region (Belgium)

Mohammad Nazarpour, PhD Fellow, Urban Cycling Institute, and PhD researcher, Tarbiat Modares University, Iran

*Challenging Linguistic Barriers:
Co-Constructing Counter-Narratives for Transformative Change*

Josefien Hoeree, Ph.D. Researcher, Research Group for Urban Development and the Design Sciences Hub, University of Antwerp, Belgium

*Cycling and Capabilities:
Addressing Transport Poverty and Social Inequality in Antwerp's rural region, the Kempen*

15:00 – Coffee Break

15:15 – PANEL 2: *Creative Mobilities: Art as Method*

Chair: *To be determined*

Jana De Troyer, Composer-performer, Germany

Play (with) your bike!

Henrik von Coler

Musician and researcher, Lab for Interaction and Immersion (L42i), School of Music, Georgia

Institute of Technology, USA
Using BIKES in Community-Centered Education

Rosa van Walbeek (with James Crossley)
Artist, musician, composer & performer, Cycling Art Research (CAR), the Netherlands
Presenting "Cycling Art Research" (CAR)

16:45 – Break

17:00 – Keynote 1 Prep Talk: *Introduction to Sonic Cycling Practices*
A short preparatory talk by keynote speaker Kaffe Matthews before a group Sonic Bike Ride.
Chair: Martin Zeilinger

17:15 – *Sonic Bike Ride around Ghent* (Performance–Research Event)

19:00 – Conference Dinner ([Knol & Kool](#))

DAY 2 — Wednesday, 3 June 2026

Location: [De Krook](#), Ghent

09:00 – Reception & Coffee

09:30 – PANEL 3: *Narrative Cycles*

Chair: To be determined

Joyce David, Ph.D. Researcher, Ghent University, Belgium

Drawing critical mobilities:

Children's dream streets and collective imagination as method in critical cycling futures

David Rodriguez, Mechanic, Pelago Bicycles, Finland, and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Hofstra University, USA

Where are All the Bikes in Books?

~~Steven Willemsen, Assistant Professor, University of Groningen, the Netherlands~~

~~*The narrative construction of road cycling: The emergent narrativity of bike races*~~

~~Patrick Bijsmans, Associate Professor, European Studies, Maastricht University, the Netherlands~~

~~*News About the Globalisation of Pro Cycling: Eurocycling or Global Peloton?*~~

10:30 – Coffee Break

10:45 – KEYNOTE 1

Kaffe Matthews, Artist and musician, Berlin, Germany

“The swamp that was...”

Moderator: *Martin Zeilinger*

12:00 – Catered Lunch

13:00 – PANEL 4 – *From Sprint to Shoreline: Cycling’s Many Ways of Thinking*

Chair: *Pauline Münch*

Gordon Brown, Computer artist and researcher, Abertay University, UK

Virtual Energy Lab - Intensity in cycling exergames

Thomas Vanoutrive, University of Antwerp

The Bicycle in the Age of Mobility as a Service: A Cartoonish Exploration

Pierre Cassou-Noguès, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University Paris VIII, France

Bicycle as a means of philosophical investigation: A trip from Biarritz to Ostende

14:30 – Coffee Break

14:45 – PANEL 5: *Actionable Futures: City and Self*

Chair: *Meredith Glaser*

Christoph Fink, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria

Performing cycling futures:

Strategic identities and the multiple roles of urban activists

Kassandra Moosbrugger, Ph.D. Researcher, University of Glasgow, UK

Leverage Points for a gender-equitable cycling future

Lukas Junghanns, Ph.D. Researcher, Aalto University, Finland

Exploring alternative cycling visions through activism:

Lessons from the Critical Mass movement in Helsinki

16:00 – Short Break

16:15 – PANEL 6: *History by the Bike*

Chair: *Eva Van Eenoo*

Piotr Kubkowski, Head of Cultural History, Institute of Polish Culture, University of Warsaw, Poland

Two Fascinations, Two Anxieties, Two Cycling Revolutions: Warsaw AD 1900 and AD 2000

David Fevyer, Research Associate, Travel Academy, University of Westminster, UK

No cycle Utopia, not now: Cultures of Sustainable Mobility in media, fiction, and research

17:15 – Short Break

17:30 – *Waterways Cycling Activity*

A group ride led by Pauline Münch and James Bonner

19:00 – Dinner (*Location to be determined*)

DAY 3 — Thursday, 4 June 2026

Location: [De Krook](#), Ghent

09:00 – Reception & Coffee

09:15 – KEYNOTE 2

Peter Cox, Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, University of Chester, UK

Cycling Studies: Retrospect and Prospect

Moderator: *Andrew Bricker*

10:15 – Coffee

10:30 – PANEL 7: *Cycling as Philosophical and Sensory Method*

Chair: *Nicole den Braver*

Paulo de Assis, Senior Research Fellow, Orpheus Instituut, Belgium

Becoming Alpe d'Huez

Annika Otto, Ph.D. Researcher, Transport Studies, Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI) and Lund University, Sweden

Vélotemporalities: Cycling Beyond the Mobility Fix

Marcel O’Gorman, University Research Chair, Professor of English, and Founding Director of the Critical Media Lab (CML), University of Waterloo, Canada

Ideas on Bikes: A Brief Velosophy of Technology

12:00 – Catered Lunch

13:30 – PANEL 8: *Film Screenings and Conversation*

Two ca. 20-minute screenings, two 15-minute talks, and a 20-minute discussion

Chair: *Martin Zeilinger*

Deniz Johns, Lecturer in Film Practice, Lancaster University, and Nicky Hamlyn, Professor of Experimental Film, University for the Creative Arts, UK

Chains, Frames, Cycles

Sanderien Verstappen, Vienna Visual Anthropology Lab, University of Vienna, Austria

So, I (Don’t) Cycle:

Reflections on the Representation of Migrants in Cycling Research

15:00 – Coffee Break

15:15 – [Fishbowl Discussion](#)

What Kind of Critical Cycling Studies Does the World Need?

Moderated by *Andrew Bricker and Martin Zeilinger*

16:45 – Closing Remarks & Awards

18:00 – No official dinner but some kind of informal closing reception (*To be determined*)