

MOBILITIES (extract)

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Mobility is one of the evocative keywords of contemporary social science. Mobility refers to the capacity of people, images and objects to move rapidly across local and global geographic space. Mobility has diverse meanings as well as a range of implications; high levels of spatial mobility are simultaneously a social fact of technologically enhanced society, a necessity of everyday life and a cultural aspiration of many. Mobility is a relatively scarce social capacity and is also defined by its opposite, immobilities, for whenever some things or people are mobile, others are moored, their movements restricted or difficult. Mobilities of various types have become more possible, occur on a larger scale and are also more evident in the global era with the assistance of various technological innovations, from digitalisation to long-range jet airplanes. As well as informing new theories and accounts of globalisation, the field of mobilities research encompasses the study of movements of people, goods and vehicles locally and within cities, informing developments in and forging alliances with disciplines such as geography and urban planning.