Individual paper proposal

**Behind the Spanner: Sociodemographic Determinants of Bicycle Repair and Maintenance Practices**

**Author:** Margot Abord de Chatillon (margot.abord@entpe.fr)

**Institution:** Laboratoire Aménagement Economie Transport (LAET), ENTPE, University of Lyon

**Key Words:** Bicycle repair ; Bicycle maintenance ; Sociodemographic profile

In this proposal, we focus on an often overlooked aspect of cycling practices: bicycle repair and maintenance. Regular bicycle repair and maintenance is required for safe and comfortable bicycle practices. The bicycle on which a given bicycle trip occurs is not a stable object but the output of contradictory processes of decay and maintenance (Graham and Thrift 2007).

Social practice theory suggests looking at practices as they are connected with different aspects of the life of the individuals engaging with it (Shove, Pantzar, and Watson 2012). Bicycle repair is an aspect of cycling practices and thus, is tightly linked with other aspects; it is common that the most experienced cyclists are also the most expert in repair and maintenance. However, it also is associated with specific competences and meanings; for instance, repairing a bicycle is both an activity that is trending among middle-class gentrifiers and one that is associated with low income and the inability to afford having someone else repair your bicycle.

In this paper, we use survey and interview data collected in the cities of Lyon (France) and Melbourne (Australia) in order to analyse the sociodemographic determinants of bicycle repair and maintenance practices. First analyses showed that bicycle repair and maintenance practices are heavily gendered (Abord de Chatillon in-press). In this study, we investigate the way income, profession and age mediate these practices, and among others the choice to repair one’s own bicycle instead of bringing it to a bicycle shop.

**References**

