



Chan Wui & Yunyin Rising Star Workshop for Early Career Professionals

The Analytical Relationship Between Mobility and Communications

July 2016

The Chan Wui & Yunyin Rising Star Workshop is convening an elite group of academics in July 2016 to explore the nexus of mobility and communications. The workshop offers two tracks for participants:

Fellows—early-career professionals in transportation or telecommunications, and
Senior fellows—experienced academics in these fields.

The workshop has two main goals, to develop and stimulate the following activities:

1. In-depth discussions between the selected senior fellows and fellows about the critical research questions stemming from changes in transportation and telecommunications and from the intersections of the two fields; and
2. Personalized advice and guidance from the senior fellows to the fellows on the skills essential for success in academic careers.

The workshop takes place during a seven-day transatlantic ship crossing. The crossing provides the time for in-depth technical and career discussions, a sheltered environment that encourages a focus on the workshop goals, and an informal atmosphere that facilitates networking.

Application Eligibility and Process

Prospective fellows and senior fellows from around the world are invited to submit a formal application. Candidates for fellows should have 1 to 3 years of postdoctoral experience, and candidates for senior fellows should have more than 30 years of academic experience, as well as experience as mentors. Up to eight fellows and four senior fellows will be selected; the numbers selected are subject to budgetary constraints. All communication involving the workshop will be in English. Applications are due November 2, 2015, at 5 p.m., U.S. Eastern Time. The selection of participants will be announced at the 2016 TRB Annual Meeting in January in Washington, D.C.

Workshop Focus

Transportation and telecommunications technologies provide several cornerstones for contemporary human endeavors, including information sharing, commerce, leisure activities, and education. Increasingly, the boundaries between mobility and communications are blurred. Cell phones, the Internet, real-time driving directions, social media, carsharing services, and other features of modern life increasingly have combined mobility and communications in ways that profoundly affect technological development, land development, economics, commerce, education, employment, and the concomitant activities of travel and information sharing.

To address the first goal of the Rising Star workshop, participants will frame the policy issues, identify emerging research, assess the quantitative relationships to be explored, discuss applicable data, and propose new analytical techniques.

Contemporary career building requires a multidimensional effort that extends beyond an individual's technical expertise. A few newcomers may happen to find mentors who invest the time to discuss not only technical issues but career paths and planning. Many other young professionals, however, struggle to find trusted advisers, and the lack of timely advice may limit their academic careers.

To address the second goal of the workshop, senior fellows will offer their seasoned perspectives on the factors important to career success. The career development discussions will cover such topics as identifying emerging professional issues, developing contacts and peer networks, refining personal and communication skills in the workplace and in the classroom, and promoting and obtaining research support. Through this second goal, the workshop will promote the rising stars in their career pursuit of the technical fields of their own choosing.

Workshop Outcomes

Fellows will gain a strong foundation in the history of mobility and communications, a sense of the future direction of research in this area, and a strong connection to a new-found peer group that can help guide and advance their careers. Each fellow will learn how to formulate a plan to guide future research and career activities and will gain a deeper understanding of the factors needed for career success.

Senior fellows will build a strong connection with a talented new group of young academics and potential research collaborators. Through their interactions with the fellows, senior fellows will gain new understandings of the challenges that young academics face and new insights for mentoring younger colleagues to respond effectively to these challenges

Each fellow will prepare a short paper of approximately 10 pages, to be published in a special volume of TRB's peer-reviewed journal, the Transportation Research Record (TRR). These position papers may provide a synthesis of past research, an assessment of the effects of technological advances on mobility and communications, an exploration of the ways that advances will change research needs and the conduct of research, and/or a description of future research directions. A draft of 3 to 5 pages will be due in April 2016. The final paper, due in October 2016, should include insights from the workshop discussions.

Each senior fellow will contribute to the special TRR a collaborative workshop summary or report, an individual synthesis of each workshop research topic, insights on career development, or other overarching observations. The senior fellows will work together to limit any overlap between their papers. These papers will be due in October 2016. Fellows and senior fellows may decide to collaborate on some of the final papers.

TRB will retain copyright for the papers published in the TRR. Participants will present their papers at a session or workshop at the 2017 TRB Annual Meeting and will help organize and speak at the event, to be organized under the leadership of the senior fellows.

What Will the Participants Receive?

- Travel expenses between their homes and the point of departure for the Atlantic Ocean crossing, as well as travel expenses to return home after the crossing. The sponsor of the workshop will cover the costs.
- A single-occupancy cruise ticket, paid by the workshop sponsor. Participants may invite travel companions but must bear the additional transportation and living costs; participants also must cover any personal expenses over and above the sponsor-funded cruise and travel expenses.
- The opportunity to contribute to a special volume of TRB's journal, the TRR. A peer review process will evaluate papers for this volume.
- A role in an upcoming TRB Annual Meeting session or workshop.

What Will Be Expected from the Participants?

- Commitments to participate in the planning of the Rising Star Workshop agenda, in the cruise itself, and in a debriefing after the cruise.
- Submittal of a paper or other contribution to a special volume of the TRR.
- Participation in the planning and delivery of a 2017 TRB Annual Meeting session or workshop presenting the findings from the Rising Star Workshop.

Contacts

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