

# The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Women's Issues in Transportation

***Bridging the Gap***

**Paris, 14-16 April, 2014**



# Housekeeping

- Presentations
  - History
  - Framework for 2014 WiiT
  - Pillar Highlights
  - Summary
  - Research Findings
- Questions/Answers

Marsha Anderson  
Bomar



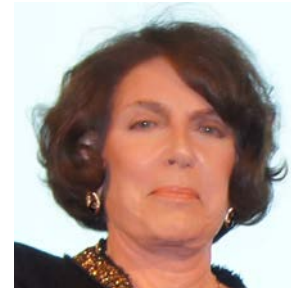
Moderator

Owen Waygood



Pillar Lead

Sandi Rosenbloom



Idea And Historian

Therese McMillan



Closing Summary

Ariane Dupont



Conference Chair

Susan Herbal



Research Findings

**WHEN, WHAT, WHERE, WHY,  
AND HOW?**



## Brief History of the Women's Issues Conference

From 1978 To 2014

From the Shadows to Paris, France



# When?

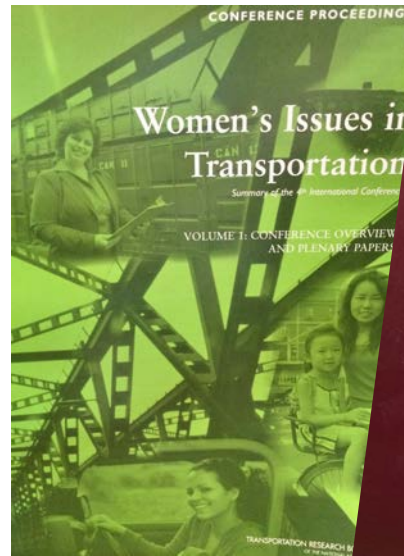
## Past:

1978 (Washington DC)

1996 (Baltimore)

2004 (Chicago)

2009 (Irvine)



## Present

5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Women's Issues in Transportation (WliT) Paris, France

Future – 6<sup>th</sup> Conference in 2018



# DAILY NEWSLETTERS

14 April 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1



Women's Issues in Transportation

- > Final steps to get ready
- > Air and Space Museum tour
- > Bicycling in Paris and Learning Experiences
- > Opening Session
- > Grand Gala and Awards

## Bridging the Gap

### Themes for the Conference Brought to Life

Sharing from their research and experiences, the distinguished panelists opened the conference with messages for the participants to consider as they listen to all of the research that is brought to life this week.



Facilitated by Therese McMillan, Dr. Francoise Thebaud talked about a relationship outlook and how policies must look beyond to the differences in impacts on men and women. Sophie Tekie shared framework and challenges of a third world country where often leadership has nothing to do with qualifications

Minister Roselyn Bachelot talked of the strong influence her family had on her choice of politics and advocacy. She shared stories of minimization early in her career—clearly these made her stronger and more resolute as she navigated her leadership path.

Dr. Sandi Rosenbloom brought new light to the importance of not only using data to understand what is occurring but to incorporate anecdotal evidence. She gave examples of cultural differences in behavior that inform us in a different way about travel behaviors.



Greetings brought to the conference attendees by Helene Jacquot-Guimbal, Ifsttar and Bob Skinner, TRB



15 April 2014

Volume 1, Issue 2



Women's Issues in Transportation

- > Break out sessions
- > Master Classes
- > Plenary Sessions
- > Poster Sessions

## Bridging the Gap

### Is there a problem of gender equity? – moderated by Maryvonne Plessis-Frassaird



This session questioned the existence and nature of the gender equity problem in the developed and developing worlds. Morency Catherine from l'Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, Canada, presented on the level of equity in access to transportation options in Montreal. In response to a movement toward sustainability in transport policies and practices in Quebec, Dr. Catherine's research develops a methodology for translating equity into a measurable parameter. Equity is measured in terms of accessibility and intensity of transportation options surrounding individual households. Using travel survey data, equity was examined by gender. Inequity between men and women increases when the intensity of transportation services is considered. In Montreal, women have less access to car sharing and bike sharing than men.

Julie Babinard from the World Bank presented *Lessons Learned from Uganda's Gender Policies in the Road Sector*. Although gender policies are strong in Uganda, implementation is lagging. This project, which was completed at the request of the Ugandan government, evaluated the level of implementation and awareness of gender policies in Uganda and included a survey of the legal and institutional framework, as well as a series of stakeholder interviews. Women were found to be underrepresented in road sector positions. Awareness and implementation of Uganda's gender policy state-

ments and guidelines was lacking. Recommendations included increasing gender representation in project management teams, capacity building, designing projects to be gender informed, and formulating contractual agreements to ensure gender policies are implemented.

Feedback from the audience echoed concerns for moving from policy to implementation, increased female representation and consultation in transport projects from the senior management level to the labour-based road maintenance level was proposed. Maryvonne Plessis-Frassaird reminded us to view the role of transportation as only one tool for addressing national strategies for poverty reduction.

16 April 2014

Volume 1, Issue 3



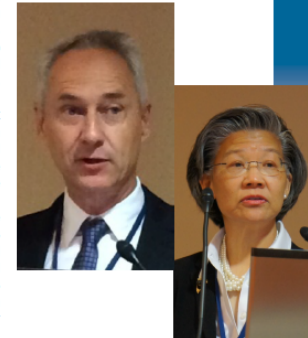
Women's Issues in Transportation

- > Plenary Sessions
- > Break Out Sessions
- > Master Class
- > Poster Sessions
- > Wrap-up Session

## Bridging the Gap

### Equity Among Countries— chaired by

conference began in aimed to bring contrasting economies. Issues of access to as expected to find differences in key issues relating to safety, and empowerment articulated between more developed and more found, with more general trends in even though the transportation strategies used data on travel vital to understanding gender issues. Political attention issues of gender equity.



Needs of women as transportation system in emerging countries were discussed in the session. Support for active modes of safe, secure and sport is essential in representing a key component of transportation modes. Integrated planning is critical work and services, including mobility, with an emphasis on land use and proximity to centres is a challenge in cities to find land in

central districts where work opportunities for women are located and ensure continued access to work without recourse to motorized transport.

The focus for safety needs to be on walking, cycling and motorized two wheelers; 30-50% of deaths on the road in developing countries are pedestrians, where women are overrepresented. Particular attention also needs to be paid to motorcycle passengers in these countries; helmet wearing rates are particularly low for passengers.

(continued on page 2...)

"Safe travel for all road users is a pre-requisite for ensuring sustainable and inclusive cities"

# What?

“Bridging the Gap” explores and addresses:

- Access to transportation and mobility
- Transport system response to women’s needs and preferences
- Transportation safety
- Personal security
- Women’s participation in the transportation sector
  - Decision making
  - Wealth creation

# Where?

## WliT organised by IFSTTAR

- Transport Research Arena Conference (TRA)
- April 14-16, 2014, Conference Center on New Industries and Technologies (CNIT) in Paris-La Défense
- International forum
- Diverse audience
  - 200+ attendees from the world of transportation
  - international leaders, elected public officials
  - Researchers, academics, and students
  - public policy experts
  - transport providers and operators



# Why?

## Goals for 5<sup>th</sup> conference

- Expand audience beyond research community
- Broaden the focus
- Understand gender issues at all levels
- Feature women as system actors who impact
  - sustainable systems
  - safe and secure mobility
  - policy development
  - governance and oversight
  - service delivery
  - business expansion

**HOW?**

**CONFERENCE ISSUES**

# Conference Format

- Maximize opportunities dialogue
- Plenary sessions focused on cross-cutting, complementary topics
- Break-out sessions
- Events
  - Bike tour and poster sessions
  - Gala dinner sponsored by the FIA
  - Lunches and networking breaks
  - “Master Class” for doctoral students

# A Matrix Approach

- Focus themes (pillars)
  - Transport policy, transport patterns, and mobility
  - Health, safety, and personal security
  - Sustainability
  - Transport impacts on careers; career impacts on transport
- Cross-cutting themes
  - Gender-based research issues
  - Converting research findings into policy
  - Narrowing the gap between developed and developing countries
- Special sessions: opening and closing, careers, equity

# Plenary Session on Gender

- “Gender” as a key determinant of social relationships and for improving knowledge and policy making
- Conscious and unconscious gendered representations: the role of women personally, professionally, and politically
- Women’s challenges
  - As professionals in the transport sector
  - As users of the transportation system



# Plenary Session on Equity

Women's issues and equity issues (organized by  
Transport Equity and Accessibility (TEA))

- Established equity differences both vertically and horizontally
- A transport equity approach
- Gender equity indicators

# Plenary Session on Research and Policy

- Advancing the state of the practice
- Challenges and opportunities
- Research agenda, policy development, actual practice
  - Research to practice in policy, governance, service delivery, and business practices
  - Policy, governance, service delivery, and business practices to research

# Plenary Session on International Impact

- Women's issues commonalities and differences;  
focus on safety and security
- Contrasting economies' perspectives on safe and  
secure access
- Data requirements for evidence-based policy making

# Events Focused on Careers

- Gala dinner -- women with unique transportation professional journeys
- High-level American and European representatives panel
  - Making professional decisions over the course of their careers
  - Facing challenges
  - Building tools to move forward

# Master classes

- Gender and sex (Maxime Forest, IEP de Paris, OFCE),
- Women's transportation issues in the developing world (Julie Babinard, World Bank)
- Research agenda over the past three decades (Sandra Rosenbloom, University of Texas at Austin).



# Opening and Closing sessions

- Opening questions
  - Reducing the mobility gap between developed and developing countries
  - Translating research results into public transportation policy
- Closing direction
  - Research needs
  - Challenges





# General

- Studies from 15 developed, transition, and developing countries
- Subjects examined
  - Gender differences
  - Women's transportation needs
  - Women's heterogeneity
- Generalizations
  - Women travel fewer kms
  - Women make more trips
  - Women travel at a more local level

# Children's influence

- Households with children
  - More trips
  - More than those without children
- Women conduct more escort trips
- Responsibility for escort trips
  - Work time flexibility
  - The impact of childcare facilities (hours and location)
- Escorting burden higher in car-oriented contexts
  - Transporting toddlers by car
  - Continued burden in car dependent contexts



# Surveying & Observing

- Traditional travel
  - Biases evident
  - Surveys could disfavor caregivers.
- New surveillance techniques
  - Women prefer anonymity
  - Single women favor cameras least
  - Feeling of resignation

# Trends

- Increasing mobility
- Decreasing travel distance gaps
- Largest gaps in less urban areas
- Understudied equity and mobility options
- The impact of social media on trip frequency
- Skipping the initial steps: the Swedish experience
- The objective
  - Equality in distances travelled?
  - A system that services different needs?

# Safety and Security



# Different Modes; Different Problems

## Personal vehicle use and crashes

- Risky behavior
  - Women still “safer”
  - Becoming less safe
- Gender perspectives on alcohol use and safety
  - Differences in brains of men and women
  - Women’s drinking behavior more linked to depression
  - Men perceive higher “driving skill”
- Children in the vehicle
  - Reduced risky behavior
  - Increasing risky behavior by women

# Public transport

- Women: Sexual assault and harassment
  - Problem evident in media
  - Risk is over-estimated (compared to personal vehicle safety risk)
  - Women only cars (on trains) -- a double-edged sword
  - Unaddressed systemic, underlying causes
- Men: Assault and battery
  - In France, more reported assaults for men

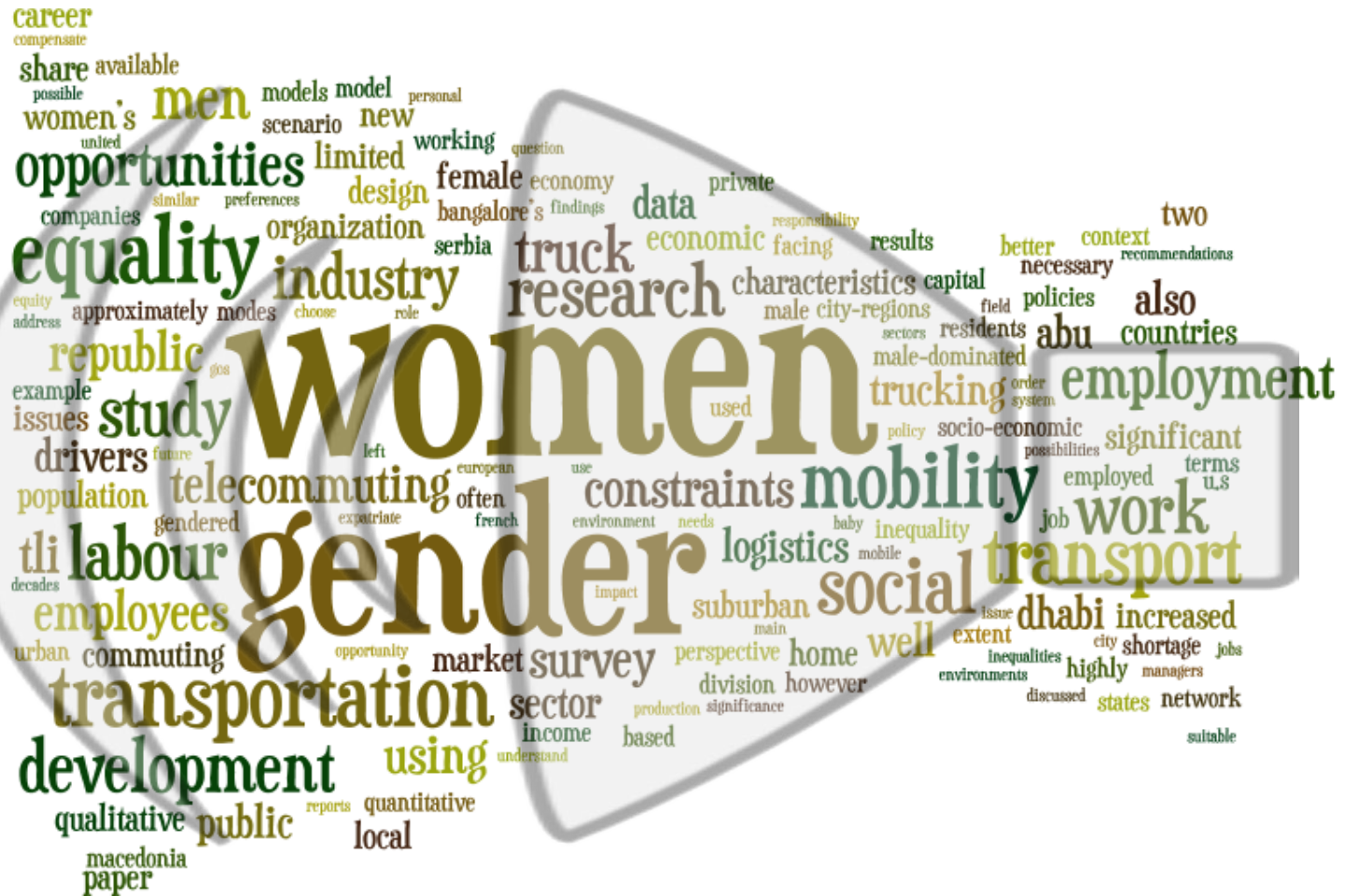




# Women Could Lead

- Women's travel behavior is more sustainable
  - Women are further psychologically along the path to more sustainable transport.
  - Should the goal be men's travel becoming more like women's, rather than the other way around? (current trends are towards less sustainable travel)
- Cycling
  - US experience: Comfort and convenience
  - London experience
    - Greatest increases with new women cyclists
    - Local vs commuting
  - Training immigrants
    - Self-confidence and self-esteem
    - Access to bicycles an issue

# Careers



# Working and Getting to Work

- Women entering transport and logistics fields
  - Dominant male sector
  - Physical demands
  - Women's reticence
  - Truck cab design restrictions for women
- Options for women
  - Residential location
  - Access to a high quality public transportation system
  - Suburban areas restricted
  - Women in India
  - Women in Iran

# Call to Action

- The WliT conference -- dynamic and multi-layered
- Next steps – Bridging the Gap
  - WHY?
  - WHAT?
  - HOW?

# WHY?

- Key take-aways
  - Away from simplistic constructs
  - Men's travel needs vs. women's travel needs
- Explore gender based research
  - Distinct discipline
  - Cross-cutting factor across multiple disciplines
- Draw on
  - Technological sciences (infrastructure/engineering)
  - Social sciences (user based analyses)

# WHAT

- Different approach
- Policy and Implementation
- WHAT as the basis for imposing change
  - Address Ideological resistance
  - Consider the Ignorance/unawareness of gender based issues
  - Understand the decision CONTEXT
    - Private sector or public/governmental sector
    - National, state, or local Level

# HOW to Bring about Change

- Recognize lack of homogeneity in women's issues
- Address different issues
- Recognize many factors
- Acknowledge women of different generations
- Economics
  - Developed versus developing countries
  - Income (wealthier vs. poorer women)
  - Cultures between and within societies
  - Women of different ages
- Effective advocacy
  - Communication
  - Resources
  - Representation
  - Decision making authority



# Research History

- Early women's issues in transportation conferences
- Role of the TRB Standing Committee on Women's Issues in Transportation
- Others weigh in
  - US and State DOTs
  - International community
- 2014 conference research topics
  - Addressing gender in research
  - Translating research results into actions and transportation policy

# **Past Success and Future Needs**

# Conference Topics and Research Needs

- **Transportation Policy, Modes, and Mobility**
- Sustainable Mobility
- The Impact of Mobility on Women's Professional and Personal Lives
- **Addressing Gender in Research**
- **Translating Research Results into Actions and Transportation Public Policy**
- Reducing the Gap between Developed and Developing Countries

# Transportation Policy, Modes, and Mobility

- Gender neutral research
- Women's personal safety and security
- Differences between women and men
  - Driving behavior and safety outcomes
  - Travel behaviors
- Vehicle design and safety features
- Women's professional development
- The changing landscape – impact of the Millennials

# Addressing Gender in Research

- Identify the basic and unique data sets
- Incorporate social scientists
- Mainstream gender into basic curricula and research practice
- Develop methods to impact modeling, planning research, and practice.

# Challenges: Research to Action

- Policy contexts differ
- Institutional and public attitudes and practices
- Research relevance
- Integrated and iterative process
- Questions vs. answers
- The nature of transportation research
  - Basic vs. focused research
  - Engineering vs. multidisciplinary/collaborative research

# Future Research Tasks

- Generate gender neutral industries and systems
- Encourage students and researchers
- Create opportunities for women's professional development
- Organize periodic conferences to focus attention on gender-related transportation issues
- Identify noteworthy research to practice examples of women's travel issues and challenges
- Utilize effective methods and resources to implement research results

# Q & A

## **Conference Website**

**<http://wiit-paris2014.sciencesconf.org>**

## **Committee Website**

**<https://sites.google.com/site/trbwomensissues/home>**