

NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

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Contact: Russell Houston
(202) 334-3252
rhouston@nas.edu

PAPER ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL CONTEXT AND ACTIVITY SCHEDULING WINS PYKE JOHNSON AWARD

The 2009 recipients of the Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) Pyke Johnson Award are Khandker M. Nurul Habib of the University of Alberta, Canada; Juan-Antonio Carrasco, of the Universidad de Concepción, Chile; and Eric J. Miller of the University of Toronto, Canada. The Pyke Johnson Award is presented annually by TRB for the outstanding paper published in the field of transportation systems planning and administration. The winning paper, *"Social Context of Activity Scheduling: Discrete-Continuous Model of Relationship Between "With Whom" and Episode Start Time and Duration,"* has been published in the *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, No. 2076. The award, which honors the 23rd Chairman of the Board's Executive Committee, will be presented on January 13, 2009, at the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lecture and Presentation of Outstanding Paper Awards during the Board's 88th Annual Meeting.

Using social activities as a case study, the objective of the award-winning paper was to empirically investigate the relationship between the social context (measured by "with whom" the respondents interacted) and two key aspects of activity scheduling, start time and duration. Econometric models of the combined decisions regarding "with whom" to participate and start

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time and duration are estimated to investigate the correlations among those decisions. Data collected by a seven-day activity diary survey are used for the model developments. The results suggest that it is “with whom” we socialize that influences the social activity scheduling processes more than the travel time or the distances to social travel. The econometric models used in the study may serve as an empirical support for agent-based microsimulation models that could incorporate the role of social networks in activity scheduling attributes.

Khandker M. Nurul Habib is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Alberta. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, and served as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in 2007–2008. Habib’s research interests include econometric choice modeling, activity-based travel demand modeling, travel demand microsimulation, land use/transportation interactions, environmental impact of transportation, transportation policy analysis, transportation demand-supply interaction, and advanced statistical theory.

Juan Antonio Carrasco is an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at the Universidad de Concepción, Chile. He holds bachelor and master’s degrees in transportation engineering from the Universidad Católica de Chile, and a Ph.D. in transportation engineering and planning from the University of Toronto. His main professional and research interests are understanding and forecasting travel demand in urban areas, especially incorporating the role of social networks and its implication for behavior and social exclusion.

Eric Miller is a Professor and former Director of the Urban Transportation Research and Advancement Centre at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Toronto. He holds B.A.Sc. and M.A.Sc. degrees from the University of Toronto, and a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Miller is also the inaugural Director of the University of Toronto Cities Centre. His research interests include integrated land use/transportation modeling; activity-based travel demand modeling; microsimulation modeling; analysis of the relationship between urban form and travel behavior; and modeling transportation system energy use and emissions. Miller co-authored the textbook *Urban Transportation Planning: A Decision-Oriented Approach*, the second edition of which was published in 2001.

More than 10,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 88th Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC, January 11-15, 2009. The meeting, held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 3,500 presentations in 600 sessions and workshops covering all aspects of transportation.

The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. TRB facilitates the sharing of information on

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transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners; stimulates research and offers research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation. A major focal point of TRB's activities, the Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest.

Organized in 1920, TRB is a division of the National Academies, which include the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. The nation turns to the National Academies for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide.

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