

Professor Mimi Sheller (Drexel University, Philadelphia):

'Mobility Justice and Pandemic (Im)mobilities'

Speaking with CASP/CMOP from Philadelphia, Professor Sheller began our first virtual external event with a slideshow presentation, emanating from her (2018) text *Mobility Justice: The Politics of Movement in an Age of Extremes*. The aim of the presentation was to outline the contemporary relevance of the overarching themes of this text including: (1) disrupted mobilities, and (2) Anthropocene mobilities and their relationship to the empirical realities that are the ongoing human experiences of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. In part one, Sheller described the transnational changes in socioeconomic livelihoods, social distancing measures, and the standardised regularity of real-day clock time, resulting from government efforts to control the virus and to manage the movement of populations. In part two, Sheller continued speaking to how SARS-COV-2 illustrates itself to be a disease of the of the Anthropocene via its demonstration of the social, political, labour, and populist consequences, and racialising discourses, that result from ecologies being disturbed by human extractive economies. Overall, Sheller provided an interesting visual argument for the relevance of climate change to mobility injustices. Sheller concluded suggesting that responses to COVID-19 should be considered in relation to activist calls for policy responses to climate change, with Sheller foreshadowing that movements of social solidarities will necessitate public and scholastic reflections on how critical mobility discussions must critique and assess different crises of environmentalism, social disenfranchisement (e.g. Black Lives Matter, the existence of the 'expendable', and/or the carriers of disease), forced migration, and those of the 'kinetic elite' together, locally and internationally.

