**A bus ride with Foucault**

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ITS, University of Leeds

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Time: 14.00-15.00

Location: Geography East Building LT (G.23), University of Leeds

**Abstract**

The seminar will discussing a working paper that will be presented in the AAG Conference 2016, ‘A bus ride with Foucault’ written by Alvaro Guzman Ian Philips and Lucila Capelli.

This paper explores how the exercise of power in current transport planning practices can lead to the emergence of contestation in Quito - Ecuador. Improvements and investment in the public transport systems have been implemented and constantly advocated as measures to tackle the challenges of mobility. However problems of exclusion, diminishing air quality in cities, accidents, and others persist.  This paper first uses a GIS approach to identify places in cities where potential disparities between transport provision and transport needs of the population might exist.   Once the potential areas of contestation are identified, Foucauldian theories of power are introduced to critically examine the planning process that were involved of the first BRT lines in Quito. Interviews with key decision makers of the BRT process in Quito, including amongst others, former mayors and former heads of the planning and implementation teams are used as a basis for a qualitative analysis of these theories. The paper finishes with a discussion and recommendations on how the same ideas developed by Foucault could be used to contest the existing situation. It is suggested that planners should be more cautious of simple recipes of success for transport delivery within their cities, whilst and people living in areas with poor transport provision need to protest less about this and more about their need for better accessibility to jobs, education, health services and more public spaces, spaces for human cultivation, and places to exercise their freedoms.