**Drivers’ confidence and the task of Curve Negotiation**

Presented by [Dr Mojtaba Moharrer](http://www.its.leeds.ac.uk/people/m.moharrer), ITS, University of Leeds

**Abstract:**

Researchers have stated that at least half of the fifty to sixty per cent of road fatalities that occur on two-lane rural roads take place on curves. Loss of control on curves have been identified as an important road safety issue among young British drivers; and in Iran curve negotiation is a matter of national concern. With confidence identified as a critical marker for safe and efficient driving, using a newly designed toolkit for the assessment of confidence, this talk offers critical exploration of level of confidence in driver behaviour in the driving task curve negotiation, examining patterns among British and Iranian drivers. After identifying relevant aspects of curve negotiation, research participants’ level of performance (using a driving simulator) and level of perception (using a questionnaire) are reviewed, measured and analysed. Then, through participants’ levels of performance and perception, participants’ level of confidence are calculated. Finally, a discussion of the level of confidence is presented, addressing some of the implications for traffic safety when considering age, gender and nationality.

**Bio:**

I am a driver behaviour and Human Factors researcher whose research focuses on traffic safety and the role of confidence in the driving environment.   I am passionate about road safety; I am a part of what I see as a research movement dedicated to reducing and eventually eliminating road fatalities worldwide.  Traffic safety is fundamentally a public health issues and with that I take the position that research must engage the public and positively impact human behaviour.  I hold a PhD in Transport Studies, with concentration in driver behaviour and psychology from the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds and an MSc in Transport Planning and Engineering with concentration in traffic safety and road user behaviour from Edinburgh Napier University. My PhD thesis reported on the design, development, and application of a new toolkit for assessing confidence, applied to a cross-cultural analysis of British and Iranian drivers, examining the influence of age, gender, and nationality.  I am currently a postdoctoral researcher at ITS under the guidance of Professor Oliver Carsten.