



# MOBILITIES OF/IN THE BOOK

FROM ANTIQUITY TO PRESENT TIMES

MOBILITY AND THE HUMANITIES SEMINAR SERIES

DiSSGeA, Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility and the Humanities, University of Padova

Convenors:

**Margherita Losacco**  
**Gianmarco De Angelis**  
**Elena Canadelli**  
**Tania Rossetto**

**Friday, 27 September 2019**

**9.00 - 13.00** DiSSGeA | sala Bortolami, via del Vescovado 30, Padova, Italy

Mobilities research provides an exceptionally fertile ground for activating unpredictable connections between diverse disciplines, suggesting original contacts between different research styles and approaches. With the intent to frame mobilities research from the specific angle of the humanities, the Dissgea Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility and the Humanities is hosting a seminar series with several foci, including the movement of people, objects, ideas and texts through space and time (from Antiquity to contemporary history, from present times to possible futures). This seminar will concentrate on the mobilities of and in books and texts, e.g. movement of manuscripts and printed books; books as vectors and mobile containers of texts; literary representations of movement, transport, voyages; movement of words and images; circuits of authorship and readership.

## Speakers:

**Alvaro Barbieri** Università di Padova

**Jason Finch** Åbo Akademi University

**Antonella Duso** Università di Padova

**Lieven Ameel** University of Turku







# MOBILITIES OF/IN URBAN NARRATIVES

SYMPOSIUM in Collaboration with the Association for Literary Urban Studies (ALUS)

Convenor:  
**Giada Peterle**

**Friday, 27 September 2019**

**14.30 - 18.30** DiSSGeA | Geography Museum, via del Santo 26, Padova, Italy

Starting from the recent encounter between mobility and the humanities, this Symposium meets the international **Association for Literary Urban Studies (ALUS: <https://blogs.helsinki.fi/hlc-n/>)** to take advantage of its peculiar interdisciplinarity and focus on the representation of urban space as a significant lens to understand mobilities in both their diachronic and synchronic dimension. On the one hand, cities have always been spaces of interchange and fluxes. They define the rhythms of circulation of ideas and texts, human and non-human entities, but they also often reinforce the contrasts between voluntary and involuntary (im)mobilities. On the other hand, narratives (in literature, comics, movies, TV series) are themselves able to 'move'. They provoke both physical and affective motion; they can lead or activate cognitive movement, where they call for an active participation of the reader/observer in the composition of the narrative thread or in the exploration of narrative space; they also mobilize, when they stimulate new practices to move across space and to re-signify place.

For all these reasons, we interpret urban narratives as the perfect laboratory for an interdisciplinary dialogue between literary urban studies and literary geographies around the 'new mobilities paradigm' and, through this symposium, we aim to promote a dialogue across the disciplines on the different forms through which mobilities are both represented in and practiced through urban narratives.

With the urban as a common frame, areas which presentations could focus on include, but are not limited to, the following:

call for papers

- Narratives' ability to 'move' audiences in emotional and cognitive terms;
- How narratives can bring about changes of meaning in place, thus 'mobilising' place;
- Specific types of urban mobility as mediated in narratives and cultural representations (e.g. pedestrianism, automobility, experiences of public transport);
- Specific categories of urban space that function as hubs of mobility and the experiences connected to them: railway stations, airports, road junctions, streets;
- Books as mobile objects (in the city);
- Book collections as moving assemblages;
- The mobility of books in terms of transfer, encounter, and exchange;
- Comparison of different media and artistic forms as means of grasping urban mobilities (photography, film and TV, the novel, autobiography and travel writing, drawing and painting, musical genres and styles);
- Concepts valuable in the discussion of urban mobilities as mediated in multiple cultural forms (acceleration and deceleration; simultaneity; rhythm and syncopation; repetition; stillness and immobility);
- Mobilities of scale, including over longer temporal phases;
- Domestic mobilities including representations of relations (class, gender, ethnic, etc) within buildings, and within lived neighbourhoods, between private and public spaces;
- Relationships of physical and social mobility (including the border-crossing of moves to and from the city such as inward and outward migrations spanning various distances);
- Relationships of distribution and circulation contained in publishing and book/newspaper/magazine production;
- Digital circulations and virtual mobilities in relation to representations of the city;
- Mobility between cities and different urban contexts within or beyond the same region, country or continent.
- Reading texts as a mobilizing practice to explore urban space;
- Reading paths within cities (from literary 'implicit maps' to literary tourism practices and circuits);
- Texts as triggers of real/physical/bodily and imaginary/fictional/virtual movement;
- Mobile literary methodologies to explore urban space.

If you are interested in taking part in the discussion, please send a title and an abstract (max 250 words) and a short bio by **30 June 2019** to the following address: **[mobileurbannarrative@gmail.com](mailto:mobileurbannarrative@gmail.com)**.

