



EXPERIMENTS & TRANSITION

URBANISM NEXT EUROPE
2021 

Data Collection- Reflections

Gender Perspectives on Urban Mobility

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 @UrbanismNextEU #UNextEU 

Introduction



- Experiences from girls and women during their daily journeys
- Bairro Padre Cruz Project
- Reflections from our work



Focus Groups

Women who cycle regularly

'I had to get up from the bicycle saddle while cycling on a steep street. A car with some guys passed by (...) One of them puts his arm outside the window and slaps my butt. Just like that, on a normal street, during the day.'

(...) 'I continued cycling.'



Focus Groups

Teenage girls' daily mobility experiences

'I put my headphones on so that I don't hear men harassing me when I walk home from school. My mother tells me not to react, so I put the music loud and I don't hear them. If I did, I would feel like I'd have to say something back and that wouldn't be good'.



Focus Groups

Women who use the BUS daily to go to work

One woman, mother of two, spoke of having to carry her son in her arms, on a badly lit street, while juggling her purse, grocery bags, and so on... on the way to/back from the nursery and then home.

(...)

She doesn't have a place to leave the pushchair once she leaves her son in the morning (at the nursery), before taking the bus to work.



Bairro Padre Cruz

Social housing
neighbourhood

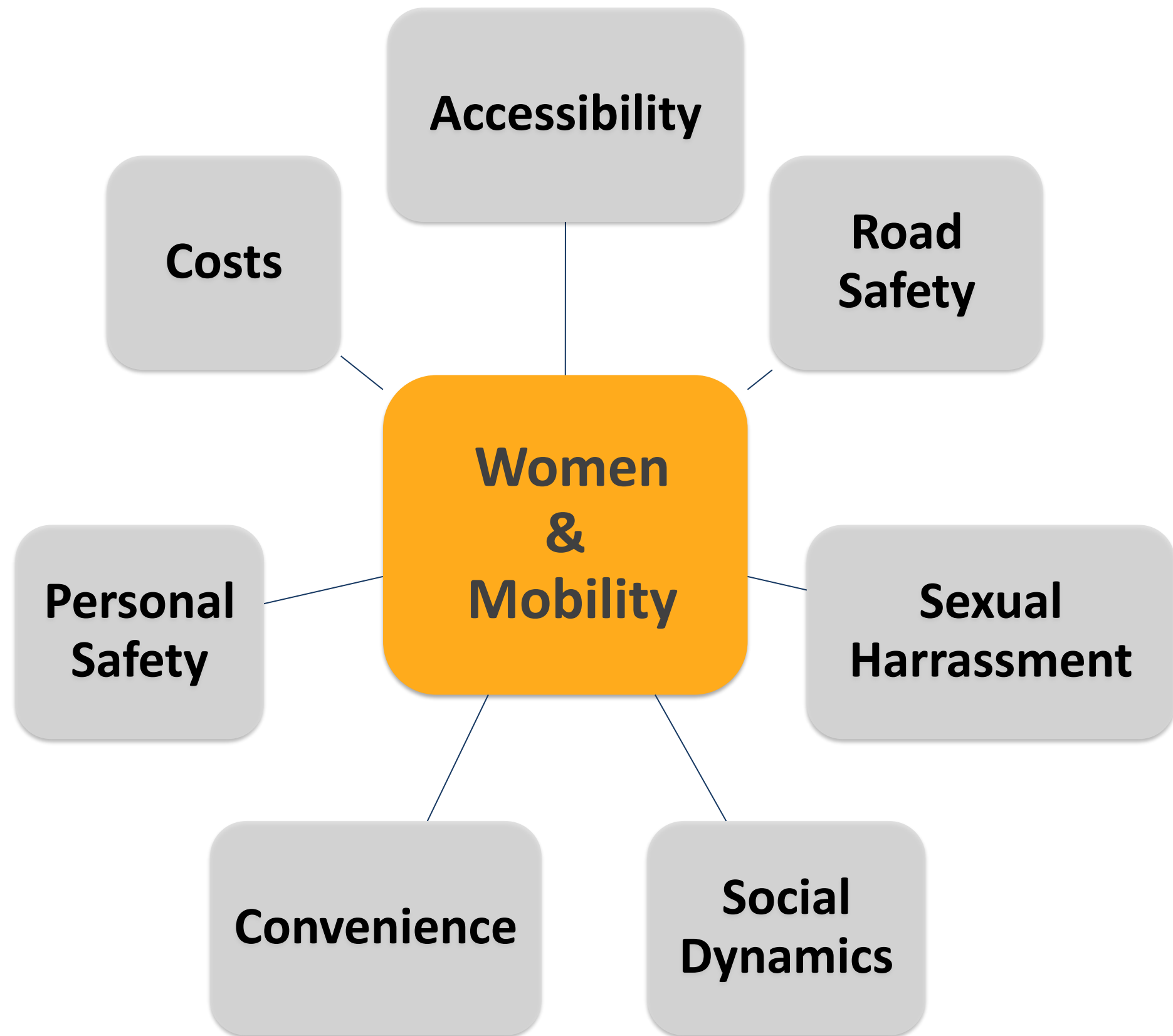
Difficult economic situation

Ethnic diversity



Framework

Key Dimensions



What we wanted to know

- Daily experiences – positive and negative
- Mobility conditions
- Barriers
- Causes of discomfort
- Opportunities



We spoke to

- Teenage girls – 13 to 17 years old
- Young women – 18 to 22 years old
- Women working outside the neighbourhood – 22 to 64 years old
- Older women – 65+ years old



**What
methods
we used**



What methods we used

Survey

Local school

Teenagers

102 valid responses

Do you know how to cycle?
If not, would you like to learn?
Do you have a bike?

How do you get to school?
Do walk alone to go to...?
Do you like it?
How would you like to go to school?

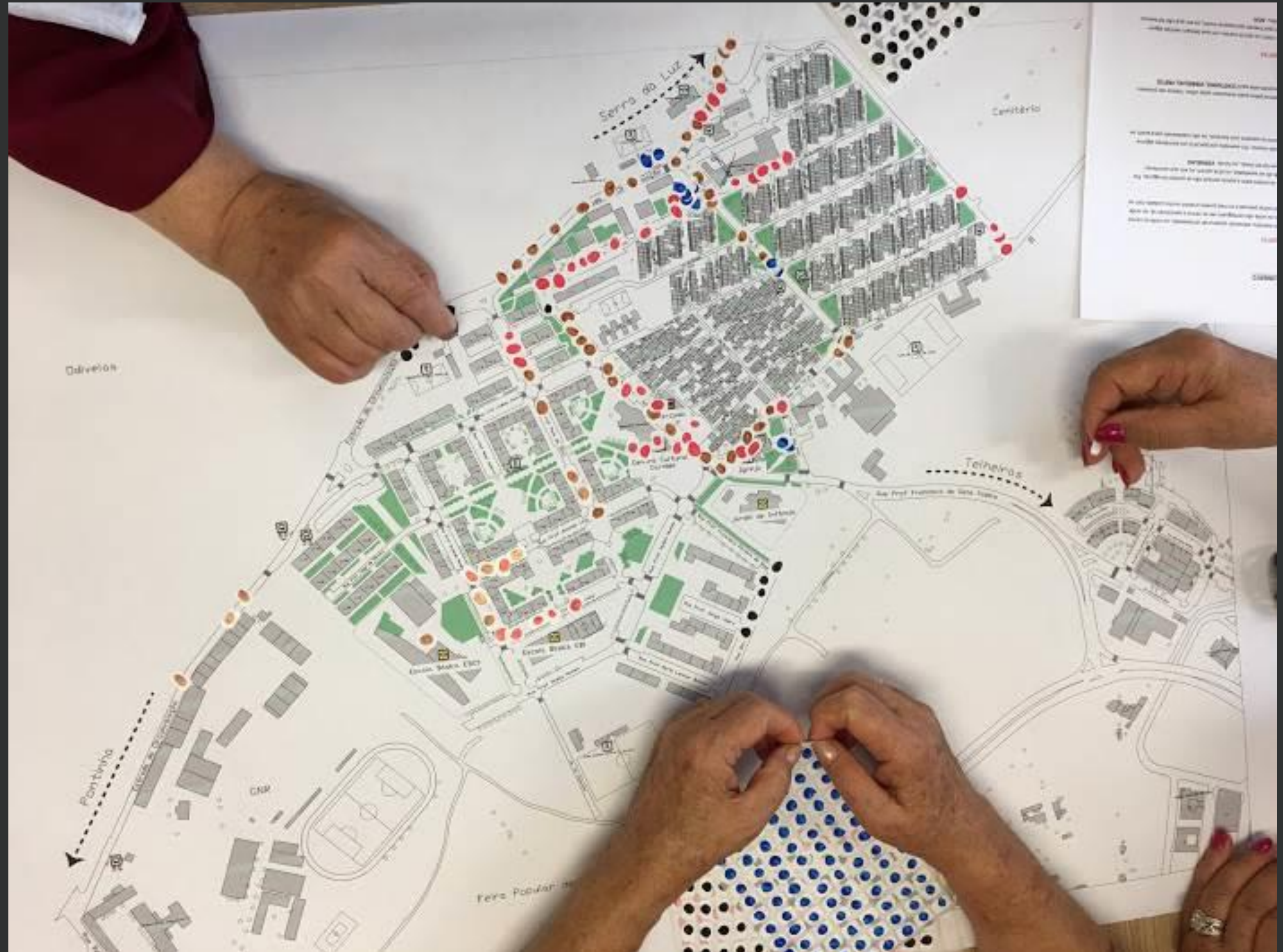


**What
methods
we used**

**Focus
Groups**

Participatory Mapping

50 women and girls



**What
methods
we used**

**Interviews
face-to-face**

BUS stops

49 women



How we reached women and girls

- We didn't head straight for participants
- Work with local authorities, sports' associations, residents' associations
- Schools, nurseries
- Speak to shopkeepers





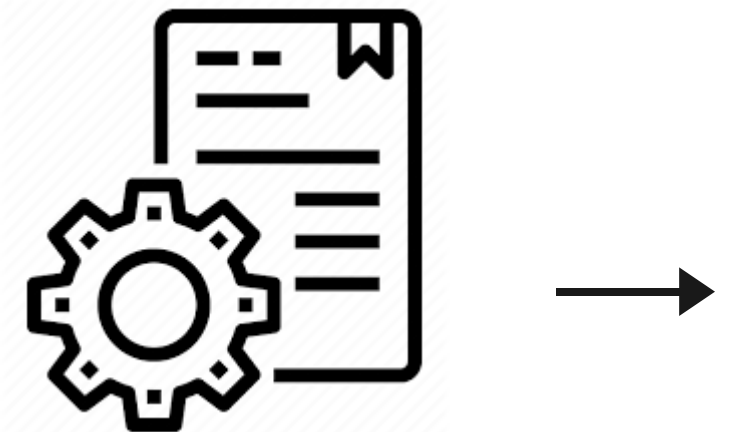
Reflections on Data Collection



1

The process

- Know the territory and ‘local politics’
- Ask questions about your framework before and during the process – not after
- What groups of people is the process leaving out?
- Provide time for flexibility



2

Participants

- Participants' awareness of the topic varies greatly.
- Be empathetic and don't judge. Their experience is as valid as yours.
- Participants may have been recruited as part of a 'group'. Their lives are intersectional.
- Ask questions. Don't assume.



3

As officers
As researchers
As mobility experts

- Be ready for silences.
- Be ready for discomfort.
- Colleagues may have different views on gender and mobility. The theme is evolving.
- Asking about women's mobility patterns and perpetuating stereotypes of what roles women should have – caregiver, household chores – a fine line?





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Thank you!

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