Overview of key themes

Workshop on *Transport and Social Exclusion: Employment, Education and Training Perspectives*

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Key topics (1)

- Challenges of the changing geography of employment and new ways of working
  - rebalancing the economy
  - sectoral and occupational change
  - part-time work – and the temporality of work: 24/7
  - contemporary workplaces – the rise of home working and the demise of fixed workplaces?
  - household location decisions – maximising job opportunities by locating close to motorway junctions and rail stations
  - does the transport infrastructure match the economic geography of the 21st century?
Key topics (2)

- *Dynamics of access and the limits of travel-to-work*
  - the nature of job search
  - employers’ recruitment policies
  - how far is it worth travelling to work? – variations by sub-group
  - who is willing to travel? and who is not?
  - access to private transport and public transport provision
  - negotiating household responsibilities and trip chaining
Moving jobs to workers versus Moving workers to jobs

- Get on your bike
  “We cannot ignore the price that unemployment today is exacting. I know the problems. I grew up in the 1930s with an unemployed father. He didn’t riot. He got on his bike and looked for work and kept looking until he found it.”
  (Norman Tebbit, 1981)

- Get on the bus
  “There is a tendency of people to say there are no jobs. There are jobs – they may not be absolutely in the town you are living in … they may be in a neighbouring town.
  [referring to Methyr Tydfil]
  Many did not know that there were jobs in Cardiff; they had become static and did not know that if they got on the bus in an hour’s time they’d be in Cardiff.”
  (Iain Duncan Smith, 2010)
Key topics (3)

- **Immobility as a barrier to employment for workless people – policies to enhance mobility**
  - Objective and subjective opportunity structures – the role of perceptual factors and travel horizons
  - Understanding the nexus of the geography of jobs, skills, health, caring responsibilities, access to transport, etc
  - The policy challenge – linking transport with other domains
  - The rationale of immobility
  - Relocation versus commuting
Employment and skills policy questions

• How can low skilled individuals be encouraged to widen their work search areas?
• How significant a factor is transport and transport costs? (Are transport problems a ‘convenient excuse’?)
• Are other factors at play and how may they be overcome?
• How does this differ across different types of geography?
• Can work location be re-organised?
Key topics (4)

• The role of transport in inequalities in access to training and implications for skills development
  - decisions – of employers and (potential) workers - are intimately connected with the conditions that prevail in local labour markets
  - variations in opportunities to access training and skills development
  - costs of training provision and costs of accessing training vary geographically
  - the particular challenge facing peripheral rural areas: does poor transport exacerbate the low skills equilibrium and limit opportunities for local economic development?
Methodological approaches

- Census of Population
- Surveys
- Administrative data
- Narratives
- Longitudinal data