

## Articulating 'Mobilisation': Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Making and Becoming Mobile

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The DOC-team project “Articulating ‘Mobilisation’: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on making and becoming mobile” started from the transdisciplinary field of mobility studies to enquire modes of being and becoming mobile in different contexts of mediated communication. Theoretically, the project has shifted towards the branch of Critical Mobility Studies, which challenge idealising assumptions of movement as freedom and precursor of modernity. At the same time, the individual theses have been further developed and benefited from implementing the emerging perspectives gained from our joint efforts to theorise mobilisation as mode of enquiry. Regarding mobility as a meaningful practice rather than a mere observable and measurable process, the overall project has more closely integrated insights from communication and media studies to think about how subject-formation is worked on through mobilisation as a communicative strategy.

Questioning homogeneous ideas of subject and subject-culture, intersectional approaches were usefully discussed to account for social, cultural and political multiplicities and their transformative potential. This lies at the core of how mobilisation can be used as a critical framework, asking who puts whom or what in motion, and for which purpose. As such, the implications of mediated mobilities, though not explicitly media-centric, of foregrounding the aspect of mediation in contrast to seemingly unmediated forms of making and becoming mobile has been critically assessed by the team members for their individual dissertations and disciplines, respectively. Analysing different communicative situations, mobilisation as an innovative and productive mode of enquiry has prompted methodological ramifications to investigate the tensions between making and becoming mobile in varying media-ecologies, assembling bodies, affects, and technologies to communicate. For a common frame of inquiry, the concept of articulation as proposed by Stuart Hall has been brought into dialogue with disciplinary work and methodology. Although television, online-platforms and literary texts articulate in different ways in terms of communicative practices, the articulated concepts are similar, most strikingly the tensions between dwelling and senses of belongings and identifications. For asking how cultural forms articulate power over and through the movement of people, objects and information, the team has also resorted to the concept of affordance, which helps account for the multiple ranges of contingency and structural demands. By referring to the affordances of cultural forms, the mechanisms and workings of mobilisations can be enquired in situative terms without falling back to determinist models.

As a strategic form with communicative purposes, mobilisation as developed by the DOC-team's interdisciplinary endeavour oscillates between its material and metaphorical dimension. It thereby relates practices of becoming and making mobile to prevalent and emerging ideas and imaginations of home-making, travel and communities as well as to the affordances of infrastructures and communication technologies. For the remainder of the project, mobilisation will be attuned to methodological specificities during the finalisation of the individual theses, which will further deepen an understanding of how mobilisation can be put to work in other fields of research.