

The Multiple User of Transantiago: Some preliminary thoughts and findings

Dr Sebastian Ureta

Visiting Research Fellow
Centre for Mobilities Research (CEMORE)
Sociology Department
Lancaster University

Lecturer
Instituto de Sociología
Universidad Católica de Chile
Santiago, Chile

Tel: +56 2 6864213 Fax: +56 2 5521834 email: sureta@uc.cl

On February 10th 2007 a new public transport plan, called 'Transantiago', started in the city of Santiago, Chile. Among its main measures included a complete reconfiguration of the bus routes, the interconnection between networks of buses and Metro, the introduction of a payment card, the replacement of old buses and, in general terms, a new way to administrate and organize public transport in the city. In the development of Transantiago several actors, both public and private, were involved, each of them dealing with different aspects of it: buses, routes, information, money, etc. This presentation, based on an ongoing ethnographic research started at the beginning of 2007, deals with the multiple ways in which the future users of Transantiago were 'enacted' by these actors in their working practices while developing the plan. Using a combination of both Mobility Research and Actor-Network Theory analytical frameworks the aim is to compare and analyze how these multiple enactments interact with the human beings, mostly low income population, who started using Transantiago for their daily travels in February 2007.



Sebastian Ureta finished his PhD in 2006 at Media and Communications Department, London School of Economics. He was awarded his BA (Sociology) and MA (Sociology) from Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago where he is originally from. Following his PhD he started working at Instituto de Sociología, Universidad Católica de Chile as a lecturer. His research explores the connections among topics of communication and transport technologies, everyday life, social exclusion and urban space. He has published research articles in journals such as Journal of Urban Technology, The Information Society and Journal of Home Cultures.