

# **OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM**

Press Release

**New mobility - new city? Interactions between new mobility concepts and urban space**

**A lecture by Barbara Kuehn /Institut für Verkehrsforschung / Berlin on June 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm at Oskar von Miller Forum via livestream**

The model of the "car-friendly city" - dominant in the second half of the last century - seems to continue to have an unbroken effect, despite all attempts to counteract it. From the 1960s onwards, cities were redesigned for private car traffic with the aim of opening up the city to motorised individual transport on a large scale and thus - so the conviction goes - achieving maximum accessibility. The car in the city has remained a matter of course; only very gradually is the bicycle conquering a place in the city; pedestrians are often left with only the pedestrian zone in the city centre as the place where walking has priority.

In order to push back the dominance of the car, measures have been and are being implemented in cities that, on the one hand, make the use of the private car unattractive and, on the other hand, provide and promote environmentally friendly and, above all, less space-consuming mobility alternatives. In addition to traditional public transport and cycling, these include the shared use of vehicles, especially in the context of car or ridesharing.

The simultaneously growing discussion on the reallocation and redistribution of public space is accompanied nationally and internationally by diverse experiments that make the changed urban space tangible and give people a direct impression of how less traffic can generate more quality of life. Using examples from Germany and Europe, the lecture shows which ideas and options are behind the term "new mobility concepts" and which framework conditions are necessary for their success, but above all for the expected effect on public space and traffic in the city.

## **About**

Barbara Lenz was Director of the DLR Institute for Transport Research in Berlin until the beginning of 2021. At the same time, she taught and researched as a professor of transport geography at Humboldt University in Berlin. After studying German and geography, she completed her doctorate on regional development in rural areas in 1994 and habilitated on the globalisation of value chains in 2001. Her more recent research focuses on the acceptance of new technologies in the transport sector, especially automation, the transformation of the transport sector and informal transport in developing countries.

She has been involved in various national, European and international bodies for years, such as the 6th EU-US Transport Research Symposium "Socio-economic Impacts of Automated and Connected Vehicles" in 2018, the EU Transport Advisory Group and the EU Advisory Board on Gender Issues; she is currently a member of the EU Mission Board on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities. Since 2019, she has chaired one of six working groups of the German National Platform for the Future of Mobility and is a member of the Expert Commission on the Federal Government's Monitoring Report "Energy of the Future".

In 2013, she was awarded the Order of Merit "Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite" by the Republic of France for her commitment to transnational research cooperation.

On 1 April 2021, Barbara Lenz handed over the reins of the DLR Institute of Transport Research to her successor, Prof. Meike Jipp, but will remain actively involved in DLR as well as in academic research and teaching at Humboldt-Universität and will continue to perform tasks in national, European and international committees.

The Institute of Transport Research in Berlin-Adlershof is one of four research institutes in the Transport programme area of the German Aerospace Center. The research of the Berlin institute is based on a holistic, systemic approach that places the human being as an actor at the centre of the consideration.

Lecture in German