

Research Title:

Behavioral changes among shared car users during the COVID-19 pandemic

Primary Investigator:

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Car sharing services have emerged recently as viable alternatives to both car ownership and to public transportation services. See reviews of these services in Ferrero et al. (2018) and Illgen and Höck (2019). Their growing popularity is an indication to a process of change, still at initial stages, from use of self-owned vehicles to a perception of mobility as a service (Jittrapirom et al. 2017) .

A clear side effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019-2020 was drastic changes in the extent and patterns of travel resulting from long periods of restrictions on travel and on various social activities and gatherings, reduced economic activities and the public's worries about health. These impacted all modes of transportation, including car sharing. However, the unusual conditions during the pandemic could also lead individuals to seek alternative modes of travel and examine the option of using new modes, such as car sharing .

This study attempts to evaluate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the use of car sharing services through a survey of the behaviors of service users before and during the pandemic. A survey was conducted among car sharing users to collect data on the service use patterns, within the two periods, in terms of frequency and purposes as well as the respondents' attitudes and perceptions towards the pandemic by itself and in relations to the car sharing service.