

Participation Report - IATBR 2024 Conference

This July, I participated in the IATBR (International Association for Travel Behaviour Research) conference. I presented on behalf of myself and Prof. Sigal Kaplan our work on studying the effects of a 2013 tax reform on safety system installation rates. I received some interesting suggestions and questions that would be of great assistance in our continued work on this subject.

The conference was held in Vienna and lasted 5 days. It included 10 sessions on various topics including choice analysis, survey design, activity-based analysis, simulations, car ownership models, electric vehicles, public transport planning, teleworking, e-shopping, policy, shared mobility, spatial analysis, multimodal transport planning and more. The conference also included excursions, of which I went to the Vienna City Climate Strategy Office. There was also a welcome dinner hosted by the municipality of Vienna in the beautiful Rathaus building, and a farewell dinner held at a beergarden.

The conference dealt with a very diverse range of topics and methodologies, but given that it is centered around travel behaviour, I felt there was a large focus on demand side issues, with an emphasis on stated preference methodologies. Given that I come from an economics background, it was very interesting to see research much different from the observed preference I am used to, and less focused on solutions from the supply side.

This can be further emphasized by conversations I had with colleagues who research the acceptance of electric vehicles. Policies that aim at high rates of electric vehicle market penetration in the coming years look mostly at supply, but sometimes ignore that there needs to be a change in consumers' tastes, since they need to end up purchasing these vehicles.

The conference is held every 3 years, and participation includes membership in the association for the years until the next conference. I would highly recommend applying as the diverse set of topics could be of interest to anyone doing research in fields related to transportation and urban planning.

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