## Acknowledgment and Reflection on 8th ICTTP 2025 Attendance



Curitiba, Brazil July 9th-11th









Pedestrian Emotional Dimension: A Key Metric for Future Urban Planning and Mobility

## Emotional Impact of Pedestrian Encounters with E-Scooter Traffic: A Comparative Analysis of Copenhagen and Tel Aviv



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My participation in the 8th International Conference on Traffic and Transportation Psychology (ICTTP), held from July 9 to 11, 2025, in the beautiful city of Curitiba, Brazil, was an enriching experience. It was a great opportunity to connect with the IAAP Traffic & Transportation Psychology - Division 13 leading researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss insights at the intersection of psychology, transportation, and urban mobility.

At the conference, I presented my PhD research on Assessing Pedestrian Stress Perception and Preferences in Proximity to E-Scooter Traffic: A Cross-Cultural Comparison Between Tel Aviv and Copenhagen. This work emphasizes how pedestrian emotional well-being and perceived stress can directly influence urban planning and transportation policies. It was rewarding to exchange ideas with fellow researchers who recognize the importance of considering psychological metrics when designing urban transit systems.

Additionally, the conference sessions, workshops, and keynotes provided rich insights into cutting-edge methodologies and innovative psychological frameworks, particularly emphasizing empathy, emotional impact, and user-centric approaches in transport systems design. Engaging discussions emphasized the need for policies that enhance not only pedestrian safety, which is widely researched, but also well-being, a topic central to my doctoral research.

I am thankful to the Israel Smart Transportation Research Center (ISTRC) for their continued support of my research on pedestrian stress perception. Their generous funding once again enabled me to engage with international experts, share my latest research findings, and advance my understanding of how psychological factors shape transport experiences and urban design decisions. Also, I thank my supervisor, Prof. Yoram Shiftan from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Faculty at the Technion, whose

guidance and mentorship have profoundly influenced my academic journey and encouraged my active involvement in such important international forums.

Reflecting on this enriching experience, I would like to offer several recommendations for future attendees:

- 1. Advance Preparation is Essential: Certainly, this advice is grounded in common sense. Review the detailed conference schedule in advance to maximize your participation. Also, plan your travel itinerary carefully. When arranging transportation, consider possible delays and cancellations, especially if you have connecting flights, to help ensure a smoother arrival and reduce stress.
- 2. **Networking Intentionally**: Conferences provide a unique mix of researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, and policymakers, making them a prime opportunity to establish meaningful professional connections. For example, I had the valuable experience of meeting the editor-in-chief of a prestigious journal, which led to an invitation to submit my research for publication ©
- 3. **Engage in Active Discussions**: Engage openly with new and previously acquainted colleagues. Conversations with presenters and attendees can lead to valuable insights, inspire future collaborations, and open possibilities to innovative research and collaborations.
- 4. **Explore Local Culture**: Make time to explore your host city's culture, cuisine, architecture, nature, and history. Curitiba, for example, provided wonderful opportunities to immerse myself in vibrant cultural experiences, complementing the insights from the conference.

I'm happy to discuss the conference further or answer any questions. Please don't hesitate to reach out!

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