

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
CENTRE OF URBAN PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

are pleased to present a seminar by

Prof Harry Timmermans

Professor of Urban Planning (Eindhoven University of Technology)

On

Classificatory Studies of Activity-Travel Patterns

Time: 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, 17 December, 2003

Venue: Room 201, Map Library, Hui Oi Chow Science Building, HKU

About the Speaker

Professor Timmermans (1952) is currently the Master of Arts of Transport Policy and Planning (MATPP) External Examiner (2003-2005). He was appointed Professor of Urban Planning at the Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands in 1985. He currently is Head of the Urban Planning Group and Director of the European Institute of Retailing and Services Studies (EIRASS). His research interests concern the development of models of spatial choice behaviour and the development of decision support systems in a variety of application domains, including transportation, retailing, tourism and recreation, and housing. One of his most recent research endeavours concerns the development of Albatross, currently the only fully operational rule-based, computational process model of travel demand, developed for the Dutch Ministry of Transport. He has (co-)authored close to 200 refereed articles in geography, transportation, urban planning, marketing, artificial intelligence, tourism, and applied computer science.

Professor Timmermans is founder editor of the *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*, and has acted as (European/Associate) editor of *TESEG*, *Geographical and Environment Modelling* and *Leisure Sciences*. He (has) served and is still serving on the editorial board of many journals, including *Geographical Analysis*, *Transportation Research*, *Tourism Analysis* and *Sistemi Urbani*.

Seminar Abstract

The presentation will be concerned with classification of urban activity-travel patterns. Such studies serve to identify the main underlying dimensions of activity-travel patterns and how these relate to a set of socio-demographic characteristics. In addition to such descriptive analysis, classification has been used as a first step in building activity-based models of travel demand. Earlier studies will be discussed. Unfortunately, these classifications do not take into account the sequence of activities across the day. Recently, sequence alignment methods have been introduced in the transportation literature to account for such sequential information. The quintessence of this approach will be discussed. Next, the findings of a classification study, using this new methodology, conducted in the Amsterdam-Utrecht corridor in the Netherlands, will be discussed. Different activity-travel patterns, which can be related to socio-demographics, were found.