

Creating Travel Spaces

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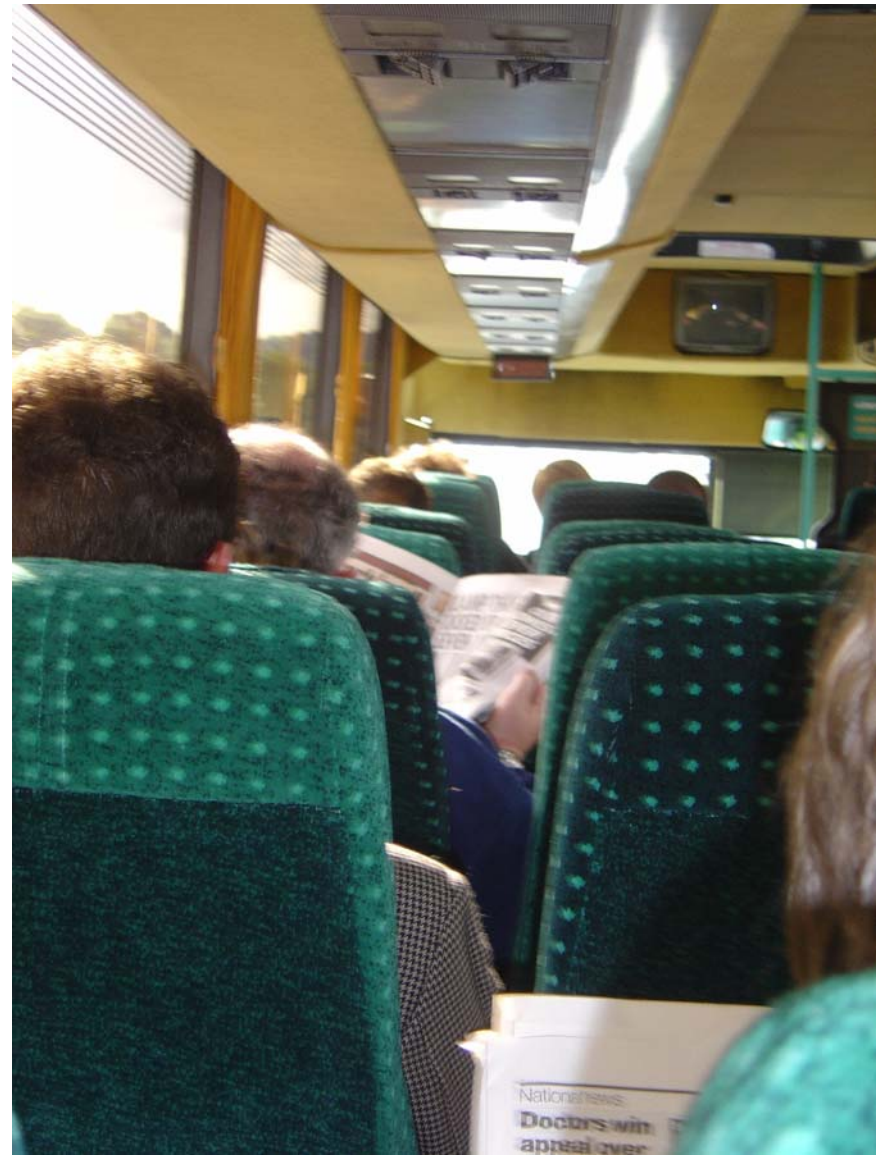
Travel spaces as

- **Fixed** (throughout journey)
 - layout of carriage, bus, etc
- **Permeable** (changes during journey)
 - objects brought in by the traveller
 - people – staff and travellers
 - sensory factors such as sight, sound, smell
- **Imagined**
 - discourses of desire

Evidence drawn from

- Focus groups (all modes)
- Ethnography (bus, rail, car & walking)
- National Rail Passenger Survey
- Stakeholder interviews

The fixed



NATIONAL RAIL PASSENGERS SURVEY

	Total
MORE LEG - ROOM/ SPACE	41
MORE COMFORTABLE TRAINS	28
BETTER AIR CONDITIONING IN THE CARRIAGE	28
MORE 'QUIET COACHES' PROVIDED	28
A SMOOTHER RIDE QUALITY ON THE JOURNEY	17
MORE/ BETTER SPACE FOR LUGGAGE	17
LARGER TABLES IN CARRIAGES	13
RELIABLE UNBROKEN SIGNAL FOR PHONE CALLS/ INTERNET ACCESS	12
MORE 'FAMILY COACHES' PROVIDED WHERE CHILDREN ARE WELCOME	7
MORE OR BETTER POWER CONNECTIONS FOR PASSENGER USE	4
BETTER LIGHTING	4
BETTER SECURITY FOR VALUABLES (LAPTOP, MOBILES ETC.)	3
DIFFERENT CARRIAGE LAYOUT TO PROVIDE 'OFFICES'	3



Constraints & opportunities

- **Focus group/ethnography**

- Public transport

- Not needing to drive/concentrate
- Having a seat/seat with table/power
- Tables as work space
- Enough space to spread out/temporarily store
- Luggage etc is problematic – storage/security
- Privacy – coaches & airline/single seats offer the most privacy

- **Stakeholder interviews**

- Interior design (incl. aesthetics & legroom)
- Re-conceptualising the bus (layout/vehicle)
- Power, wifi & entertainment
- Multi-Purpose Vehicles
- Cost and life of trains & buses, & commercial viability
- Health and safety constraints

The permeable

Sound

- Vehicle
- Gadgets
- Announcements & staff service
- People (incl. children) moving, talking, crying, eating
- Newspapers rustling

Smell

- Food – take away & served
- Vehicle/traffic – pollution, breaking, toilets
- People – perfume, sweat, smoke

Electronic (non-audible/visible)

- Mobile phone signals
- Email via Blackberries
- Wifi connections

Visual

- Through the window
- Around the vehicle

Heat/light

- Temperature – vehicle heating/cooling
- Artificial light
- Natural light – through window
- Effect of weather

Objects & people

- Luggage, bags, etc
- Work documents/leisure reading
- Electronic devices
- Food/drink

Moveable objects



Objects taken & used (NRPS)

	COMMUTE		BUSINESS		LEISURE	
	To hand	Used	To hand	Used	To hand	Used
NEWSPAPER	81	30	83	32	71	25
READING BOOK	42	23	29	15	31	17
TEXT BOOK	10	4	7	4	4	2
MAGAZINE	13	5	14	8	18	10
PAPERWORK	26	10	53	32	10	6
GAMES/ PUZZLES	3	1	3	1	4	2
LAPTOP COMPUTER	7	2	20	7	2	0
MOBILE PHONE	72	22	78	35	56	22
PDA/ HANDHELD COMP	7	2	12	5	2	1
PERSONAL STEREO/RAD	15	9	7	3	9	5
FOOD/ DRINK	23	11	34	25	36	24

Time use and the travel experience

- **Focus groups**

- Commuters/women 'bag is always packed'
- Car as wardrobe, storage, office
- Planned activities = purposefully chosen objects
- Having something to do as important as doing
- Rejection of doing and desire to escape

- **Ethnography observations**

- Personalisation of public space
 - Placement and organisation of documents & computers, mobile phones, and bags
 - Newspapers/books
 - Personal stereos/MP3/iPods/radios etc
- Blurring of work & leisure spaces



Field notes: Guildford to London commute (train)

09:05 Clapham. We don't stop. Not far now. Graham looks out of the window and then at the screen and types. Noreen runs a programme and asks Graham a time related question. The air conditioning is loud so I can't hear what they say. It's not cool but not hot on the train. Can see other trains waiting on the line behind some houses. Must be coming up to a set of points.
09:08 Graham opens eyes and gazes out of the window. Noreen is entering numbers into a table again.

“distractions on the train, loud passengers, mobiles, recorded announcements etc are irritating

in a strange way, the ‘white noise’ aspects of a train are sometimes more conducive to creative writing than absolute silence.” Graham

Sam: “I must admit I love, on the train, looking out of the window. I don't know why it is I feel like a kid when I get on the train I've always liked looking when you can't see what's coming up you know I think what might be coming up I must be easily excited or something” (**Cumbria Focus Group**)



Fieldnotes: Bristol City Centre – Emerson’s Green (bus)

17.20 1st stop. No movement upstairs. People are chatting. Cindy takes a call and she discusses dinner arrangements. After the call she discuss dinner with Kevin next to her. Some women in front talk about cars looking at some ads in the newspaper. A mobile rings and a man answers. There are quite a few people with headphones. A black man, Barry, flips his mobile phone open and shut. David and I are scorched on the back seat by the sun.

Fieldnotes: Brixton to Victoria (bus)

An older blind man ‘George’ with a cane is helped on by a young woman. He sits down next to Joan, and his helper stands up behind him. George and Joan chat. They must know each other. Another stop a black woman ‘Carmen’ gets on and exclaims. She kisses Joan and George and stands in the aisle talking. There is a woman ‘Sandra’ with a pushchair behind her, who looks slightly annoyed she can’t get passed. George’s helper indicates to Carmen she is blocking the way, and a diddy baby is wheeled and parked in front of Tim and me. Sandra sits on the disabled seat watching the pushchair. Carmen sits the wrong way round on the seat in front of George and Joan talking loudly.



Fieldnotes: Newcastle to London Kings X (train)

Scrambled eggs pass by. How have they ordered this? Was it when I was in the loo? Other have smoked salmon and scrambled egg. There is one going begging, unable to find who ordered it. The smell wafts. Brian moves his computer when his plate arrives. He doesn't quite know what to do with it and then moves the cutlery in the seat opposite and reposition it. A working breakfast!

[later] Brian draws the curtain. The sun is shining but not on me. I'm a bit cold. He shuts out the sun and view. So do others.

Fieldnotes: Southend to London Fenchurch St (train)

Barry leans against the window, eyes shut. Nigel makes a small snore. My phone rings. It wakes Nigel. He returns to his book. Barry is awake too. Tracy reads a book (looks like Harry Potter), while listening to her music. The voices murmur on along the coach. Here all is even quieter now. Only the occasional newspaper rustle from Tom.

Imagined spaces

2239101

A-B. The hyphen should be
the exciting bit.

The new generation C-Class.  Mercedes-Benz



Extreme discourses of desire

Dave describes travelling as “low grade enthrallment”, while another participant argues it’s “damage limitation”

Dave: “journeys can be interesting, it would be exciting if you were shot at by bandits or there was a carriage running with a lap dancing show, a bar with poker in it, a rock and roll band playing at one end of the carriage that would be exciting yes great.” (London Focus Group)

Discourses of desire

- **My space** – solitude, escape, dreamtime
- **Observational space** – window/people gazing
- **Regulated/quiet space** – everyone should know the rules
- **Work space** – talk with colleagues, prepare, read, time away from office distractions
- **Social space** – meeting friends, making calls/txt

Conclusions

- Fixed space offers opportunities but also creates constraints
 - to the use of travel time use
- The travel space is constant process of creation
 - Internally affected by
 - movement of people & objects
 - sounds, smell, noise, light, temperature etc
 - and affected by the external land/road-scapes and the weather
- Travellers have imagined notions of travel spaces
 - reflects their experiences and desires, and the myths circulated amongst people and by the media