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Exploring the Relationship Between Perceived Bikeability and Gender-Inclusive Micromobility Usage A Study Across 53 French Cities

Scientific Seminar: Accessibility and Connectivity of the 15-minute-city ACUTE / UERA TWG Urban Accessibility and Connectivity

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Dylan MOINSE LVMT, Université Gustave Eiffel, École des Ponts, F-77455 Marne-la-Vallée, France





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Background

Gendered environmental practices and preferences in favor of women, with the exception of **mobility** [1]:

- Lower carbon footprint than men because women favor walking and transit and make shorter journeys [2];
- Less willing to reduce car use and especially to opt for cycling [1].

Observation of a **cycling gender gap** compared to other modes:

- In a myriad of studies, especially in **Western countries** [3, 4];
- Emergence of electric micromobility devices reinforcing gender inequalities [5, 6];
- Pronounced gender contrast in intermodal travel combining cycling with transit [6];
- Differs from the typically higher female participation in walking and public transportation [7].

Are the promotion of inclusive mobility and the **15-minute City compatible**?

- A paradigm shift emphasizing nodes accessible by foot and bike in X minutes [8];
- Parity achieved by a handful of Northern European countries [9];
- Gender inequalities cannot simply be ascribed to cultural differences [10];
- Impacts of disseminated social norms and the configuration and design of public spaces [11].
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Research Aim

Discrepancies in the research:

- Positive association between gender-neutral cycling usage and the level of cycling across cities and countries [12];
- An increase in cycling modal share does **not systematically** diversify the user profile in terms of gender distribution [13, 14];
- A mismatch between objective and perceived built environment regarding bikeability and safety experienced by cyclists [15, 16].

Reseach problem:

- Can we observe a relationship between the gender distribution of cycling and the **objective and perceived built environment**?
- Does urban planning for proximity serve as a catalyst for enhancing a more inclusive mobility system?
- Are there differences based on the type of micromobility and trip pattern?

Objectives:

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- 1. **Quantifying** gender-based disparities in the use of micromobility, focusing on commuting patterns;
- 2. Assessing the impact of perceived bikeability on the gender-influenced micromobility use;
- 3. Employing a **comparative approach** to identify and categorize the examined areas;
- 4. Formulating an **indicator** that captures the key interactions among the analyzed variables and gender-specific use of micromobility.

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Mixed Methods

Geographical scope: French context;

Case study: Hauts-de-France Region.

Secondary analysis of public surveys:

- Characterizing French cities in terms of cycling modal share, gender distribution and the bike-friendliness ratings;
- 2019 Population Census, derived from the Professional Mobilities (MOBPro) by • the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Insee) [17];
- 2021 Bicycle-Friendly Cities Barometer (third edition), by the *Bicycle Users* • Federation (FUB) [18].

Application of "quantitative observations":

- Capturing the **demographic profiles** of intermodal passengers by micromobility in the Hauts-de-France region;
- Systematic collection of field data, based on a categorization and enchanced by videographic recordings [19];
- Carried out at **nine train stations**, including "major regional hubs", "stations ٠ oriented towards Paris" and "feeder stations" [20];
- During peak hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, between March and June 2022. •

Fig.1: Quantitative Observation Session on One of the Platforms at Lille Flandres Station







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Sampling

Secondary analysis of public surveys

n_{FUB} = **65,850** n_{Insee} = **94,788**

MOBPro Census

(Insee, 2019)

N = 7,932,895 responses

Inclusion criteria 1: '*TRANS=3*' = 409,326 cyclists

Inclusion criteria 2: ≥200 cyclists per municipality = 128,492 cyclists in 144 cities:

- 51,719 female cyclists;
- 76,773 male cyclists.

Baromètre des Villes Cyclables (FUB, 2021)

N = 277,384 responses

Inclusion criteria 3: Attribute join between 144 cities (*Insee*) and the municipalities with at least 100 cyclists' responses = 64 cities

Inclusion criteria 4: Central cities of agglomerations = 53 municipalities **Empirical approach**

Quantitative observation (2022)

N = 15,435 passengers

Nine railway stations:

- 'National and regional interest stations' (4);
- 'Parisian regional influence hub' (1);
- 'Feeder stations' (4).

Inclusion criteria: Intermodal passengers by micromobility modes

n_{oo} = **1,035**

Ride-along interviews (2022)

Two participants:

• *RI_ES_1* (F):

From Lille to Maubeuge by regional train and private e-scooter.

• *RI_ES_2* (H):

From Lille to Villeneuve d'Ascq by metro and private e-scooter.

n_{RI} = **2**

Gender Imbalance

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Female users account for only **38.08%** of cycling commuters in the country, whereas they constitute 51.60% of the population;

Contrast that intensifies in the context of intermodal mobility, with a decline to **28.21%**, although they represent 52% of the transit passengers [21].

Substantial **variations** when considering micromobility modes:

- **Personal bicycles** and **escooters** showing the most distinct gender inequalities;
- More balanced gender distribution in the case of folding bicycles and kick standing scooters.

N=409,326

2019 *MOBPro* Database on Commuting Unimodal Bicycle Use



Legend

F Folding Bike O O

O Other Micromobility Devices

S Human-Powered (Kick) Scooter

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Fig.2: Distribution of Cyclists by Gender and Type of Micromobility in France

N=1,035

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Ouantitative Observation of Intermodal

Passengers Using Micromobility

"Safety in Numbers"

Linear regression model underscores the relative **strong and positive correlation** between female participation and the **cycling modal share** across 53 French cities:

- $\rho_{Pearson} = 0.73$
- As the number of cyclists increases in public spaces, motorists are more likely to view them as a legitimate group of road users [22, 23].

In line with research articles based on an **international comparison** [24]:

• Within countries where cycling rates fall below 7%, women exhibit an average 56% lower likelihood of cycling compared to men [25].

Fig.3: Cross-Mapping of Modal and Gendered Share of Cycling in France



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Bikeability Score

No causal relationships between these two variables: Is it the critical mass that fosters greater gender diversity among cyclists, the higher involvement of women in cycling that arises the modal share, or a combination of both factors?

Identification of a positive association between the **perceived bikeability score** among cyclists and the gender-specific cycling rate:

- Both within Metropolises, Urban Communities and Agglomeration Communities;
- Parity could be attainable when a city's bikeability score surpasses 4.3/6;
- Quantitative observation for the e-scooter align to a lesser extent with the regression model.



Bikeability Indicators

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Main subfactors exerting substantial influence pertain to:

- Widespread adoption of bicycles (Q19);
- Sense of safety experienced during cycling (Q20);
- Safety on **residential** streets (Q22);
- **Promotion** of cycling (Q32);
- Playful and enjoyable aspect (Q14);
- Capacity to navigate swiftly and directly (Q15);
- Safety on intersections (Q24);
- Engaging cyclists in mobility and urban planning **projects** (Q33);
- Municipal efforts (Q31);
- **Quality** of the network (Q26);
- Safety on main roads (Q21).



Fig.5: Linear Regression Model between the Gendered Distribution of Cycling and the Questions used to Aggregate the Perceived Bikeability Score by Municipality 9/11



Objective and Perceived Bikeability

| Independent Variables | ρ _{Pearson} | P _{Pearson} | ρ _{Spearman} | P _{Spearman} | SD |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Bicycle Modal Share | 0.729 | <0.001 | 0.807 | <0.001 | 0.037 |
| Proportion of Cycling Infrastructure | 0.647 | <0.001 | 0.670 | <0.001 | 0.071 |
| Bikeability Score | 0.619 | <0.001 | 0.618 | <0.001 | 0.499 |
| City's Efforts (Theme 4) | 0.618 | <0.001 | 0.619 | <0.001 | 0.645 |
| General Perception (Theme 1) | 0.603 | <0.001 | 0.613 | <0.001 | 0.523 |
| Comfort (Theme 3) | 0.598 | <0.001 | 0.609 | <0.001 | 0.545 |
| Safety (Theme 2) | 0.596 | <0.001 | 0.604 | <0.001 | 0.539 |
| Services and Parking (Theme 5) | 0.490 | <0.001 | 0.438 | <0.001 | 0.379 |
| Proportion of Cycling and 30km/h Areas | 0.347 | <0.05 | 0.398 | <0.001 | 0.218 |
| Population Density | 0.281 | <0.05 | 0.396 | <0.01 | 3,020.555 |

Aggregate outcomes of independent variables associated with the characteristics of the urban setting, evaluated by **objective geographical data** and **individual perception**.

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Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the Linear Regression Model

Realization: Moinse, 2023

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Classification

Classification of the 53 French cities based on their bikeability scores and the degree of feminization in cycling:

• **Bivariate** geostatistical analysis;

Four categories:

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- 1. Gender-balanced and bicyclesupportive;
- Gender-balanced yet unfavorable to cycling;
- 3. Gender-disparate yet bicycle supportive;
- 4. Gender disparate and unfavorable to cycling.

 I_{gcb} encompassing gendered use of bicycle (I_{a}) , its modal share (I_{c}) and bikeability (I_{b}) :

- Average score of **0.098** and a median of **0.067**;
- Top ranking: **Strasbourg** (0.47), **Grenoble** (0.44), **La Rochelle** (0.34), and **Bordeaux** (0.32).

Fig.6: Bivariate Map of the 53 French Cities according to Gender Distribution, Cycling Use and Perceived Bikeability



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Highlights

Statistically **significant association** among the modal share of cycling, perceived bikeability, and the proportion of female cyclists within the 53 French cities under examination:

- Consistent for both conventional **bicycle** and emerging **micromobility** alternatives;
- As well as both **unimodal** and **intermodal** journeys when integrated with train.

Achieving gender parity in cycling goes beyond mere considerations of "safety in numbers" or the presence of cycling infrastructure from an urban planning perspective:

- Key driver lies in the **perceived bike-friendliness** experienced by cyclists;
- Factors encompassing the normalization of cycling, the establishment of a secure environment facilitated by continuous, high-quality, and direct cycling infrastructure and the reduction of automobile traffic in residential streets and boulevards, the promotion of comfort and enjoyment in cycling, and proactive engagement by public authorities;
- Involves enhancing the "bicycle system" [26].

Female participation in cycling emerges as a noteworthy **indicator of a bicycle-friendly culture and environment**, with these elements mutually reinforcing each other [27]:

• These dimensions integrating social inclusivity resonate with the concept of the **15-Minute City** that advocates for an urban planning approach that fully embraces proximity, with feminist urbanism [28, 29].

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Preprint:

HAL: Dylan Moinse. *Exploring the Relationship Between Perceived Bikeability and Gender-Inclusive Micromobility Usage: A Study Across 53 French Cities.* 2023.

https://shs.hal.science/halshs-04266904

ResearchGate: Dylan Moinse. Exploring the Relationship Between Perceived Bikeability and Gender-Inclusive Micromobility Usage: A Study Across 53 French Cities. 2023.

- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/375462
 771_Exploring_the_Relationship_Between_Perceiv ed_Bikeability_and_Gender_Inclusive_Micromobili ty_Usage_A_Study_Across_53_French_Cities
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FUB's Baromètre des Villes Cyclables

| ID | Questions | ρ _{Pearson} / ρ _{Spearman} | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| General Perception (Theme 1) | | | | | | |
| Q14 | Pleasantness of cycling | 0.59 / 0.59 | | | | |
| Q15 | Seamlessness of the cycling network | 0.58 / 0.57 | | | | |
| Q16 | Potential conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians | 0.03 / 0.04 | | | | |
| Q17 | Interactions with motorized vehicles | 0.46 / 0.43 | | | | |
| Q18 | Density and speed of traffic | 0.44 / 0.39 | | | | |
| Q19 | Democratization of cycling usage | 0.66 / 0.67 | | | | |
| Safety (Theme 2) | | | | | | |
| Q20 | Safety by cycling | 0.59 / 0.60 | | | | |
| Q21 | Safety on major roads | 0.56 / 0.57 | | | | |
| Q22 | Safety on residential streets | 0.56 / 0.60 | | | | |
| Q23 | Safety by joining the neighboring cities | 0.47 / 0.47 | | | | |
| Q24 | Safety by crossing intersections | 0.57 / 0.58 | | | | |
| Q25 | Inclusivity for children and the elderly | 0.53 / 0.52 | | | | |

| ID | Questions | ρ _{Pearson} / ρ _{Spearman} | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Comfort (Theme 3) | | | | | | |
| Q26 | Quality levels associated with cycling routes | 0.56 / 0.57 | | | | |
| Q27 | Maintenance of cycling routes | 0.53 / 0.51 | | | | |
| Q28 | Presence of road signage | 0.47 / 0.46 | | | | |
| Q29 | Provision of temporary roads during construction | 0.51 / 0.52 | | | | |
| Q30 | Availability of dedicated one-way cycling lanes | 0.51 / 0.55 | | | | |
| Municipal Efforts (Theme 4) | | | | | | |
| Q31 | Initiatives undertaken by the city to promote cycling | 0.57 / 0.59 | | | | |
| Q32 | City's communication efforts | 0.60 / 0.62 | | | | |
| Q33 | Integration of cyclists into discussions on projects | 0.57 / 0.57 | | | | |
| Q34 | Obstructive car parking | 0.29 / 0.25 | | | | |
| Services and Parking (Theme 5) | | | | | | |
| Q35 | Bicycle parking facilities in general | 0.44 / 0.42 | | | | |
| Q36 | Bicycle parking at public transport stations | 0.25 / 0.23 | | | | |
| Q37 | Accessibility of bicycle short/long-term rental services | 0.47 / 0.45 | | | | |
| Q38 | Availability of bicycle stores and repair shops | 0.50 / 0.55 | | | | |
| Q39 | Prevalence of bicycle theft incidents | -0.27 / -0.28 | | | | |

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Detailed Results

| ID | City | I _{gcb} _ | PMV | Density | AC | AC30 |
|----|-------------|--------------------|-----|---------|-----|------|
| 1 | Strasbourg | 0.47 | 17% | 3,713 | 26% | 37% |
| 2 | Grenoble | 0.44 | 17% | 8,728 | 36% | 85% |
| 3 | La Rochelle | 0.34 | 12% | 2,716 | 18% | 26% |
| 4 | Bordeaux | 0.32 | 14% | 5,264 | 23% | 41% |
| 5 | Rennes | 0.22 | 10% | 4,415 | 33% | 60% |
| 6 | Nantes | 0.21 | 10% | 4,920 | 27% | 86% |
| 7 | Angers | 0.17 | 8% | 3,650 | 20% | 53% |
| 8 | Lyon | 0.17 | 9% | 10,909 | 26% | 47% |
| 9 | Chambéry | 0.16 | 8% | 2,819 | 19% | 35% |
| 10 | Annecy | 0.15 | 7% | 1,919 | 15% | 34% |
| 11 | Tours | 0.15 | 7% | 3,976 | 22% | 71% |
| 12 | Toulouse | 0.14 | 9% | 4,210 | 21% | 44% |
| 13 | Avignon | 0.14 | 7% | 1,396 | 22% | 26% |
| 14 | Montpellier | 0.13 | 8% | 5,285 | 19% | 84% |
| 15 | Valence | 0.11 | 6% | 1,736 | 18% | 34% |
| 16 | Caen | 0.11 | 6% | 4,173 | 21% | 29% |
| 17 | Dijon | 0.10 | 6% | 3,937 | 14% | 21% |
| 18 | Lorient | 0.10 | 6% | 3,284 | 18% | 79% |

| ID | City | l _{gcb} | PMV | Density | AC | AC30 |
|----|------------------|------------------|-----|---------|-----|------|
| 19 | Lille | 0.10 | 6% | 6,783 | 23% | 73% |
| 20 | Paris | 0.10 | 5% | 20,360 | 28% | 91% |
| 21 | Orléans | 0.09 | 5% | 4,259 | 22% | 38% |
| 22 | Poitiers | 0.09 | 5% | 2,138 | 14% | 18% |
| 23 | Le Mans | 0.08 | 5% | 2,749 | 13% | 22% |
| 24 | Bensançon | 0.08 | 5% | 1,818 | 21% | 41% |
| 25 | Troyes | 0.07 | 5% | 4,742 | 16% | 25% |
| 26 | Nancy | 0.07 | 4% | 6,956 | 19% | 46% |
| 27 | Amiens | 0.07 | 5% | 2,696 | 14% | 21% |
| 28 | Dunkerque | 0.06 | 3% | 1,972 | 17% | 34% |
| 29 | Saint-Nazaire | 0.06 | 4% | 1,536 | 11% | 13% |
| 30 | Rouen | 0.06 | 4% | 5,341 | 22% | 53% |
| 31 | Mulhouse | 0.06 | 4% | 4,871 | 15% | 42% |
| 32 | Nîmes | 0.05 | 4% | 911 | 5% | 8% |
| 33 | Bayonne | 0.05 | 3% | 2,399 | 19% | 47% |
| 34 | Clermont-Ferrand | 0.05 | 4% | 3,452 | 9% | 29% |
| 35 | Reims | 0.04 | 3% | 3,845 | 12% | 27% |
| 36 | Le Havre | 0.04 | 3% | 3,532 | 13% | 21% |



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Detailed Results

| ID | City | I _{gcb} | PMV | Density | AC | AC30 |
|----|---------------------------|------------------|-----|---------|-----|------|
| 37 | Valenciennes | 0.04 | 3% | 3,093 | 13% | 32% |
| 38 | Brest | 0.03 | 3% | 2,817 | 10% | 39% |
| 39 | Metz | 0.03 | 2% | 2,866 | 16% | 30% |
| 40 | Perpignan | 0.03 | 3% | 1,734 | 9% | 37% |
| 41 | Douai | 0.03 | 2% | 2,360 | 22% | 40% |
| 42 | Aix-en-Provence | 0.03 | 3% | 791 | 8% | 16% |
| 43 | Nice | 0.03 | 2% | 4,776 | 5% | 16% |
| 44 | Toulon | 0.02 | 4% | 4,194 | 6% | 10% |
| 45 | Saint-Paul (La Réunion) | 0.02 | 3% | 432 | ND | ND |
| 46 | Beauvais | 0.02 | 2% | 1,708 | 12% | 22% |
| 47 | Limoges | 0.02 | 2% | 1,674 | 6% | 10% |
| 48 | Marseille | 0.02 | 2% | 3,617 | 6% | 13% |
| 49 | Saint-Etienne | 0.02 | 2% | 2,177 | 8% | 12% |
| 50 | Saint-Denis (La Réunion) | 0.01 | 2% | 1,072 | ND | ND |
| 51 | Angoulême | 0.01 | 1% | 1,895 | 8% | 12% |
| 52 | Arras | 0.01 | 1% | 3,640 | 14% | 59% |
| 53 | Saint-Pierre (La Réunion) | 0.01 | 2% | 874 | ND | ND |

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Quantitative Observation





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Gender-based Bicycle Equity Index

$$I_g = \frac{Min(G_{fc}, 50\%)}{50\%}$$
$$I_c = \frac{Min(C_{ms}, 25\%)}{25\%}$$

$$I_b = \frac{B_s}{6}$$

$$I_{gcb} = I_g * I_c * I_b$$

where:

 I_g is the gendered share of cycling;

 I_c is the cycling modal share;

 I_b is the bikeability score of the municipality;

 I_{gcb} is gender equity in connection with cycling and bikeability.



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Ride-along Interviews







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Legend



| Intermodal trip | Distance (km) | Time (min) |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Micromobility + Train | 97.3 | 84 |
| Walk + Subway + Train + Bus | 98.1 | 95 to 125 |







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