

On the Fast Track? Mobility and Society

From the Electronic Vehicle to Stuttgart 21: The Colloquium Fundamentale Focuses on Issues Moving Us



Man and mobility are in the focus of the Colloquium Fundamentale. (Photo: photo-case.de)

Mobility is an indicator of the development of society and an expression of the quality of life. In the 2011 summer semester, the Colloquium Fundamentale of ZAK | Center for Applied Cultural Science and Studium Generale will focus on the chances and limits of mobility under the heading of “Full speed ahead? Mobile society between technology euphoria and protest”. The series will start on Thursday, April 28, 2011, 18 hrs, with a presentation by the historian Professor Joachim Radkau on the history of mobile technology in Germany.

Railways, roads, water, or air: The possibilities of getting from A to B are numerous and taken for granted. Mobility has long become a characteristic feature of everyday life and one of the prerequisites of personal participation in society. Since the invention of the automobile 125 years ago at the latest, mobility has also become a sign of progress and individual independence. At the same time, the desire for mobility is associated with high requirements on the infrastructure and has negative impacts on the environment.

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In the 2011 summer semester, the Colloquium Fundamentale will establish relationships between technology and the history of mobility and question visions and current trends: Is the future of the car the electronic vehicle? Which role do public transport means play? How do new transport projects like Stuttgart 21 have to be assessed and do the “Wutbürger” (furious citizens) really reflect a certain hostility to technology?

The series of interdisciplinary presentation will start with Professor Joachim Radkau from the University of Bielefeld on **Thursday, April 28, 2011**, 18 hrs. In this presentation “Daedalus and Icarus in the history of technology – the art of the middle way”, the historian provides an insight in the historical development of technology. He assumes that it is not a pure story of success, but rather a story of the careful balancing of technical options. Joachim Radkau will deal with this phenomenon and check whether there is an individual German way to handle innovations.

The Colloquium Fundamentale will take place on selected Thursdays, 18 hrs, at the NTI-Hörsaal, KIT Campus South, building 30.10, Engesserstraße 5. Admission will be free.

Other dates and presentations:

May 12, 2011: Technology as a symbol. Mobility technology and the new perception of the world around 1900
Dr. Kurt Möser, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

May 26, 2011: It won't become greener! Our environment and the future of the electric automobile
Professor Martin Doppelbauer, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

June 30, 2011: On the sideline? Germany's railroad traffic put to the test
Professor Eberhard Hohnecker, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

July 7, 2011: Recapturing of the road – protests of the population against new transport projects
Professor Barbara Lenz, German Aerospace Center Berlin, and Professor Klaus Hänsch, retired President of the European Parliament

July 14, 2011: Podium discussion: Higher, faster, further? What we can learn from Stuttgart 21
Winfried Hermann, Member of Parliament, and other representatives of science and the public

Further information: www.zak.kit.edu

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation according to the legislation of the state of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. KIT focuses on a knowledge triangle that links the tasks of research, teaching, and innovation.

This press release is available on the internet at www.kit.edu.