

KEYNOTE PANEL

Pathways to mobility justice: the middle, the margins, and beyond

Session Description

This keynote panel illuminates the perspectives and journeys that led three women to establish their own routes to mobility justice. Their stories and individual bodies of work will illuminate the importance of both autonomy and collectivity—particularly as women. The panel will explore topics such as confronting racism, the academy, mothering, womanism, and their literary contributions to the field of mobility planning and advocacy.

Date and Time: November 23, 2020 - 11am to 1:15pm EST

About the panel

Moderator: Dr. Destiny Thomas, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Thrivance Group

Dr. Destiny Thomas is a change agent and an anthropologist planner. She is the founder and CEO of Thrivance Group and was recently featured on Good Morning America for her leadership in the urban planning sector. At Thrivance Group, Dr. Thomas works to bring transformative justice into public policy, urban planning and community development. With over 15 years of experience shaping key policy initiatives, Dr. Thomas believes race, place, and joy define individual and community outcomes.

Keynote Speaker: Adonia Lugo, Author of Bicycle/Race: Transportation, Culture, & Resistance

Cultural anthropologist Adonia E. Lugo, PhD is the chair of the Urban Sustainability Department at Antioch University Los Angeles. Dr. Lugo began investigating sustainable infrastructure during her graduate studies at UC Irvine, when she co-created CicLAvia in Los Angeles. After receiving her doctorate in 2013, she worked at the League of American Bicyclists in Washington, D.C. as a national leader in building better “human infrastructure.” Today, Dr. Lugo looks for ways to bring her racial justice expertise from the field of bicycle advocacy into equitable and sustainable mobility at large. In addition to her role as an educator, Dr. Lugo is involved in a number of projects designed to expand support for mobility justice as a core organizer of The Untokening and the manager of the Bike Equity Network email list.

Keynote Speaker: Angie Schmitt, Author of Right of Way: Race, Class and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America

Angie is one of the country’s best known writers on the topic of sustainable transportation. She was the long time national editor at Streetsblog. Her writing and commentary have appeared in the New York Times, The Atlantic and NPR. She is the founder of the new firm 3MPH Planning and Consulting, a small Cleveland-based firm which is focused on pedestrian safety. Her book

Right of Way: Race, Class and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America was published in August by Island Press.

Format

1. Introduction and description of panel theme - 10 minutes (Destiny)
 - a. Brief discussion of panel themes: Transformative processes and journeys, holding space for others, evolution of the planning field
 - b. Read excerpts from speaker books
2. Story-based Multimedia Introductions - 25 minutes
 - a. Each speaker will have 10 minutes to share a multimedia component that provides a creative parallel to their individual journeys toward mobility justice. The multimedia components could be clips from songs, video clips, photos, slides, or other content that illustrates their values and experiences. (Adonia, Angie)
 - b. The moderator will ask a question after each presentation (Destiny)
3. Question and Answer Period
 - a. Moderator questions - 15 minutes
 - b. Participant questions - 35 minutes
4. Closing remarks - 5 minutes (Adonia, Angie, Destiny)