

**International Association for Travel Behaviour Research – IATBR  
Periodical Board Meeting**



**Friday, March 18, 2022**

**11:00 – 12:27 GMT**

**Online via Zoom, hosted by the BOKU Vienna**

**Presiding: Abdul Pinjari**, Indian Institute of Science

**Attended by:** Abdul Pinjari, Charisma Choudhury, Taha Rashidi, Sebastian Raveau, Thjis Dekker, Chiara Calastri, Angelo Guevara, Yusak Susilo

Board members from USA – Kostas (Konstadinos) Goulias, Kara Kockelman, Giovanni Circella – could not attend since the meeting time was a bit too early in the morning for them. Amalia Polydoropoulou could not attend the meeting too.

**Minutes:**

1. Opening by the Chair

- Abdul welcomed everybody and introduced agenda
- Abdul expressed his plan to organize Board meetings on a quarterly basis.

2. IATBR relationship with the US Transportation Research Board (TRB)'s AEP30 Committee

- TRB's AEP30 (Committee on Travel Behavior and Values) has a subcommittee for International Travel Behavior, which was handled by IATBR. So far, IATBR enjoyed this connection with TRB, particularly using TRB as a meeting venue for the annual general body meeting. There was no other substantive activity by IATBR for the subcommittee. Given that TRB has gone through restructuring and TRB would like to see vibrant activity in all its committees and subcommittees, AEP 30's leadership requested substantive activities such as involvement in the call for papers, workshops, and research needs statements. There is also a need for a formal scope for the subcommittee and at least a Chair (or two Co-Chairs) appointed by the Chair of AEP30. Abdul also indicated that AEP 30's leadership values the connection with IATBR and so does IATBR.
- Charisma, Yusak, Angelo and other Board members echoed that IATBR values the connection with AEP30 and asked what can be done to keep the connection with AEP 30 (as a subcommittee).
- Abdul indicated that a formal scope needs to be formulated for the subcommittee, and activities such as involvement in call for papers, research needs statements, etc. would be needed. AEP50's leadership will appoint a Chair or Co-chairs for these activities. Abdul suggested that, fortunately, the current Board of IATBR has two members - Giovanni and Chiara - who are also members

- of AEP 30. We can request AEP 30's Chair (Habib) to consider appointing them as Co-chairs of the subcommittee.
- Both Giovanni and Chiara readily agreed to serve as liaison between IATBR and TRB. They will develop the scope and do the needful to satisfy the requirements of AEP30 and serve as liaison between IATBR and AEP30.
  - Since AEP30 of TRB and IATBR are separate organizations in their own right, it is also important to not to subsume all the activities of one into another. Therefore, it is good to define the subcommittee scope such that it is a part (not all) of the research agenda of TRB and IATBR. In this context, Abdul suggested the following themes for the scope: international comparisons of travel behaviour, international transferability of travel behaviour models, travel behaviour in developing countries, etc.
  - Yusak said that connection with TRB is important to keep the North American colleagues engaged with IATBR, whilst at the same time there may be conflict between IATBR and TRB, since IATBR has a worldwide geographical scope and TRB has a focus on the US (albeit many papers are TRB are from a wide variety of countries). Thijs also indicated if these differences might lead to coordination issues. Abdul does not see this as a conflicting point. In fact, the differences in scope help separate IATBR activities from TRB's activities, while also creating a possibility for AEP30 to enhance the geographical scope through the subcommittee for International Travel Behavior. Currently TRB only wishes to avoid inactive sub-committees. So, all we need to do is actively liaison with AEP 30 and be involved in activities such as calls for papers, research needs statements, workshops, etc.
  - Charisma suggested that because there are plans within IATBR to continue with the webinar series, she asked whether it is a good idea to co-organise the webinars with the AP30 committee.
  - Charisma mentioned that ABE90 also includes a similar agenda of transportation in developing countries. Abdul indicated that the subcommittee of AEP30 can focus only on travel behaviour issues as opposed to other transportation issues, which avoids duplication of scope across committees of TRB.
  - In summary:
    - IATBR will suggest the names of Giovanni and Chiara to AEP30 for liaison. AEP 30's Chair might consider appointing them as co-chairs of the subcommittee on "International Travel Behavior". As part of this, they will develop the subcommittee scope (along the lines mentioned above) and do other activities such as annual calls for papers for the TRB annual meeting.
    - We may also consider jointly organizing a webinar with AEP30

### 3. IATBR Newsletter (Taha Rashidi)

- Abdul thanked Taha for initiating and leading the IATBR Newsletter.
- Taha outlined his plan for the Newsletter. The first Newsletter will involve a call for short articles on a futuristic topic, that might stimulate interesting ideas and thought-provoking discussions. The topic is "Travel Behaviour in the Era of

Metaverses.” He also mentioned that short articles for this call must be sole-authored.

- Later on, once the Newsletter becomes regular, and is well embraced by the IATBR community, Taha indicated that we can start to include interviews, and even post them online.

#### 4. IATBR Webinars

- Abdul praised Charisma for her initiative with the webinar series during the pandemic year. It was well-attended, and also appreciated by students and colleagues from various countries who could not attend conferences.
- Charisma also reminded us that such webinars can be an alternative way to reach out to under-represented parts of the world. To avoid competition with other on-going webinar series, we can organize seminars with a regional focus (e.g. focus on SE-Asia, South Asia, Africa and so on)
- Sebastian as a conference organizer also thinks it is a very good idea to reach out to colleagues from countries of a specific region to organize webinars focused on that region. Chiara suggested whether it is better to have a targeted approach. She wondered whether it is more efficient to attract the interest of local academics if we can demonstrate the fruit of systematic collaboration between local researchers (who understand context) with leading researchers (who have know how) to work together and have joint publications and seminars. Abdul agreed and suggested it would be good to identify champions from a certain region to attract local academics’ interest and engagement. Such activities can also potentially be integrated with our IATBR conference sessions, if the conference organizing team sees fit to do so.
- Yusak agreed to support in reaching out to colleagues from under-represented regions and organizing the webinars. Charisma also agreed to provide guidance based on previous experience. Yusak wondered if gaps in terms of research output and quality between different regions might make it difficult to engage with certain regions. Sebastian said that to get around this they might have special session(s) dedicated to these regions at the IATBR conference. Charisma also believes that this would not be the issue. The key is in getting the right people from a specific region involved.
- Abdul then asked which part of the world should we focus on? Charisma indicated that perhaps we should not be too ambitious as a start, but just try one. One possibility is to start with a webinar focused on travel behaviour in Latin America, given that the next conference is going to be in South America.
- Angelo suggested that we can invite people from the World Bank and other international institutions working on interesting projects in the regions. Sebastian also supported Angelo’s suggestion as he has seen many relevant and interesting projects being done by these institutions in countries from which many researchers may not have been active in IATBR.

#### 5. IATBR 2022 conference update (Sebastian Raveau)

- Received about 30 extended abstracts as of the meeting day. Expect to receive more as the submission deadline nears. The due date has been extended by a couple of weeks.
  - Tentative registration fees: 600 USD for early bird, 300 USD for students, and 800 USD for late registration.
  - There is a price complication, as during the conference preparation period, the membership fees increased from 75 USD to 100 USD. However, the Chile conference organizers considered only 75 USD in their financials. To resolve this, Abdul suggested that the registration fees can include only USD 75 for the membership for 2 years until the 2024 conference.
  - The conference venue has been booked. Sebastian still worries a bit about the COVID-19 conditions across the world, but he is optimistic that things will improve by December. About 300 attendees are anticipated, if the public health situation in the world allows. Sebastian and team are going to restart the discussions on other logistics, including hotel rooms, and special issues.
  - Charisma asked about what can be offered to Eric Pas recipients from 2017 to date. The Chile conference organizing team was prepared to support the last winner (and not including travel cost). Charisma and Abdul suggested that we may be able to use IATBR funds to support the previous year's winner too.
6. Discussion on minor amendments to the constitution has been postponed to the next Board meeting.
7. The next meeting will be 3 months from now (mid June 2022)

Adjourn

(Abdul closed the meeting at 12:27 GMT)