

Long-distance travel in a post-COVID-19 world



Problem description

The outbreak of COVID-19 has had and will continue to have an unprecedented impact on our lives. International travel has been limited almost exclusively to urgent trips and repatriation flights. The airline industry is predicting a return to pre-COVID-19 levels of travel in 2023 at the earliest. Many are also pushing for green policies in the transition period.

People mainly used to travel long-distance for business, leisure or to visit family/friends. But how will that change in the following months? Will strict safety measures calm passengers or further dissuade them from flying? Will more costly flights (due to possible collapses of low-cost airlines or lower allowed occupancy of aircraft) deter many 'unnecessary weekend' trips? Will people travel more with long-distance high-speed trains, by bus, by car or perhaps not travel internationally at all in the near future and rather travel more locally? And how does all of that relate to their own perceptions of safety, vulnerability and trust in protective measures?

Assignment

- Analyse the extent to which long-distance travel will be impacted in a post-COVID-19 world.
- Assess the changes in people's travel behaviour preferences and how their perception of safety impacts that behaviour change
- Stated preference experiments will be used to understand the change in behaviour between pre- and post the outbreak of COVID-19
- Other openly available data may be used

Candidate

- Should have taken the Statistical Analysis of Choice Behaviour (SEN1221) course or have experience with choice analysis and experiment design otherwise

Information

Transport & Planning department

Contact: Oded Cats o.cats@tudelft.nl; Nejc Geržinič n.gerzinic@tudelft.nl.