

MARCH 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 9

# ACADEMIC WEEKLY DIGEST

YOUR WEEKLY DIGEST OF KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

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## SHARING BICYCLES TO SHAPE MORE INCLUSIVE URBAN FUTURES – A GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVE

Bicycle Sharing Schemes (BSS) are a promising component of urban mobility to meet Sustainable Development Goals. However, local authorities have found difficult to increase BSS ridership despite the increased uptake during COVID-19. This article, co-authored by [Dr Nikolas Thomopoulos](#), offers a Multi-Level Perspective based framework to monitor and evaluate BSS through an innovative use of alluvial diagrams.

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## HOW CAN CITY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WITH SHRINKING BUDGETS MANAGE AND EXPAND BSS EFFICIENTLY?

**Dr Nikolas Thomopoulos**

Micro-mobility is on the rise and Bicycle Sharing Schemes (BSS) have been tested in numerous cities. Challenges are common across Global South and the Global North, as also stressed by a [Surrey Active Travel report](#), and include infrastructure e.g. cycle-paths, availability e.g. at peak times and cost.

Past research has largely focused on a single BSS in a single borough, but users often use BSS to travel for both commuting and non-commuting purposes. This trip-chaining practice is a key potential benefit of BSS, if designed in an integrated manner. A BSS user survey was conducted by Dr Veronica Saud at Santiago de Chile due to the high obesity levels, as well as the accessibility, equity and inclusion city goals.

Major BSS challenges identified were e-payment discrepancies followed by poor user support and low maintenance of BSS docking stations. The study also introduced an innovative use of alluvial diagrams for city authorities to manage and expand BSS, while minimising negative externalities of using the 'lungs' approach during peak times.

Findings stress the need for an integrated approach aligned with SUMP across boroughs within large cities. Alluvial diagrams have also been demonstrated to contribute in managing micro-mobility, also including e-bikes and e-scooters, which would facilitate testing and evaluating business models of new mobility services.

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**"Sharing is Caring" and Bicycle Sharing Schemes are again on the rise, so let's care more for our cities, our environment and our wellbeing!**

Saud, V., Thomopoulos, N. (2021). Towards inclusive transport landscapes: Re-visualising a Bicycle Sharing Scheme in Santiago Metropolitan Region. *Journal of Transport Geography*  
Link: [bit.ly/3LKEHBf](https://bit.ly/3LKEHBf)