



Mobility

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Mobility, in the straightforward sense, means “movement.” Mobility not only refers to the spatial and temporal “movement” of people, things and services, but also of the “movement” through social classes and stratum. The term has continued to draw attention as an analytical concept for society, particularly since John Urry published the work *Mobilities* (Originally published 2007 / Japanese translation 2015). As exemplified by the “mobility funds” that are provided for artists, people are actively exploring the significance of mobility from the perspective of revitalizing creativity and networking. However, with the acceleration of globalization, movements in businesses, tourism, emigration, and migrant work have expanded on an unprecedented scale worldwide and have clashed with and inflicted damage upon the systems of international society based on the nation-state unit, i.e., borders and nationalities. A myriad of problems has thus surfaced. In addition, while the Covid-19 pandemic has foregrounded anew the idea of the nation-state and forced physical immobility upon everyone, people are now beginning to pursue and practice free mobility, or psychological and sensorial mobility, in the virtual world, for example, through online games and meetings.



John Urry, *Mobilities* (left: English version, right: Japanese version)



GRANTS & COLLABORATIONS MOBILITY FUND



The Prince Claus Fund's Mobility Fund supports the cross-cultural exchange of artists and cultural practitioners.

An example of a mobility fund (from The Prince Claus Fund website)

Source: <https://princeclausfund.org/mobility-fund-1#>



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Ai Weiwei's work, *Law of the Journey*, based on the issue of refugees across the world (Installation view of the 21st Sydney Biennale, 2018)

Source: <https://mashable.com/2018/03/13/ai-weiwei-biennale-of-sydney/>



The Shibuya ward's official "Virtual Shibuya" (opened in May 2020). A total of 400 thousand people participated in the "virtual" Halloween Fes held between October 26 and 31, 2020.

Source: <https://cluster.mu/w/79347fb9-05f5-429e-ab5f-8951ee8cd966>

Related Links

- The Prince Claus Fund <https://princeclausfund.org/>
- On the Move (Site specializing in mobility information) <http://on-the-move.org/>
- Ai Weiwei <https://www.aiweiwei.com/>
- Virtual Shibuya <https://cluster.mu/w/79347fb9-05f5-429e-ab5f-8951ee8cd966>