



URBAN FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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Introduction

I am Laetitia Dablanc, from the French Institute of Science and Technology for Transport, Development and Networks (IFSTTAR, University of Paris-East). I currently co-manage our committee's Resources sub-committee, together with Arun Chatterjee, Bill Eisele and Erica Wygonik.

Academic and Professional Background

I have been researching transportation planning and policies, now as a Director of Research, at IFSTTAR since 2006. Before, I worked for the Groupment of Authorities Responsible for Transport (GART), the primary French networking organization for major transportation agencies, which steered my later academic interest in local governments' policies. I received a PhD in transportation planning from Ecole des Ponts-ParisTech in 1997 after graduating from Cornell University (Master's degree in city and regional planning). I have a background in policy analysis and economics from Science Po Paris.

My main academic interest areas are freight and the environment (air quality, climate change), urban freight, rail freight, and freight transportation policies. I am currently focusing on spatial analyses of the development of logistics facilities as well as on freight planning in European and US megaregions. I am also participating in Metrofreight (2013-2017), a Volvo Research and Educational Foundations' (VREF) center of excellence that investigates "the local/global challenge of urban freight." It is led by University of Southern California and involves several academic teams and local partners from Los Angeles, NYC, Seoul and Paris. I am also involved in the World Conference on Transport Research Society.

TRB Involvement

I attended my first TRB as a PhD student in 1994, when participants still had to shop for papers in a dedicated room filled with piles of printed copies. I came back twelve years later as a full academic and had the opportunity to present my research before the Urban Freight Committee, then chaired by Joe Bryan. I became a member the following year. I now promote TRB attendance to my PhD students, as I believe TRB is the most comprehensive transportation conference in the world, with a very interesting mix of academia and practice.

Personal Note

My husband and I have long been convinced that our children, now age 13 and 10, should be introduced to way of life in other countries. As visiting scholars at Georgia Tech then USC in 2010-2012, we could bring them to Atlanta (much unknown to many French) and Los Angeles where we all enjoyed a great combination of big city life and sunny outdoors as well as (for me) fascinating freight stories.