

New Communication Technologies and Travel

This project investigates the dynamics of the relationship between personal communications and travel, using agent-based computer simulation modelling. It focuses on the interaction between social, communication and transport networks. The novelty of the project lies in using this new modelling technique to identify the important factors underlying this relationship, to get a better understanding of why communication and travel have grown together, to address the question ‘why are communication and travel complements, not substitutes?’ The modelling draws on qualitative and quantitative secondary data, developing historical case studies. The results of the modelling will be used to throw light on the possible long-term impact of the current digital revolution in communications. It is hoped that the thesis will contribute to the development of modelling techniques, to the current economic and environmental debate about transport and to the sociological debate about the effect of new technology on society.