



NTUA Road Safety Update - September 2015

National Technical University of Athens
Road Safety Update

September 2015

Panagiotis Papanтониου defended his PhD thesis on driver distraction 2015



Panagiotis Papanтониου has successfully defended his PHD thesis titled: **Risk factors, driver behaviour and accident probability. The case of distracted driving.** This PHD thesis was carried out at the Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering at the School of Civil Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens under the supervision of Prof. George Yannis.

The objective of the PhD thesis is the analysis of the effect of road, traffic and driver risk factors on driver behaviour and accident probability at unexpected incidents, with particular focus on distracted driving. For this purpose, a large driving simulator experiment took place in which 95 participants were asked to drive under different types of distraction (no distraction, conversation with passenger, cell phone use) in different road (urban/rural) and traffic conditions (high/low). Then, within the framework of an advanced statistical methodology, **latent analysis through a sequence of four Structural Equation Models** allowed to go well beyond the piecemeal analyses of driving performance measures to a sound combined analysis of the interrelationship between risk factors, driving performance, driver error and accident probability at unexpected incidents. Results indicate that more likely to commit driving errors are young or old female drivers at urban areas while more likely to be involved in an accident at an unexpected incident are female drivers in low traffic conditions while talking on the cell phone. [📄](#)

International Cycling Safety Conference, Hannover 2015



The 4th International Cycling Safety Conference took place with great success in Hannover on 15-16 September 2015, hosted by the Accident Research Unit of the Hannover Medical School, in cooperation with the Deutsche Verkehrswacht, the DVR and the ETSC. This conference started as a Dutch initiative of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, TNO, Fietsberaad (Dutch center of expertise on bicycle policy), SWOV and Delft University of Technology together with Chalmers University of Technology.

The International Cycling Safety Conference (ICSC) developed to a **premium forum for researchers and development engineers in the field of cycling safety** to exchange their knowledge, to extend their network and to bring up new research topics and safety solutions. [LINK](#)

NTUA presentations concerned:

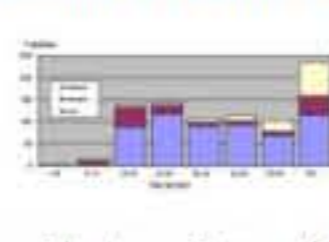
- [📄](#) [📄](#) 'Analysis of Preferences for the Use of a Bicycling Sharing System in Athens'
- [📄](#) [📄](#) 'Cycling Acceptability Investigation among University Students in Athens, Greece'

EU Transport in figures 2015



The Directorate General for Mobility and Transport (DG Move) of the European Commission released the Statistical Pocketbook 2015 'EU Transport in figures'. In this Statistical Pocketbook, key road safety Tables are contained, together with several other Tables on transport statistics, providing a **complete picture of current trends in transport in Europe**. Data on road fatalities for the EU member states and associate countries allow for time series comparisons and country rankings. [LINK](#)

Road fatalities by age, gender, road user type, Greece 2013



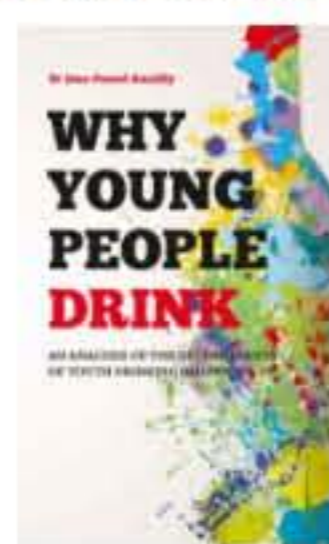
According to ELSTAT data, 879 persons were killed in Greece in 2013: **582 drivers, 146 passengers and 151 pedestrians**. Male drivers account for 66% of all road fatalities in Greece. Young male drivers account for almost 50% of male driver fatalities and older people account for almost 50% of pedestrian fatalities. The higher accident severity was found in accidents involving older persons (8.7 fatalities per 100 accidents) and younger persons (4,5 fatalities per 100 accidents). [📄](#)

ETSC - Managing Young Drivers at Work 2015



A report on 'Managing Young Drivers at Work' has recently been published by ETSC. Evidence shows that **young people have the highest collision involvement** of any road user group. Approximately one in four young people who die within Europe's borders do so as a result of a road collision. This report looks into the direct and indirect factors associated with higher collision rates of young drivers at work and makes recommendations on how to assess and mitigate the specific risks associated with this group. [LINK](#)

Why Young People Drink by Jean-Pascal Assailly 2015



A new book titled 'Why Young People Drink: An analysis of the determinants of youth drinking behaviour' authored by Dr. Jean-Pascal Assailly, Researcher at the French Institute of Sciences & Technology for Transport (IFSTTAR), is now available. **Young people's alcohol misuse** has become an important concern in many countries as the consequences of this phenomenon are multiple, among which traffic accidents. This book is a comprehensive, encyclopaedic overview of the underpinnings of alcohol use in adolescents and state-of-the-art adapted prevention and treatment strategies. [LINK](#)

SWOV Road Safety Library Portal 2015



The Dutch Institute for Road Safety Research SWOV, offers openly to the road safety scientific community, a **very powerful online documentation tool**: the SWOV Library Portal. It provides users the opportunity to search through a large number of journals, full text publications and several other road safety theme files. [LINK](#)

Annual POLIS Conference - Brussels 2015



The Annual POLIS Conference on "Transport Innovation for sustainable cities and regions" will take place in **Brussels, on 19-20 November 2015**, organised by POLIS, the European cities and regions networking for innovative transport solutions. This year a special workshop on road safety data in the urban environment

is scheduled, titled "Translating road safety data into policies and measures". This workshop sets out two approaches for local road safety policy: One focuses on accident databases including data collection and how to identify measures and the second addresses the potential of road safety performance indicators (SPIs). Registration is now open and the draft programme is available here. [LINK](#)

4th International Conference on Driver Distraction and Inattention, Sydney 2015



The 4th International Conference on Driver Distraction and Inattention organised by the ARRB Group together with SAFER will be held in **Sydney, Australia, on 9-11 November 2015**. Driver distraction and inattention continue to be significant road safety problems, worldwide. DDI2015 aims to bring participants up-to-date on recent developments and trends in the field, and to bring together researchers and practitioners with particular focus on potential solutions. [LINK](#)

PIARC - XXVth World Road Congress, Seoul 2015



The XXVth PIARC World Road Congress will take place in **Seoul, Korea on 2-6 November 2015**. The congress is organized in close cooperation between the World Road Association (PIARC), responsible for the content and development of the programme, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea, the Korea Expressway Corporation, the Korea Road & Transportation Association and the PIARC Korean National Committee. During the congress research results and best practices covering all areas of road transportation will be presented. [LINK](#)

12th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion 2016



The 12th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion is an initiative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and its network of WHO-Collaborating Centres for injury prevention and will take place in **Tampere, Finland, on 18 - 21 September 2016**. The conference will bring together the world's leading researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and advocates in the field of injury prevention and safety to debate, discuss and share information and experiences. The deadline for abstract submission is 1 November 2015. [LINK](#)

International Conference on Traffic and Transport Psychology, Brisbane 2016



The Sixth International Conference on Traffic and Transport Psychology (ICTTP2016), organised by QUT's Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety - Queensland (CARRS-Q) and Griffith University's Menzies Health Institute Queensland will take place in **Brisbane, Australia, on 2-5 August 2016**. The Conference will be a global forum, with a theme of "UN Decade of Action For Road Safety: The Half-way Point", at which all those involved in traffic and transport psychology, human factors, cognition and behaviours, road safety research, policy, education, enforcement and injury prevention, can meet with researchers, academics, and professionals to discuss and present on the latest work being undertaken in these areas. The abstract submission deadline is set for November 9th, 2015. [LINK](#)

HIT/HITE - 7th International Congress on Transportation Research 2015



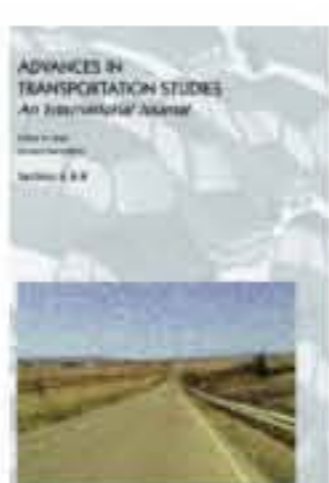
The 7th International Congress on Transportation Research, organised by the Hellenic Institute of Transport and the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers will take place in **Athens, on 5-6 November 2015** at the amphitheater of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Anastaseos 2, Holargos). The main topic of the congress is: "From basic research to innovative application". This Conference series on Transportation Research (ICTR), is considered a well established event in the transport sector in Greece and it is addressed to all members of the scientific community as well as to local, regional and central authorities and all road safety stakeholders. It is also addressed to private sector industries activated in the design, development and implementation of innovative applications in the transport sector. [LINK](#)

Crete TEI - Road Accidents, Injuries and Rehabilitation Conference, Iraklion 2015



An international conference on road accidents, injuries and rehabilitation organised by Health School - TEI of Crete, will take place in **Iraklion, Crete, on 22-23 October 2015**. During this Conference, the results of the EU co-funded project 'Reducing the Harm and the Burden of Injuries and human Loss caused by road traffic crashes and Addressing Injury Demands through effective interventions' (REHABL AID) will be presented and discussed together with the socio-economic aspects of road accidents in Europe.

Assessment of Driving Simulator Studies on Driver Distraction - 2015



A paper titled 'Assessment of Driving Simulator Studies on Driver Distraction' co-authored by Panagiotis Papanтониου, Eleonora Papadimitriou and George Yannis now published in Advances in Transportation Studies Journal. The objective of this research is the critical assessment of driving simulator studies on driver distraction. For this purpose **45 scientific papers have been examined with respect to the design of driving simulator experiments on the effects of various sources of driver distraction (in-vehicle or external)**. Through this analysis it appears that the most common distraction sources examined are visual distraction and cell phone use, while other sources of distraction have received notably less attention in existing studies. The simulated road environment of most experiments was rural, whereas far less is known on the effects of distraction in urban areas; furthermore, ambient traffic is not explicitly simulated and the effect of traffic flow on distracted driving may be a key question for further investigation. Finally, driver distraction is expressed by a number of measurements, in terms of its impact to driver attention (hands-off the wheel, eyes-off the road), driver behaviour (vehicle speed, headway, lateral position, driver reaction time) and driver accident risk. Although these different measurements describe different aspects of the distracted driving mechanism, it would be important to focus on the most sensitive ones, keeping in mind the entire chain of distracted driving causes and impacts, in order to significantly enhance the potential of exploitation of the results of existing studies. [DOI#](#)

This Road Safety Update aims to support frequently the Greek and the International Road Safety Community with current key road safety knowledge and data, which is gathered, analysed and organised within the research activities of the Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens.

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About NRSO



The mission of the NTUA Road Safety Observatory (www.nrso.ntua.gr) is to support the Greek and the International Road Safety Community with current key road safety knowledge and data, which are gathered, analysed and organised within the research activities of the Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering of the School of Civil Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens, as well as within co-operations with various national and international road safety organisations.