

**Analytic  
Autoethnography**

# The miracle of the road: The affective atmospheres of Europe's roads.

**Corporeal  
Involvement**

What  
we  
know!

**The 'system'  
of  
automobility'**

Throughout my  
journeys, there  
was an affective  
atmosphe...

**Ireland -  
August  
2017**

Thank  
You!

By appropriating  
and disrupting  
infrastructural  
elements, such ...

**Michael O' Regan, PhD**



**Bournemouth  
University**

**Michael O' Regan, PhD**

**BU**

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**Previous  
Research**



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Research**

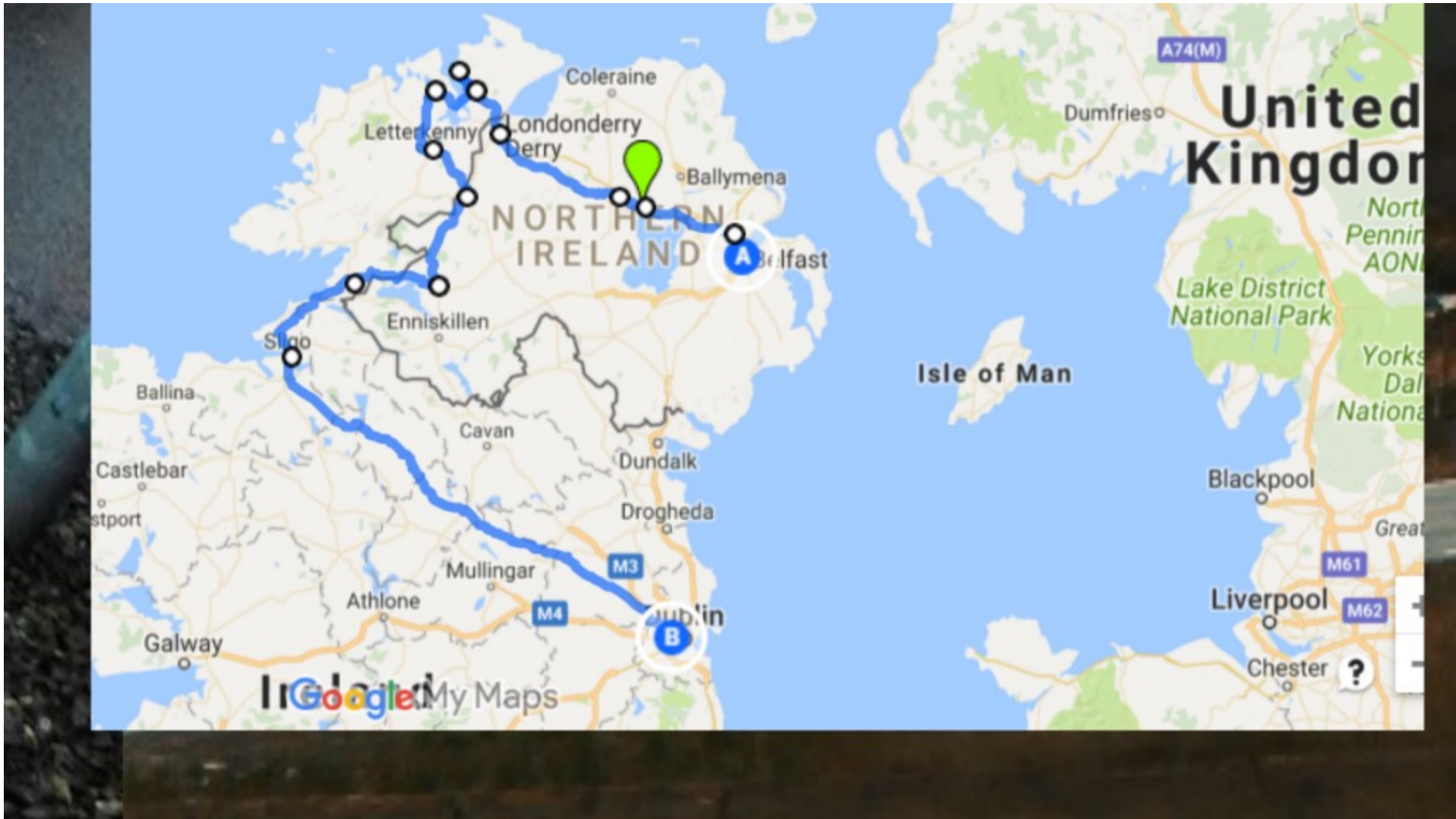


























# Previous Research



By exploring interacting rhythms, moorings, and materialities, HH learn during their journeys, gradually becoming more skilled at shaping their mobilities. Rhythm as a mode of analysis











# Hitch Fest

MARCO DE CANAVESES, PORTUGAL

• 2-6. AUGUST 2017 •

CONCERTS

WORKSHOPS

THERAPIES

PRESENTATIONS











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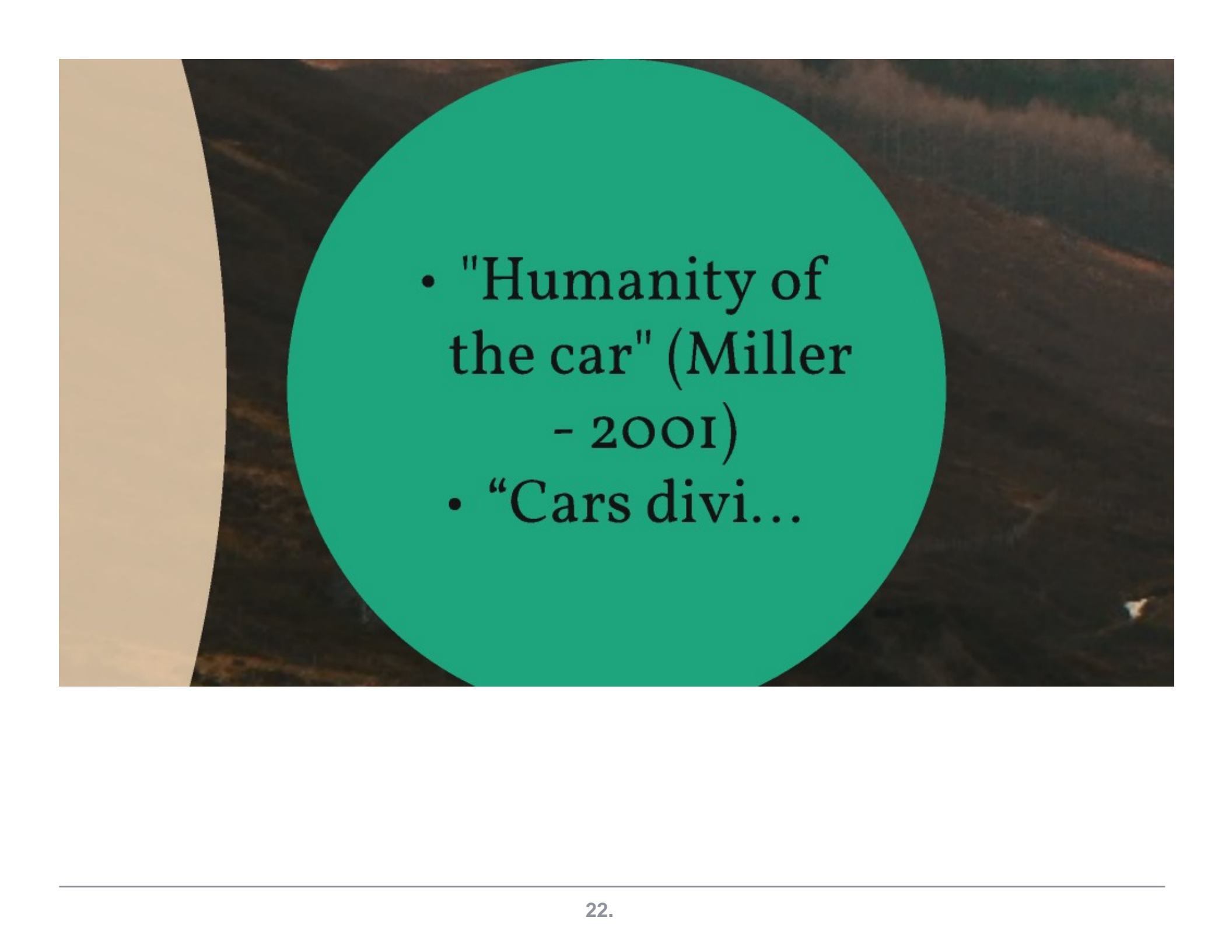
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## The 'system' of automobility'

Complex system of roads and motorways ..... designed for people? or creating car-dependent cultures with banal infrastructural spaces of car parks, filling stations and repair garages to service motorways that structure and produce unsustainable automobilities.

- "Humanity of the car" (Miller - 2001)
- "Cars divi..."

- 
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- "Humanity of the car" (Miller - 2001)
- "Cars divide people, just as mass transport systems bring people together" (Nayar - 2009)
- Significant part of physical space and in terms of function. The road system, and particularly the motorways have become an alien place.

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## What we know!

- Unique form of mobility.
- Under-researched - Walking and cycling.
- Transgressive but sanctioned.
- De-privatizing of vehicles.
- Mobility Culture.
- Roads hold HH in circulation.
- Welcome Friction.

"It's a  
dangerous  
business,  
Frodo, goi..."



**“It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to.”**





It's a dangerous 'business, going out your door. You step onto the road,



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**Disclaimer:** I  
am a middle class  
able-bodied  
white man, and...

**Bochner and Ellis  
(2006), an  
autoethnographer  
is "first a..."**

**When you are  
preparing for  
a journey, you  
own t...**

## Analytic Autoethnography

- Participant observation.
- Autoethnographic field notes.
- Memory work.
- Photography, video recordings  
enabled me to explore the intersections  
of corporeality and mobility.
- Recognises the researcher's presence.
- Mobile, inventive, live, engaged  
research

**When you are preparing for a journey, you own the journey. Once you've started the journey, the journey owns you - Shope, 2006: 165**



**Bochner and Ellis (2006), an autoethnographer is “first and foremost a communicator and a storyteller.”**

**Disclaimer:** I am a middle class able-bodied white man, and I tend to take for granted the privilege of my Irish/EU passport. While I have felt restriction, I am aware of the constraints and injustice experienced by many who hitchhike and who do not share my privilege.



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## **Corporeal Involvement**

I found myself amongst single people, couples, families, groups, businessmen, farmers, those in a rush to work, and those on holidays, those rushing to tell me about their life, work, problems, hopes and dreams, and those who do not say anything. I am been in cars whose drivers keep the accelerator pressed, to slow buses and speed limited trucks.



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Throughout my journeys,  
there was an affective  
atmosphere (such as danger,  
rage, thrill, safety), with each  
journey having a particular  
time and experience that  
changes in the course of a  
journey.

• Hitchhiking  
requires a  
willingness to  
embra...

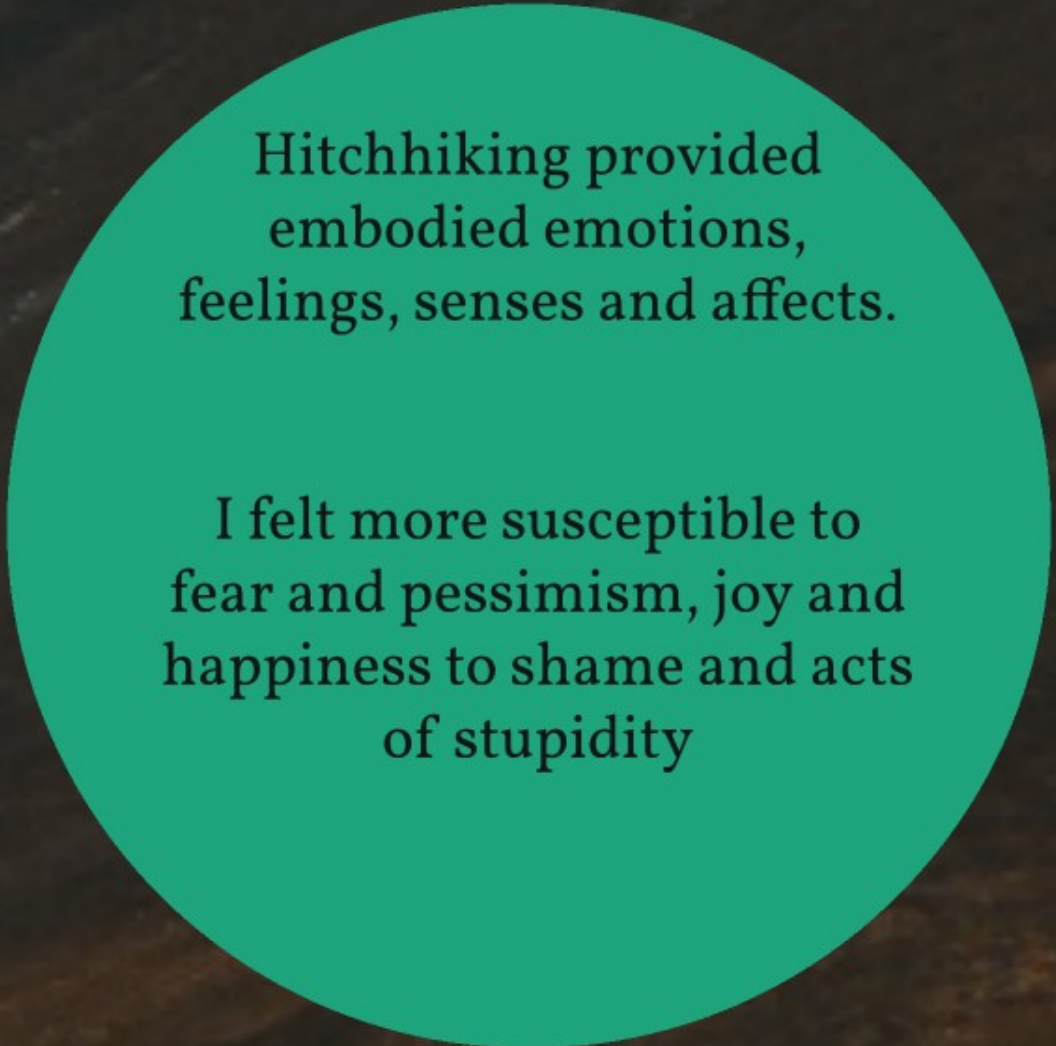
Hitchhiking  
provided  
embodied  
emotio...

Hitchhiking  
emphasizes the  
capacity for  
doing things ...

.... To a small  
degree, you have  
to set aside your  
person...

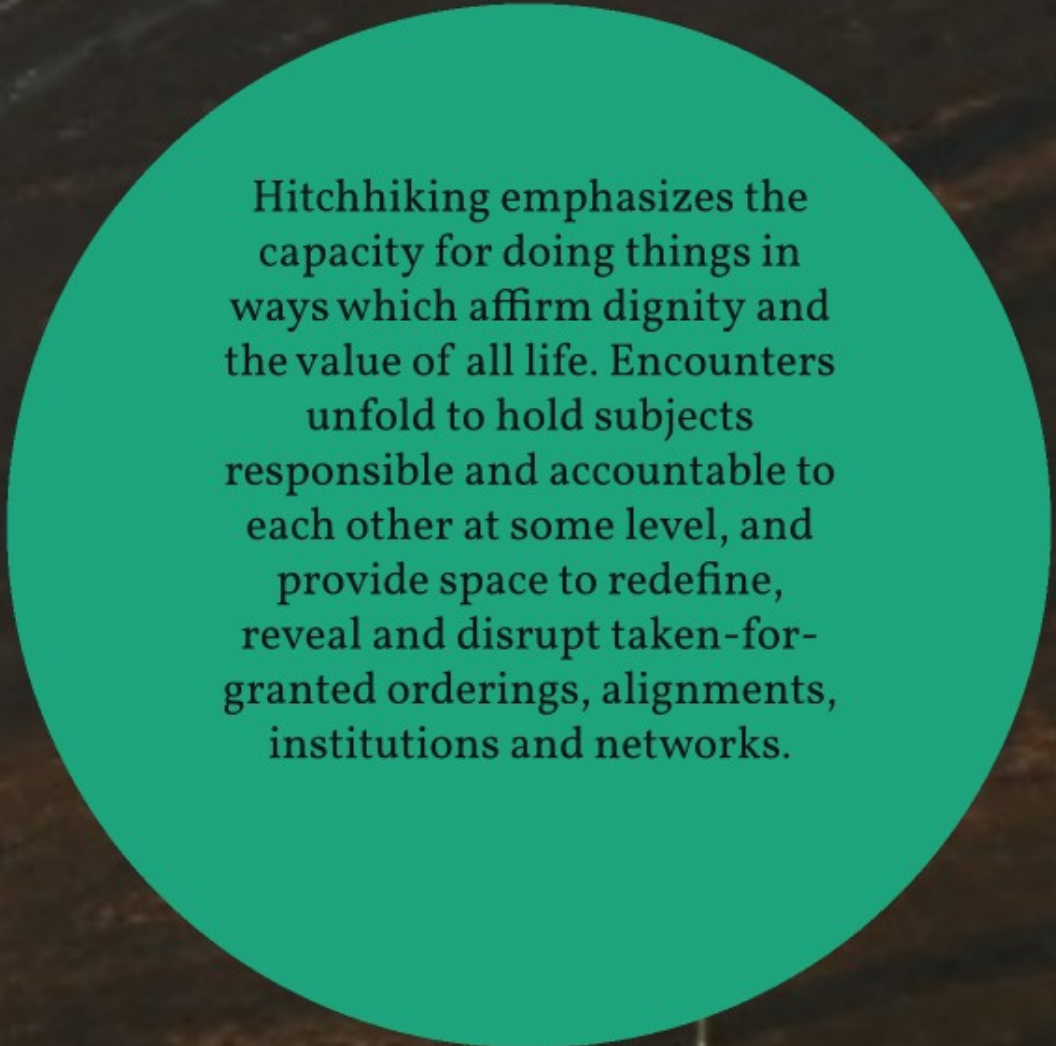
- Hitchhiking requires a willingness to embrace uncertainty, live with mystery, and make peace with ambiguity. By giving up on public transport, I was forced to deal with unexpected scenarios, think creatively, utilize available resources and transform myself into an active social being as i was forced to listen to my thoughts, feelings and emotions.





Hitchhiking provided  
embodied emotions,  
feelings, senses and affects.

I felt more susceptible to  
fear and pessimism, joy and  
happiness to shame and acts  
of stupidity



Hitchhiking emphasizes the capacity for doing things in ways which affirm dignity and the value of all life. Encounters unfold to hold subjects responsible and accountable to each other at some level, and provide space to redefine, reveal and disrupt taken-for-granted orderings, alignments, institutions and networks.

.... To a small degree, you have to set aside your personal ambitions and go with someone else's flow and engage in a strange sort of intimacy. I did not reflect on chief advantages of car usage such as its comfort, status, or any other benefit inherent in vehicles themselves.



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By appropriating and disrupting infrastructural elements, such as service stations and kerbs, we remind ourselves (and others) that roads are not solely for commerce and traffic but also for creative engagements.

**Anthem by  
Leonard  
Cohen**

Alternative  
movement has  
the potential to  
levera...

For me, the road  
became a contact  
zone which  
vibrates wi...

A photograph of a road at night, possibly a highway or a long bridge, with a dark sky and some lights visible. A large teal circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, and a tan shape is overlaid on the left side. The text is centered within the teal circle.

## **Anthem by Leonard Cohen**

Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in  
everything (there is a crack  
in everything)  
That's how the light gets in



Alternative movement has the potential to leverage progressive change and/or make further inroads into conventional mobility systems that flattens space to facilitate the ceaseless circulation of money, commodities, and bodies..... and forces drivers to consider the coexistence of different types of mobility projects.

For me, the road became a contact zone which vibrates with potential encounters, conversation, small kindnesses, recognition, and the discovery of shared interests and concerns that offer important opportunities for connection and mutuality. It provides evidence of the continued power of the HH as a representational figure.

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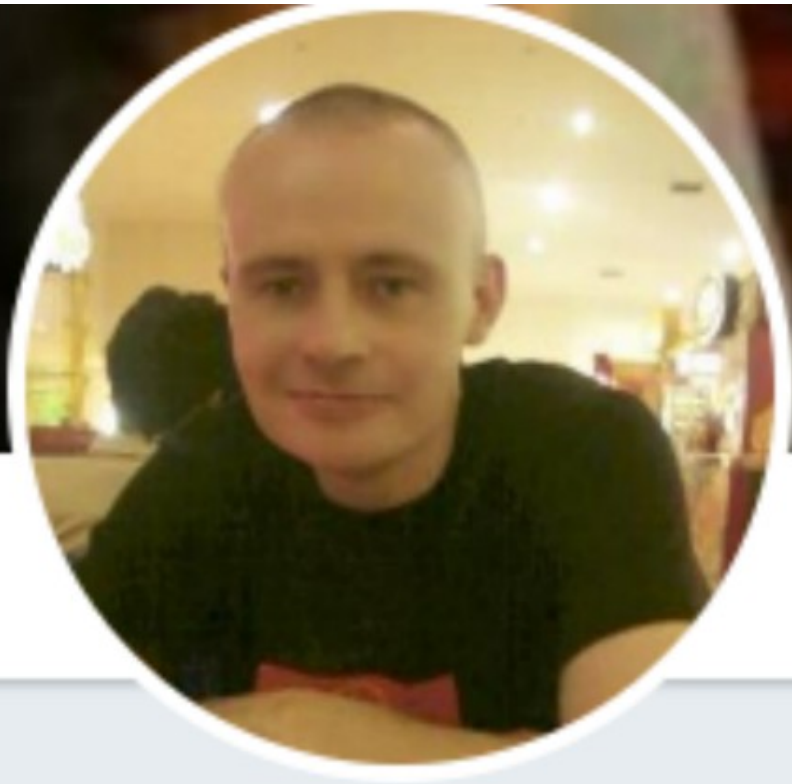
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Thank You!



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**5,889**

Following  
**457**

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**Michael O' Regan PhD**

@michealoregan

Irish Guy interested in tourist/urban/

**Tweets**

**Tweets &**



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'Unesco-cide': does

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