



# PhD defence: Juliane Große

## Urban structure and sustainable transport

Exploring the relationship between urban structure and travel behaviour  
and the role of urban planning in Northern Europe

This PhD study explores the relationship between urban structure and travel behaviour and the role of urban planning in promoting more sustainable travel patterns.

The study conceptualises the role of urban planning by means of a multiple-case study of the three medium-sized Northern European cities, Eskilstuna, Turku and Tartu, that was conducted based on qualitative methods.

Further, the study investigates the relationship between the urban structure of people's living environment and their travel behaviour by integrating daily modality styles (work and leisure), and weekend and holiday travel behaviour in a comprehensive analysis. Moreover, the phenomenon of compensatory leisure travel is addressed. For this purpose, a questionnaire survey was carried out in an urban district (Østerbro) of central Copenhagen and in a small town (Borup) in the commuter belt of Greater Copenhagen.

The study achieves a comprehensive understanding of travel behaviour and qualifies the role of urban structure in relation to further determinants. The influence of urban structure is largely limited to daily travel (bounded trips). Beyond urban structure, other determinants such as socio-economic factors, personal preferences and lifestyle, which are partly reflected in residential choices, have a significant influence on travel behaviour. This becomes particularly evident in weekend and holiday travel (non-bounded trips). Additionally, summer cottage use among city dwellers indicates some sort of compensatory leisure travel.

Consequently, urban planning can optimise urban structure and cooperate in transport planning, but structural adaptations of travel behaviour require also the involvement of higher tiers of policy-making.

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Section for Landscape Architecture and Planning, IGN  
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