

Presentation by

Dr Miriam Ricci

Senior Research
Fellow

Centre for
Transport &
Society

UWE Bristol

UCL Socially Just
Transport Seminar
Series

23rd January 2017

Urban mobility and social justice: lessons from a disadvantaged periphery in Bristol

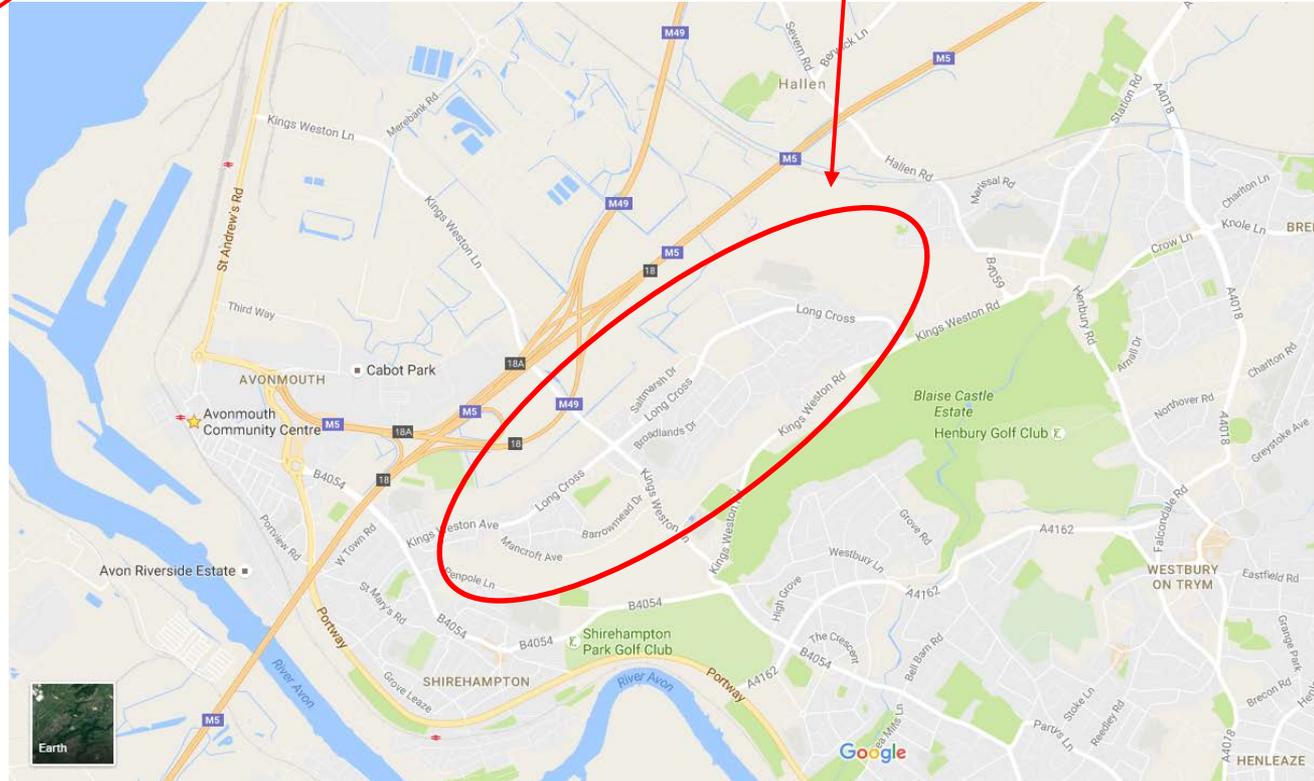




Bristol



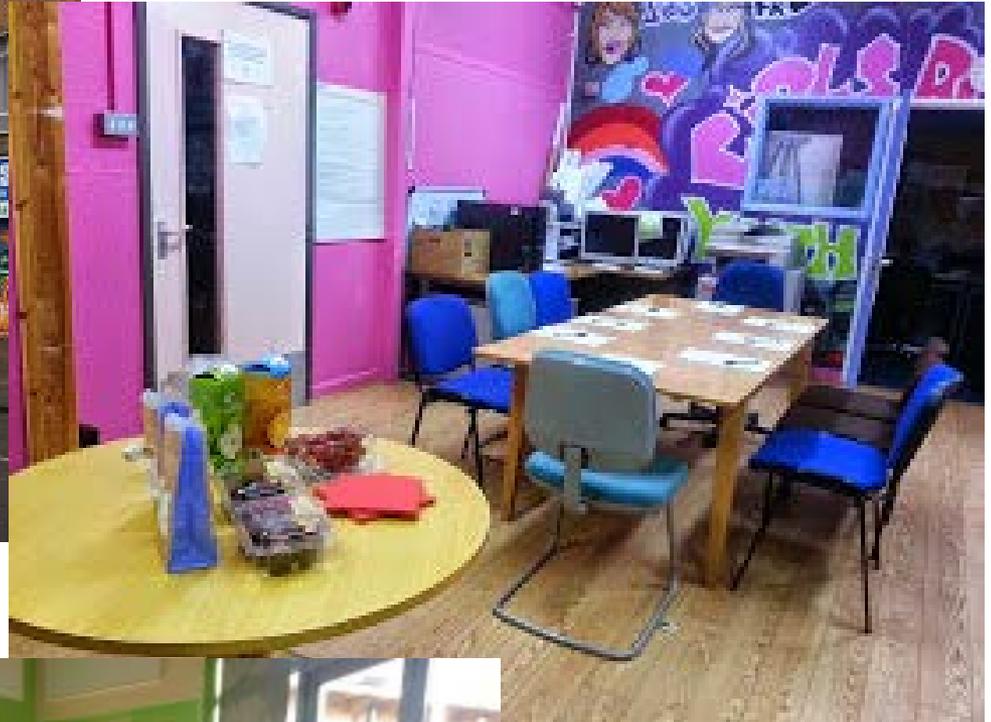
Lawrence Weston



Compared to Bristol city:

- Higher % children, young people & young families
- Higher % unemployed, low qualifications, poor health
- Over 50% dwellings are social housing
- Smaller % local businesses & jobs

Severance - cut off from nearby communities and employment sites (Avonmouth) by open space and major roads (M5 & M49)
 Limited public transport links to city centre, education & jobs
 39% no car in household (Bristol 29%) but...
 68% commute by car (Bristol 55%)



Research methodology

Focus groups

Face to face in-depth interviews

Research participants

23 Young people (age 16-22)

5 Parents of small children (age 27-36)

7 Key Local Informants from relevant policy/practice backgrounds





Social exclusion

“I started doing my level 2 childcare last year and I had to stop because I was always late to my college course because of the buses. I was two-and-a-half hours late one day and I had to get a lift in the end, then my funding got stopped so I couldn't pay to get a bus anymore. I had to stop my course. [...] It made me very upset because I really did enjoy my course and I wasn't able to do it and it wasn't actually my fault because I... I don't drive the bus, it's just late.” (Female, 17-19)

Intergenerational justice

“A couple of times I've got on the bus and they've told me to get off if I'm not going to pay for an adult.” (Female, 17-19)

“I know this is really random, but why do old people get a bus pass?” (Male, 17-19)

Full-time vs part-time/precarious employment

“It puts you down a bit. You know, you're trying to be young, trying to get your first job and move on and stuff, but you can be very limited on what jobs you go for. Say you wanted a job in town, sometimes the bus fare, by the time you get your bus fare there and back, say you're only working a four-hour shift, it's not worth it – you're going to make next to nothing on it.” (Male, 17-19)

Increased car reliance

“I think now, like, previously, from using buses now I've got a car, I probably wouldn't ever catch a bus again because, like you say, they're just unreliable and, yes, I personally wouldn't step foot on a bus again to travel anywhere.” (Male, 17-19)

(In)dependent mobility?

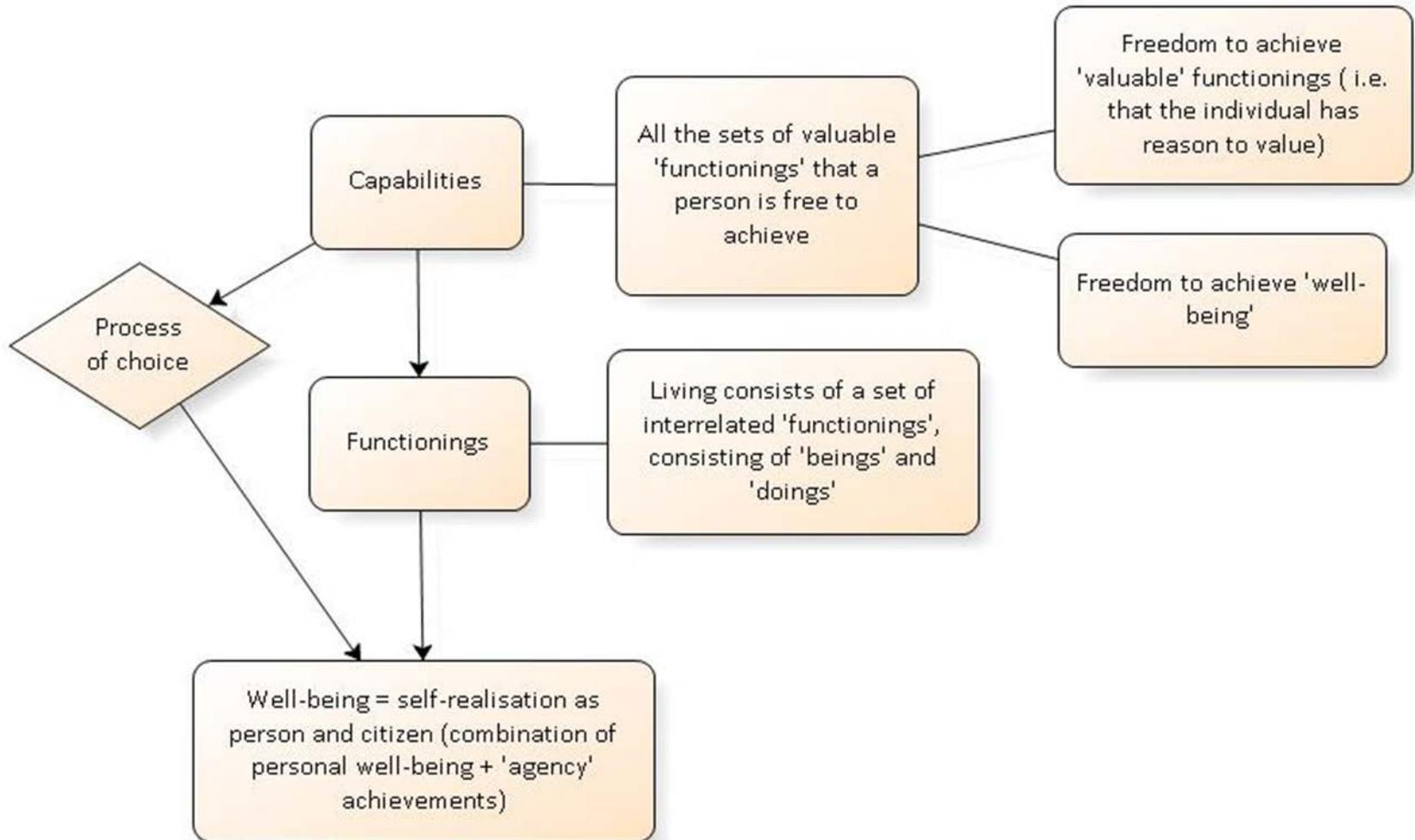
“The buses don’t run down to where I work and I can’t walk down there because it’s dangerous. My work is literally around the corner. It takes four minutes to get there. So if it weren’t for my dad giving me a lift, I wouldn’t have that job.” (Female, 17-19)

Failure of accessibility planning

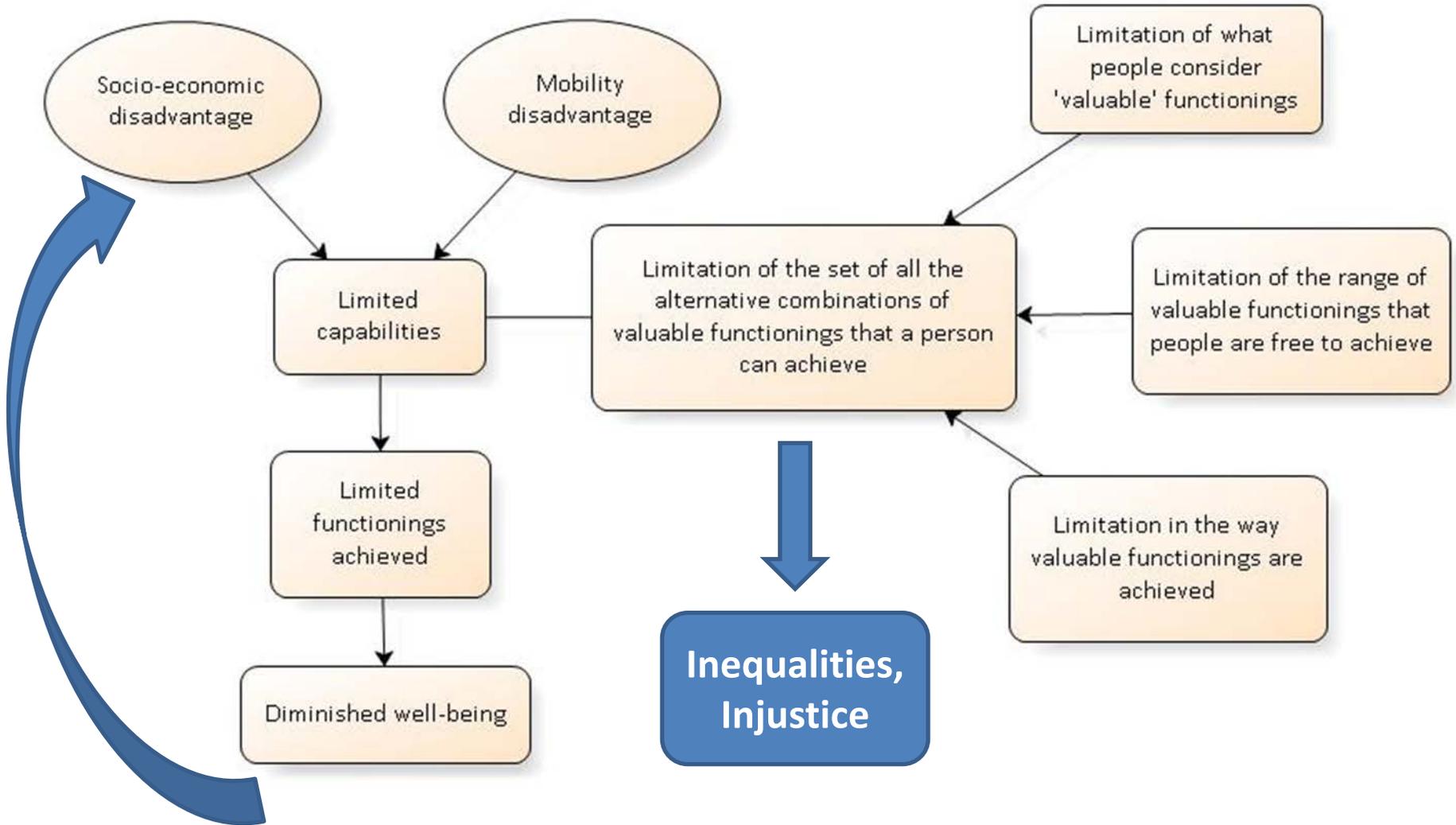
“Accessibility planning isn’t very fashionable neither is the JLTP these days. A lot of work was done around accessibility planning and you get a lovely document with some nice maps but no one can do anything about it. Because we’ve got more or less no control over the bus network, and no money, we can’t actually do much about it. We are investigating demand responsive transport, so taxi buses, but again we don’t want to be left with an ongoing revenue bill at the end of that. So most of the solutions that we’re looking at, at the moment, are effectively walking and cycling improvements, mainly cycling improvements.” (Local transport planning manager)



The Capabilities Approach



CA application



Thank you

Ricci, M. (2016) Young age, mobility and social inclusion in a disadvantaged urban periphery in England. In: Murray, L. and Robertson, S., eds. (2016) *Intergenerational Mobilities: Relationality, Age and the Lifecourse*. Routledge.
(Full Text shortly available at <http://eprints.uwe.ac.uk/27708/>)

Ricci, M., Parkhurst, G. and Jain, J. (2016) Transport policy and social inclusion. *Social Inclusion*, 4 (3). pp. 1-6. (Open Access,
<http://www.cogitatiopress.com/ojs/index.php/socialinclusion/article/view/668>)

miriam.ricci@uwe.ac.uk

 @RicciMiriam

LinkedIn  <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/miriamricci>