From the lure of adventure to the tedium of a daily commute, and from the call of the unknown to the familiarity of home, various forms and aspects of mobility have always been at the core of human existence and preoccupations. Newly emerging technologies are constantly changing our view of time and space, and impacting our relationship to the surrounding environment. The advent of the railroad, the automobile, and the airplane provides a perfect example of how the perception of distance, and consequently of time, is influenced by increased velocity. The incremental development of telecommunication devices has rendered distances and physical barriers superfluous, thus contributing to trends of globalization, cosmopolitanism, and global governance on the one hand, and escalated scrutiny and surveillance on the other hand.

Living implies movement; this vital association encompasses heterogeneous flows of people, things, and ideas. The corporeal travel of people relates not only to everyday practices or to touristic, leisurely pursuits, but also to historical phenomena such as political upheaval and regime change. From biblical accounts of the Israelites’ wanderings to the Great Migration of African Americans during the 20th century, shifts in population have redefined political, cultural, and religious landscapes. Embodied practices such as walking, driving, and flying help us create new spaces (roads, airports, public transportation, etc.) that modify existing infrastructures, geographies, and topologies. Meanwhile, disability studies has shed new light on the social and medical nature of different kinds of mobilities, from the wheelchair to the crutch. Travel also occurs in more than one dimension. While the concept of social mobility is central to disciplines such as anthropology, economics, and sociology, Jules Verne’s fertile imagination took 19th-century readers on a trip to the moon almost a century before technological advances made it possible. Today’s imagination contributes various accounts of imaginative travel and virtual travel to mobility studies, from the space journeys depicted in movies like Interstellar to the time-traveling exploits of Doctor Who.

We invite submissions of scholarly and/or artistic works which explore past and present conceptions of mobility, broadly defined. How are the different facets of mobility – artistic, literary, geographical, political, sociological, anthropological, historical, linguistic, philosophical – represented? How do these representations consider the entanglement of ethnicity, gender, and class that is common to the flows of subjects, objects, and concepts? How do the velocity, rhythm, and flow of mobility emerge from the practices of specific cultures or agents?