

## **Hagerstrand, hegemony and distributed discourse: the use of the worldwideweb in tracking contemporary migration paths**

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### **Abstract:**

Hagerstrand drew our attention to the importance of information paths, and their interaction with social structures, in the diffusion of information. Major alterations in communication technologies have adjusted many of the local specificities and locality constraints on information diffusion that were present in Hagerstrand early analysis. However, the concept of adjacency at the heart of Hagerstrand's understanding remains crucial once the character of electronic adjacency present in contemporary information processes is fully appreciated.

This paper examines the ways in which global eavesdropping on specific mobility paths and patterns affords new directions for mobility research and researchers. It explores the power of new information communication technologies to assist in the reintegration of fragmented histories.

It will focus on seasonal migrant labour in a range of international locations and indicate the importance of developing mobility biographies in the explanation of the shaping of occupational identity and property. Social capital is often viewed as a fixed and local asset - this paper considers the development of migrant social capital and identifies the additional social capital properties that migration on a seasonal and circulatory basis is likely to produce. The paper introduces the concept of structures of encounterability \_ the intermesh or interweave of mobility biographies and specific place which render identity visible and subject to chronicle.

(The full text of this paper is available at  
[http://www.geocities.com/transport\\_and\\_society/stockholm2005.html](http://www.geocities.com/transport_and_society/stockholm2005.html) )