

# **Hitch-hiking: how to approach this money-free, app-less, mode of transport?**

Paulo Rui Anciães

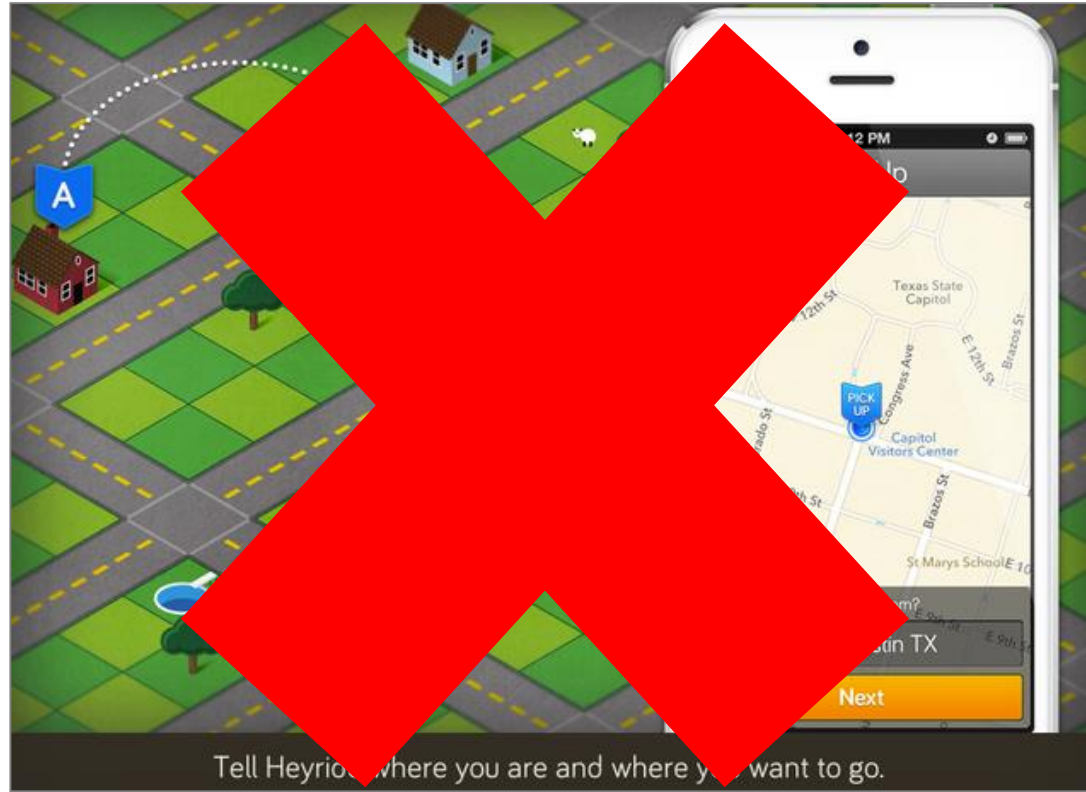
Centre for Transport Studies  
University College London

## The old hitchhiking



[everyday-i-show.livejournal.com/46292.html](http://everyday-i-show.livejournal.com/46292.html)

## The new hitchhiking



[theverge.com/2013/2/14/3988184/sidecar-ride-sharing-service-acquires-competitor-heyride](http://theverge.com/2013/2/14/3988184/sidecar-ride-sharing-service-acquires-competitor-heyride)

# ‘Thumbing’ from A to B



Reuters, [delfi.ee/teemalehed/voolukatkestus?page=4](http://delfi.ee/teemalehed/voolukatkestus?page=4)



Hadas Parush, [www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/15193](http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/15193)



Giorgio Mercuri, [www.trekearth.com/members/giorgimer/photos/Central\\_America/Cuba](http://www.trekearth.com/members/giorgimer/photos/Central_America/Cuba)



Roger Jardine, [www.theguardian.com/cities/2014/aug/20/scrapheap-shelter-public-space-durban-south-africa-hitchhikers](http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2014/aug/20/scrapheap-shelter-public-space-durban-south-africa-hitchhikers)



# ‘Slugging’ from A to B



Texas A&M Transportation Institute, [tti.tamu.edu/2012/06/19/body-snatchers-and-slugs-part-of-carpooling-culture/](http://tti.tamu.edu/2012/06/19/body-snatchers-and-slugs-part-of-carpooling-culture/)



“slugging”  
“instant/casual carpooling”  
“anonymous ride-sharing”  
“body snatching”



Thomas E. Franklin, <http://www.northjersey.com/news/road-warrior-need-a-cheap-commute-try-hitchhiking-the-gwb-video-1.1046780?page=all>

# Drifting from A to B to A to C to B to A to B to D

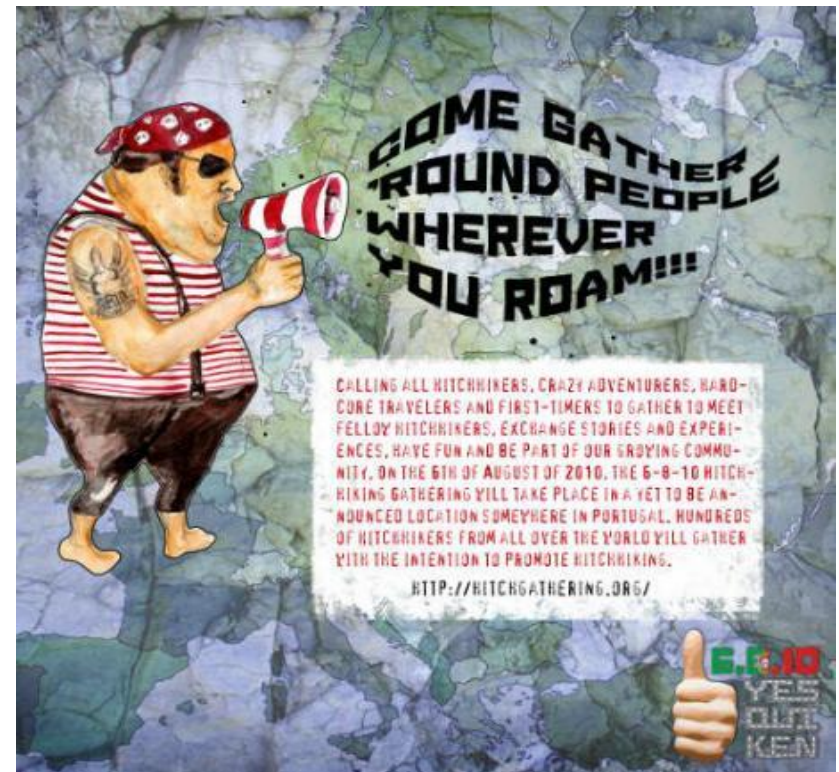


Source: Turner, S. (1996) *Jack Kerouac: Angel Headed Hipster*

"Where we going, man?"

"I don't know but we gotta go."

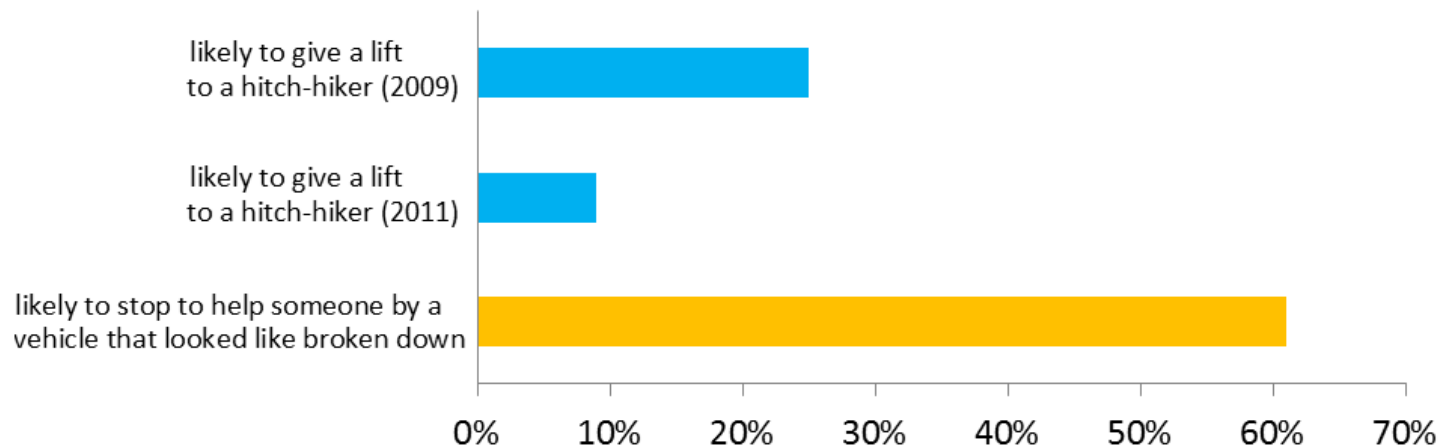
Kerouac (1957) *On the Road*



# The driver's perspective

	Repulsion against public transport passengers	Propensity to mix on public transport	Liking for sole occupancy of the car	Liking for the car as a private space	%
“Secessionists”	++	-	++	++	25
“Moderate secessionists”	+	0	-	+	30
“Pro-mixing and pro-car”	-	+	-	-	27
“Pro-mixing”	--	++	--	--	17

Mattiolo (2014)

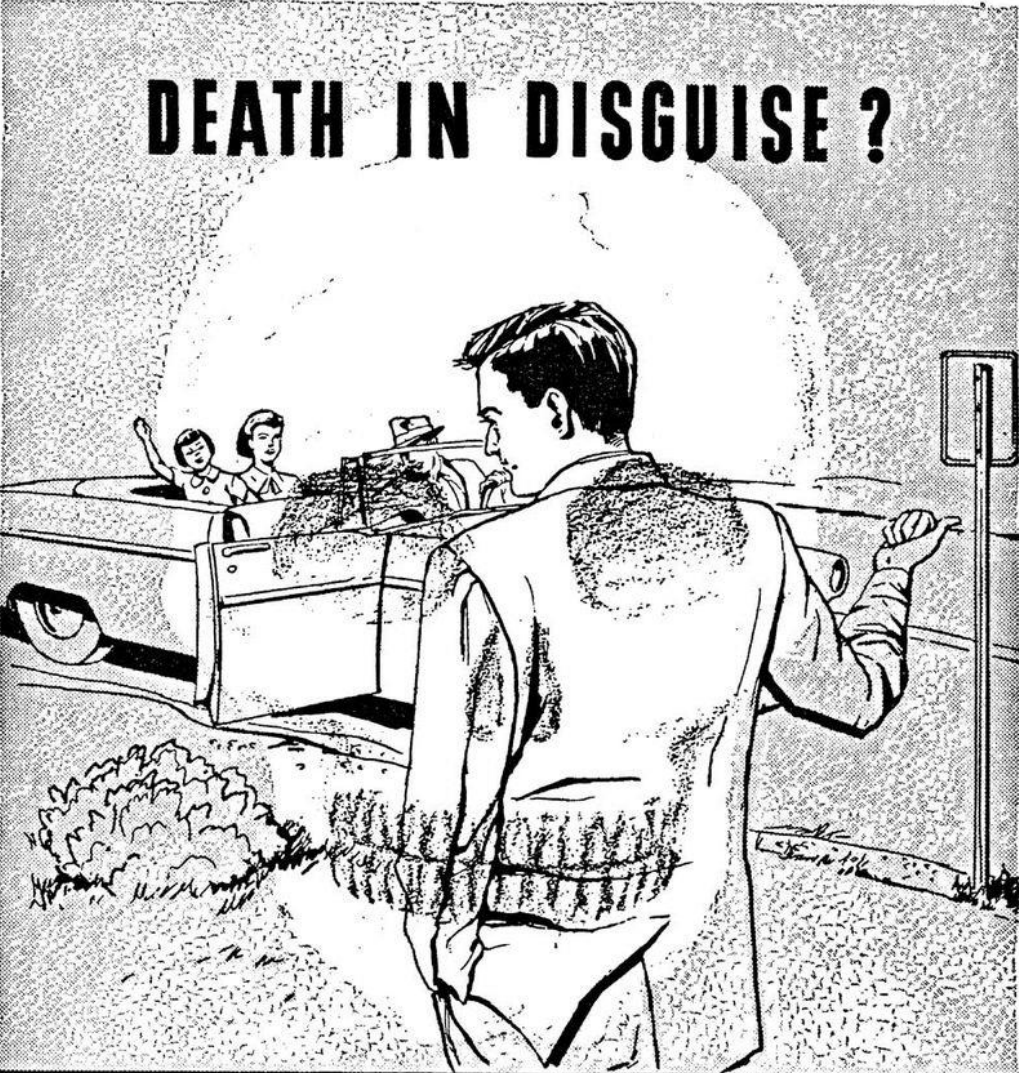


Source: AA/ Populus (2009, 2011)



# Risk

## DEATH IN DISGUISE ?

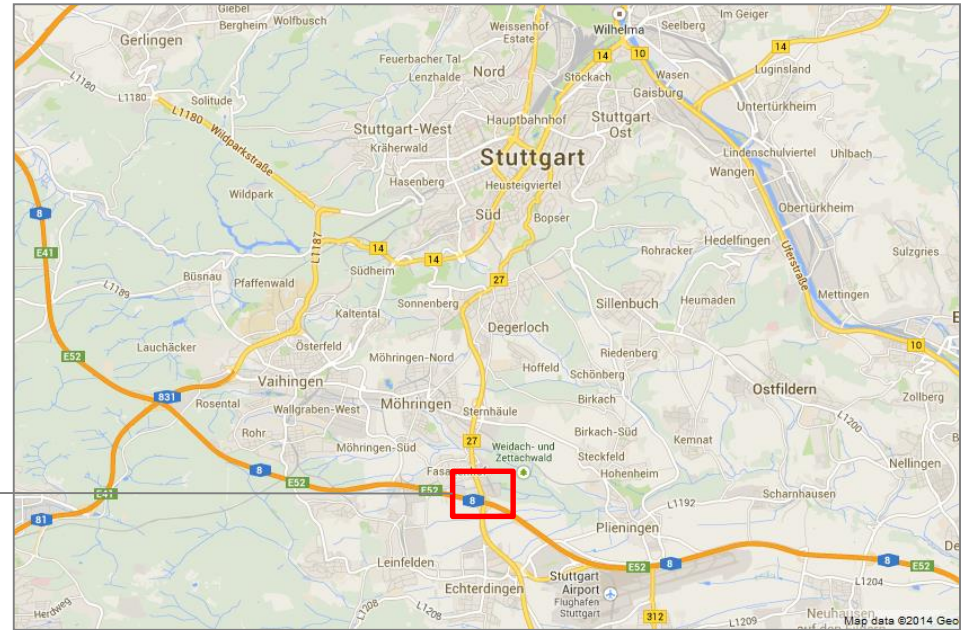


**TO THE AMERICAN MOTORIST:**  
Don't pick up trouble! Is he a happy vacationer or an escaping criminal--a pleasant companion or a sex maniac--a friendly traveler or a vicious murderer? In the gamble with hitchhikers your safety and the lives of your loved ones are at stake. Don't take the risk!

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# Accident risk

dropped off here at 11pm,  
19/12/1999





BUST SIZE AND HITCHHIKING: A FIELD STUDY<sup>1</sup>

NICOLAS GUÉGUEN

*Université de Bretagne Sud*

*Summary.*—To test the effect of a woman's bust size on the rate of help offered, 1200 male and female French motorists were tested in a hitchhiking situation. A 20-yr.-old female confederate wore a bra which permitted variation in the size of cup to vary her breast size. She stood by the side of a road frequented by hitchhikers and held out her thumb to catch a ride. Increasing the bra-size of the female-hitchhiker was significantly associated with an increase in number of male drivers, but not female drivers, who stopped to offer a ride.

FREQUENCY AND PERCENT OF MOTORISTS WHO STOPPED BY  
EXPERIMENTAL CONDITION AND SEX OF MOTORIST

Motorists' Sex	<i>n</i>		Bra Cup Size		
			A	B	C
Male	774	%	14.92	17.79	24.00
		<i>f</i>	40/268	46/256	60/250
Female	426	%	9.09	7.64	9.33
		<i>f</i>	12/132	11/144	14/150

# Approaches to hitch-hiking

## Level -1: Prohibit



# Level 1: facilitate

“Red points”, then (Germany 1960s)...



Popular Science, October, 1939



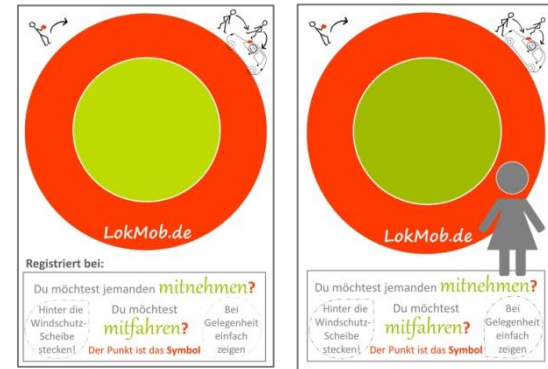
Brendan Gaffney, facingthetides.wordpress.com



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pa0p5abNKgA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pa0p5abNKgA)

Hitchhiking stops  
then..

..and now



LokMob, [www.lokmob.de/2013/08/postkarte-fur-die-windschutzscheibe](http://www.lokmob.de/2013/08/postkarte-fur-die-windschutzscheibe)

.. and now



# Level 2: organise



[abcnews.go.com/US/thing-free-ride/story?id=13726646](http://abcnews.go.com/US/thing-free-ride/story?id=13726646)



Washington slug  
lines



[www.slug-lines.com](http://www.slug-lines.com)



[www.bowenlift.com](http://www.bowenlift.com)



Linking Islanders through  
Friendly Transportation

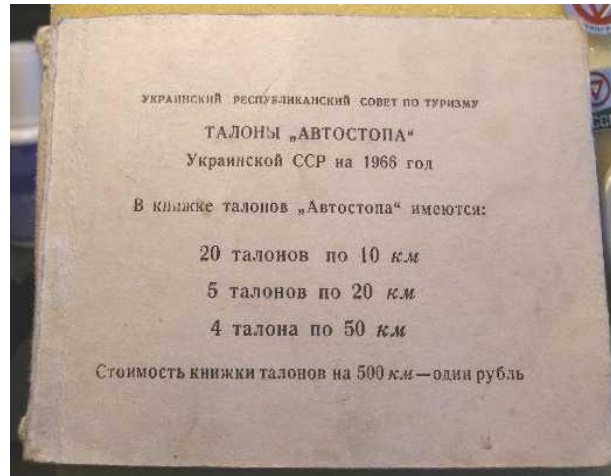
# Level 3: control

Cuba:  
*El amarillo*  
(The yellow man)

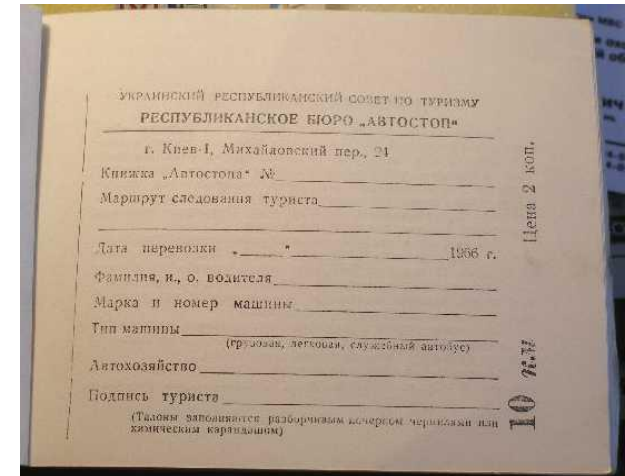


Jorge Luis Guibert, [http://fotosdesantiagodecuba.blogspot.co.uk/2014\\_09\\_01\\_archive.html](http://fotosdesantiagodecuba.blogspot.co.uk/2014_09_01_archive.html)

USSR:  
Hitchhiking  
coupons



El'Ba, [www.elba.org.ua/hitch-hiking-in-USSR.phtml](http://www.elba.org.ua/hitch-hiking-in-USSR.phtml)





Mapije de Wit, [mapije.com/v3/en/projecten/fiets-lift-plaats](https://mapije.com/v3/en/projecten/fiets-lift-plaats)

## Level 4: be creative

“Bicycle lift-place

No bicycle or punctured tires?

Wait here with the thumb up until a friendly cyclist takes you”



# Challenges: policy

**Hitch & Ride**

*Maungaraki has the best public transport in the world.*

Peak time service every 15 seconds to the Hutt or Wellington CBDs.

Q: Isn't this the same as car pooling?  
A: No, it's better. You don't have to meet someone else's timetable. No waiting, no phone calls.

Q: Will the rides take me where I want to go?  
A: The Hitch & Ride system officially offers only two destinations - the Hutt or Wellington CBDs. You'll have to negotiate the details with your driver, depending on where they're going.

Q: Do I have to accept the ride I'm offered?  
A: If you aren't happy with your ride offer, politely decline, wait for another ride or change to the bus service.

Q: Is this safe?  
A: Maungaraki has a very low crime rate. However, sensible precautions are recommended, such as keeping a mobile phone handy and informing others that you plan to use the Hitch & Ride system.

Q: If I'm hitchhiking, do I have to pay?  
A: No, but it's suggested you offer the driver a gold coin donation.

Q: Will this affect the bus service?  
A: Hutt City Council is committed to running both systems simultaneously.

Maungaraki  
First to see the Light!

Feedback contact:  
Hutt City Council  
Christopher Milne  
christopher.milne@huttcity.govt.nz

Supported by -  
Maungaraki Community Association  
Hutt City Council  
Hutt City Council Western Ward Committee

HUTT CITY

design by lime-red DESIGN LTD  
lime-red.co.nz

**Dowse Drive HITCHING POSTS**

WELLINGTON CBD HITCHING POST

HUTT CBD HITCHING POST


Maungaraki Hitch & Ride is a revolutionary approach to commuting. It's more flexible than a car-pool and more frequent than a bus. It has the potential to save you petrol and parking costs, while helping the environment and reducing traffic congestion.

As far as we know, it's a world first. If it works, Maungaraki will be paving the way for similar communities everywhere.

If you need a lift to Hutt CBD or Wellington CBD, stand by a sign at one of the nine pick up points on Dowse Drive going down the hill.

**Drivers** - support your community! ... if you are going to the Hutt or Wellington, pick up a passenger.

*It's as simple as that.*



Maungaraki Hitch & Ride, New Zealand  
Source: [blog.dawes.co.nz](http://blog.dawes.co.nz)

**3 Mar 2006**

“The Council is determined to see out the experiment before worrying about the impact this may have on buses”

**9 Sep 2006**

“I think the hitching posts are asking for trouble (...) Look at all the hitch hikers that have gone missing, been murdered or raped, how is this any different?”

Maungaraki Views newsletter  
[www.maungaraki.com/maungaraki\\_views\\_newsletter](http://www.maungaraki.com/maungaraki_views_newsletter)

**14 Sep 2012**

"I've never liked the idea - Maungaraki Community Association president said."

[www.stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz)

**21 Jan 2014**

“Hitching posts have been removed. (..) Councillor (...) accepts the old posts got little use but said the council could have done more to promote the concept”

The Hutt News  
[huttnews.realviewdigital.com](http://huttnews.realviewdigital.com)

# Challenges: research

New Scientist 27 March 1975

The Senator assailed NSF for providing \$83 000 for a study of "romantic love", plus sums ranging from \$15 000 to \$350 000 for studies of "Hitchhiking: a Viable Addition to a Multimodal Transportation System," "Preliminary Investigation of a Special Impact of Television on Blacks," "Social Behaviour of Alaskan Brown Bears," and "Trends in Tolerance of Nonconformity."

" I doubt if the factory worker in Oshkosh making \$7200 per year or the farmer in Louisiana making even less finds this expenditure of his tax dollars particularly beneficial."

**Thank you for your attention!**