Addressing Gender Equality in Transport

AITPM webinar, 4th September 2024

Women and transport

- Women face greater mobility hurdles/barriers
- Higher number of trips and higher rates of trip-chaining
- Historic and contemporary challenges to women's safety in public spaces, including transport
- A transport system that does not respond to all user needs
- Limited knowledge of how to solve issues

Cultural	Physical
• Religious norms • Women as (traditionally) primary caretakers • Women primarily responsible for domestic chores	• Automobile-orientated urban form • Lack of adequate infrastructure for walking and cycling • Limited transit networks
Economic	**Psychological**
• Lack of resources for private vehicle • Living in urban periphery or lower income areas	• Fear of harassment and victimisation • Parental fear of stranger danger

Barriers impacting women's travel (Loukaitou-Sideria, 2020)

Example: bike riding rates

- A disbalance in gender representation is common in countries with low cycling rates.

- In countries where the mode share of cycling is greater than around 7%, women ride as much as men (or more).

- Women are generally more affected by poor cycling facilities than men because they tend to be more risk averse than men.
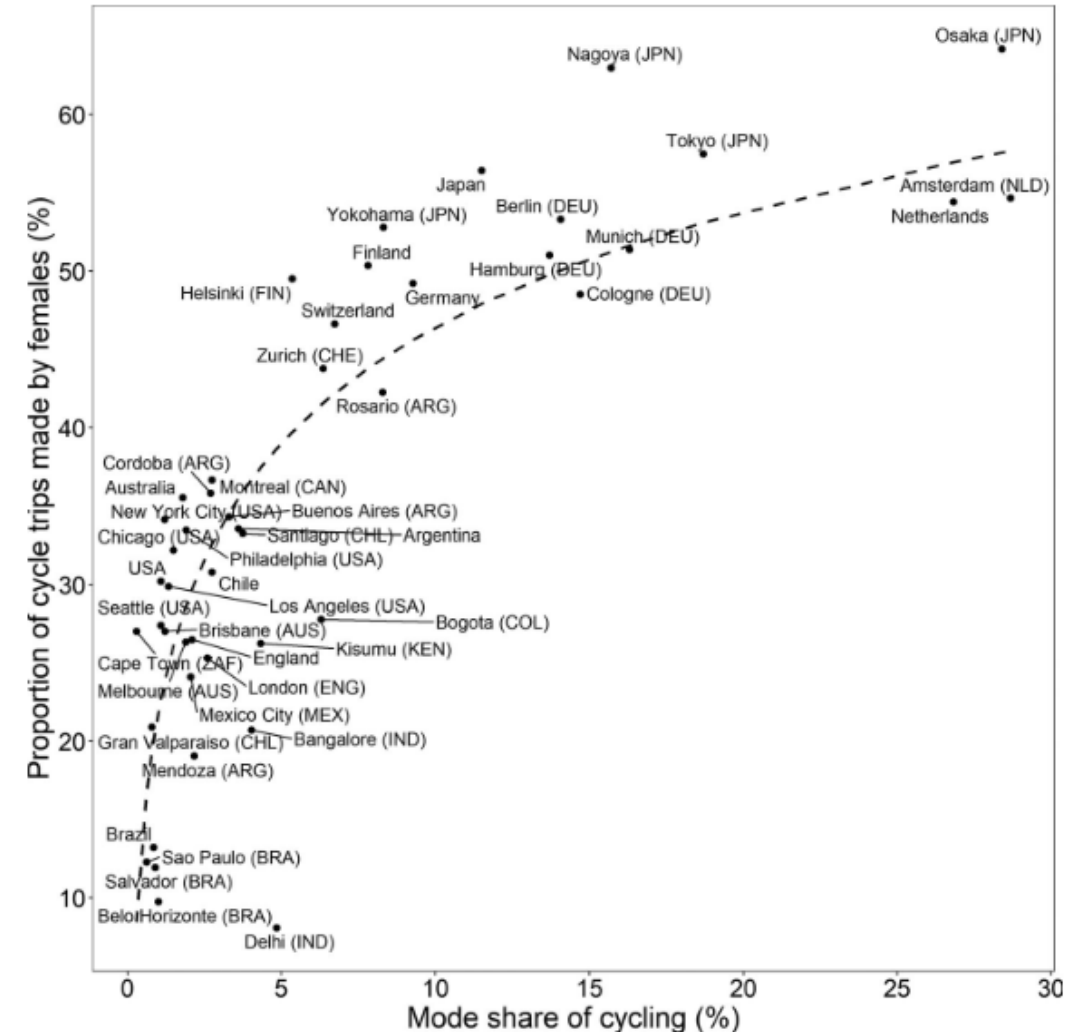

Source: Goel et al., (2022) Cycling behaviour in 17 countries across 6 continents: levels of cycling, who cycles, for what purpose, and how far?

What's needed?

- We can't solve problems that we don't know about
- We need a better evidence base e.g., more gender-disaggregated data to better understand women's experience in urban spaces and transport.
- An appreciation that 'women' are not a homogenous group. Race, age, ethnicity, and family dynamics also play a role.
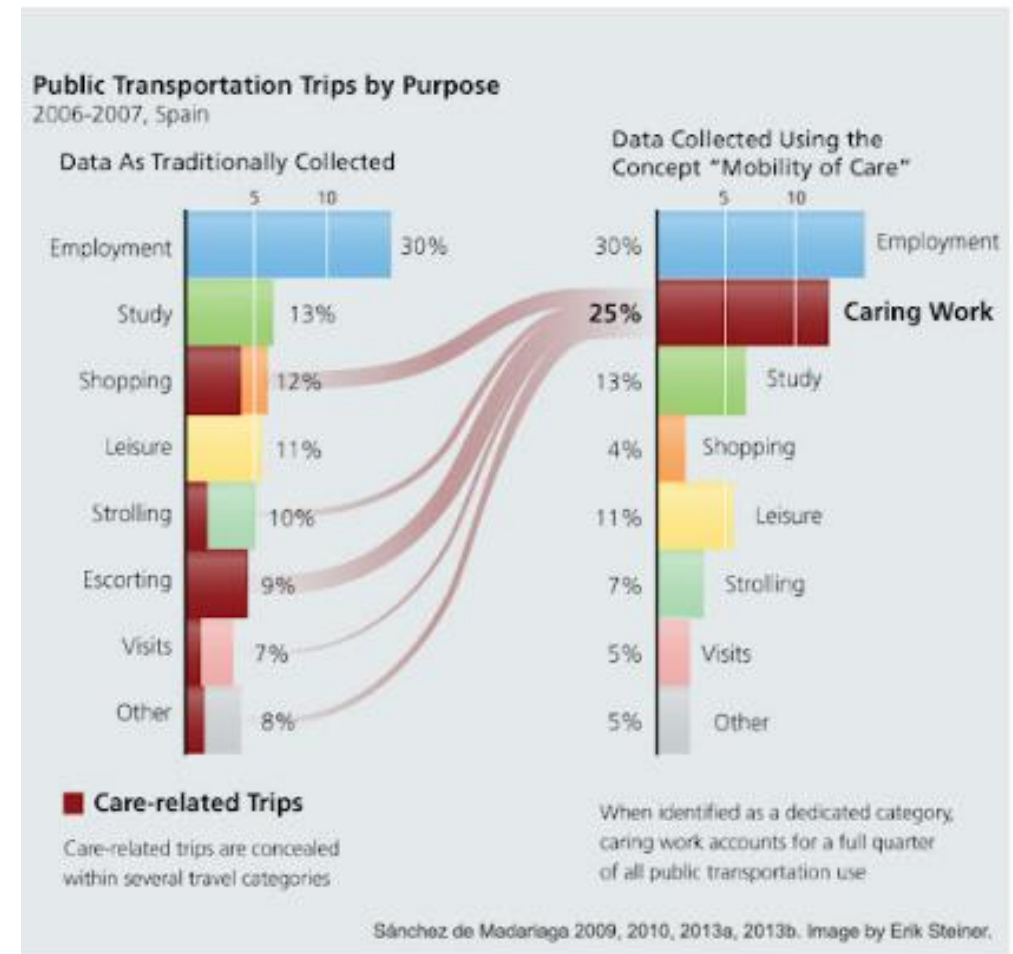
Sánchez de Madariaga, 2009. Image by Erik Steiner

Toolkits

- XYX, TramLab Toolkits

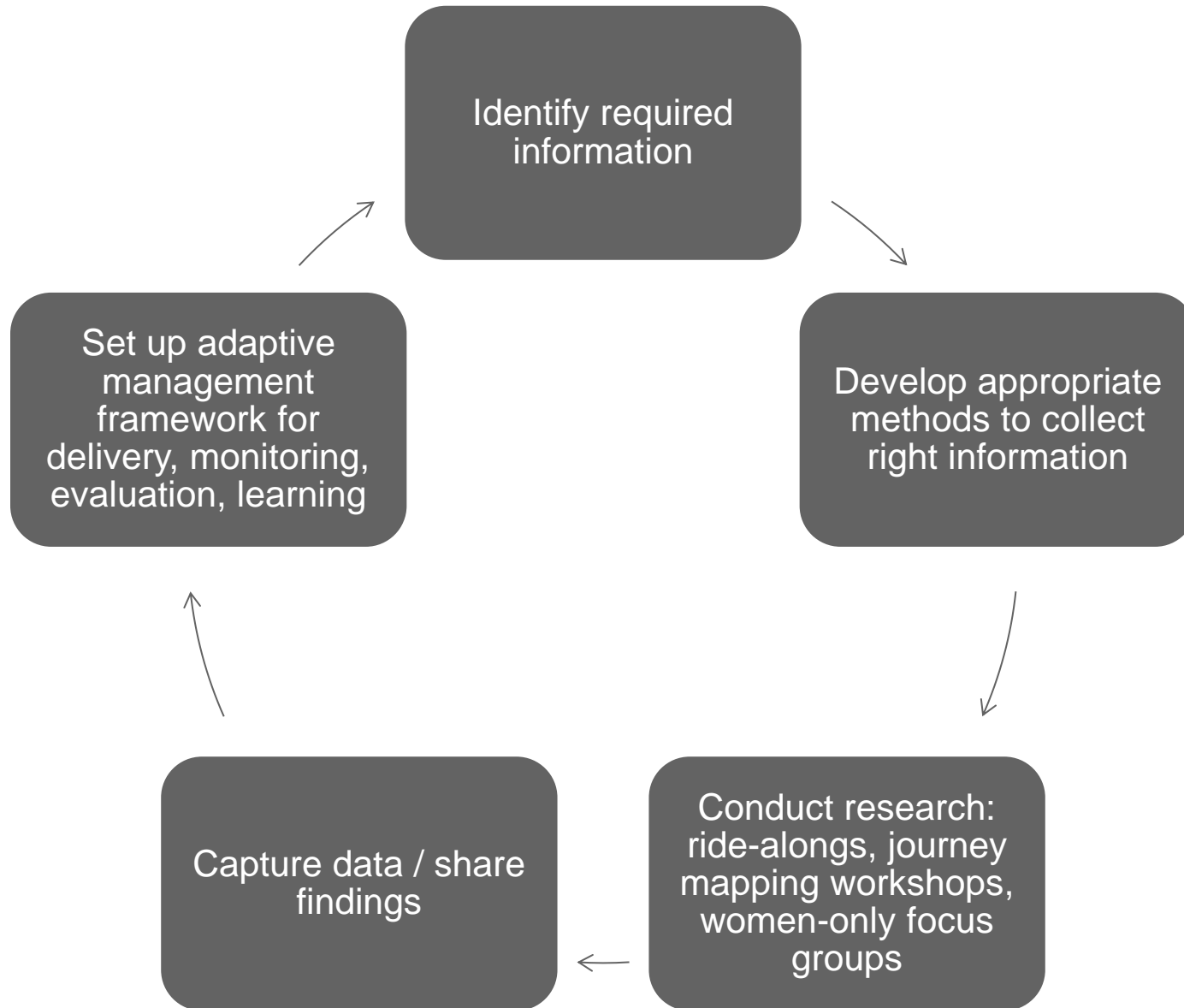- Asian Development Bank, Gender Tool Kit: Transport

- Victorian Government, Gender Impact Assessment Toolkit

What else can we do?

- Collect large-scale gender-sensitive data
- Introduce new qualitative methods for collecting targeted data.
- This helps to inform decision-making processes
- Use different research methods to tease out the information required e.g. survey data is not going to capture all information, need to think about qualitative research.
- **Other research methods include:**
  - **Ride-alongs**
  - **Journey and empathy mapping workshops**
  - **Women-only focus groups**

- Workshops should start with an icebreaker question and aim to build trust among participants.
- Closed-ended questions for quantitative evidence
- Open-ended questions for qualitative evidence (with coding to analyse responses)

Identify required information

Develop appropriate methods to collect right information

Conduct research: ride-alongs, journey mapping workshops, women-only focus groups

Capture data / share findings

Set up adaptive management framework for delivery, monitoring, evaluation, learning

Data Collection

Pop-up Bike Lane project, Department of Transport and Planning
- Conducted intercept surveys on user perception of safety post-implementation of the pop-up bike routes
- Asked a range of users (people walking, riding or driving)
- Recorded gender as part of the survey so answers could be analysed by gender

East Melbourne Parking Review, City of Melbourne
- Intercept surveys of people parking in East Melbourne, especially for sporting events
- Recording gender and group composition as part of the survey to understand parking needs for women and families
- For example, women may choose their parking location based on lighting, passive surveillance, proximity to destination, etc.

Ride-along example

1. **Home visits and Ride Alongs: Setting off from Point A**

| 🚐 Travel itinerary Where is she going today? Why?	🕴 Body What does she wear? Does she change as she travels?
👫 Travel companions Is she joined by someone? At the start or during?	👜 Bag What does she carry in her bag? {ask to get a photo of the contents} Food: Does she carry her food? Or buy on route?
🕐 Before she leaves What are the last activities before she leaves home?	📱 Tools Do they check anywhere or anything to know what might be happening on route? Radio, WhatsApp, TV etc

Workshops
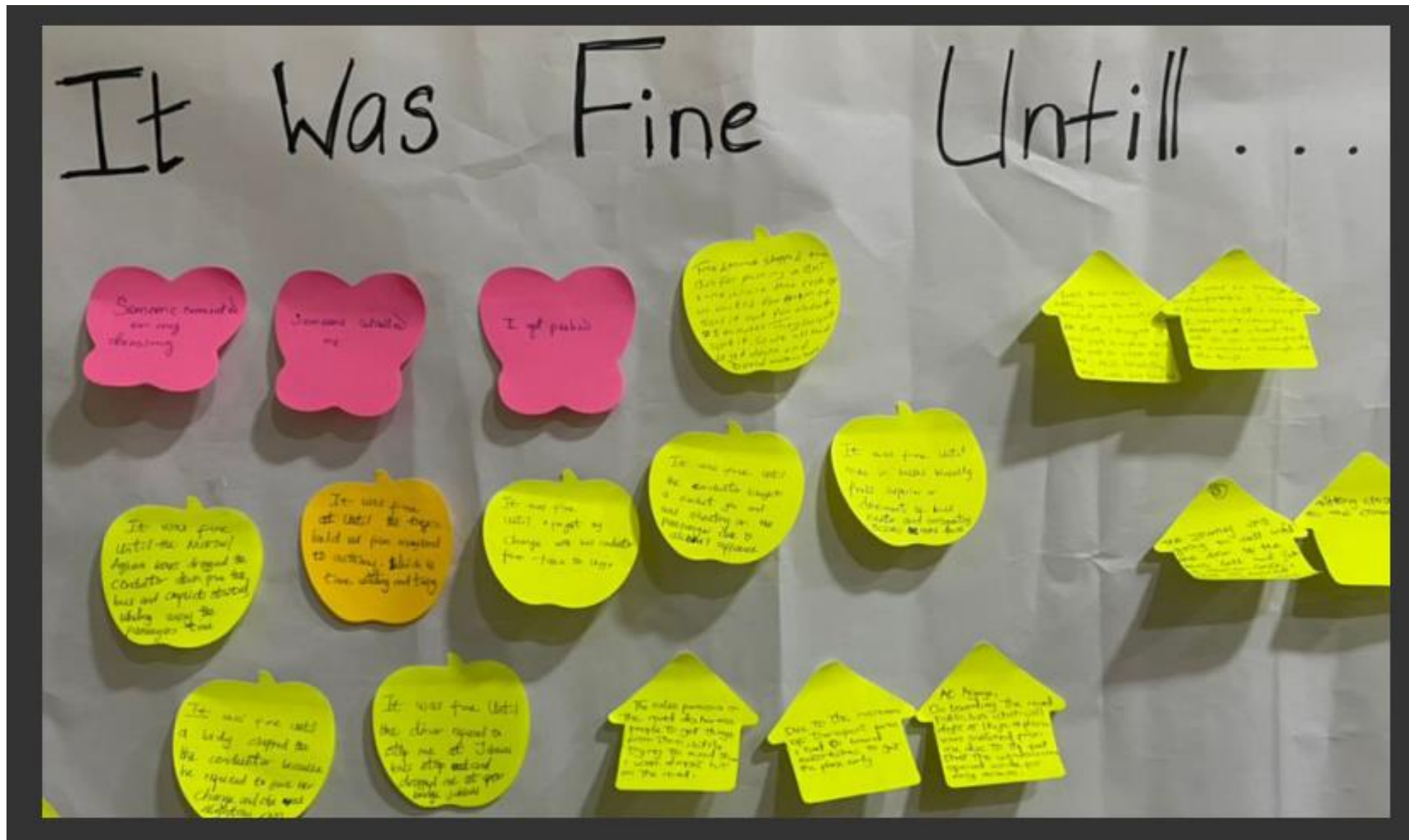
Summary

- Many tools now exist for conducting Gender Impact Assessments of transport projects
- Applying a user-centric approach is key to fully understanding barriers and impacts
- Having a transport system that works better for women means it works better for everyone (see cycling rates and mode share)

Resources

- TramLab (La Trobe, Monash University XYX Lab and RMIT) Toolkits for Improving the Safety of Women and Girls on Public Transport (2020):
  - Toolkit 1: Gender-Sensitive Communication Campaigns
  - Toolkit 2: Gender-Sensitive Placemaking
  - Toolkit 3: Gender-Sensitive Data
  - Toolkit 4: Gender-Sensitive Training
- Data-Pop Alliance (2022). Mobility, Accessibility and the Gender Data Gap in Urban Transportation Planning.
- Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris (2020). A Gendered View of Mobility and Transport. In *Engendering Cities*.
- Bridging the Gender Data Gap in Transport – WomenMobilizeWomen
- Charting Transport blog on gender and travel patterns
- Cubells et al. (2023). Gender travel behaviours in micro mobility? Travel Speed and route choice through the lens of intersecting identities.

- Pearson et al (2023). What a girl wants: a mixed-methods study of gender differences in the barriers to and enablers of riding a bike in Australia
- Invisible Women, Caroline Criado-Perez
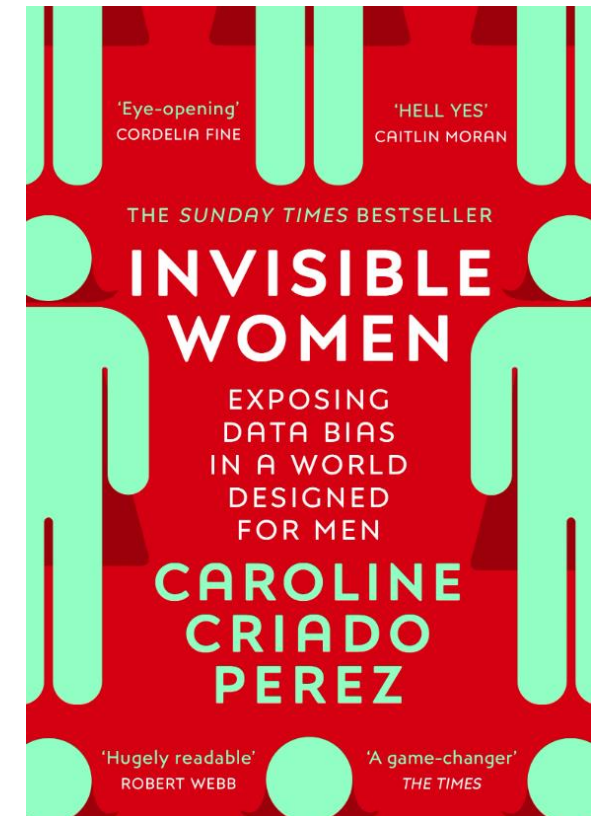
Our experience

Passive Surveillance Index Proof of Concept for Transport for New South Wales, 2021

- Estimates the level of safety based on passive surveillance items such as open businesses and available lighting.
- Quantifies safety for pedestrians by assigning a safety score to walking routes via a predictive system ranking system (using GIS).
- Relies on geospatial data sources, rather than user input through incident reporting.
- Project limitation: cost and accessibility of data.
- Outcome: the project was positively received by the client but not fully operationalised - due to a lack of input data.

Feasibility study for body-worn cameras on public transport, Victorian Department of Transport, 2022.

- Ensuring women and girls were considered

Banyule City Council – LBN: Gender Impact Assessment

- Informed Assessment Criteria for selecting cycle routes / prioritisation

Sunbury Bus Interchange: application of GIA

Austroads Cycle Guidance : indirect