

Project 1: E-Bikes and Sustainable Urban Mobility – A Multi-Level Perspective on Transition Dynamics in Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Paris, and Stockholm

The role of e-bikes in promoting a sustainable transition can be effectively analyzed through the theoretical framework of the Multi-Level Perspective (MLP). MLP helps explain how socio-technical transitions occur by examining interactions between different levels: the niche (innovation), the regime (dominant practices), and the landscape (external pressures).

E-bikes, as an innovation within urban transportation, are positioned in the niche, where they challenge conventional mobility regimes based on cars and fossil fuels. By reviewing the literature on e-bike adoption in cities like Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Paris, and Stockholm, the study can explore how these cities integrate e-bikes into their existing transport systems and examine how they facilitate a shift towards more sustainable urban mobility.

In cities such as Amsterdam and Copenhagen, where cycling culture is already embedded in the regime, e-bikes can act as a reinforcing niche innovation. They offer a more sustainable and accessible alternative to cars, contributing to the broader decarbonization of urban transport. In contrast, cities like Paris and Stockholm, where car-centric regimes dominate, e-bikes face stronger institutional and cultural barriers but can still benefit from external landscape pressures like climate change policies, urbanization trends, and public health concerns.

The research could address questions such as:

- What role do e-bikes play in sustainable urban mobility, especially in cities with established cycling infrastructures versus car-centric regimes?
- What barriers and enablers exist in the transition to e-bikes within different urban contexts?
- How do policies, cultural factors, and infrastructure in cities like Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Paris, and Stockholm influence the success of e-bikes as a niche innovation?

The MLP framework would allow for a deeper understanding of how e-bikes could reshape transportation systems, contributing to a sustainable future by aligning with broader urban and environmental goals.

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