

Personal journeys

Profiling people on the move

UWE's high profile transport academic Melia to retire

Steve Melia is to retire as a senior lecturer in transport and planning at the University of the West of England (UWE) next month. Melia, who is a regular contributor to LTT, plans to remain a visiting lecturer at UWE.

He has been a senior lecturer at UWE for the past 11 years after gaining a PhD at the university on the 'potential for car-free development in the UK'.

Melia said: "My findings on car-free development and filtered permeability influenced the DfT and TCPA guidance on the Eco-towns programme. I coined the term 'filtered permeability' in an article for LTT in 2008. This was for interest rather than looking for employment. With hindsight, I was lucky that the senior lecturer job became available from January 2010."



In recent years, Melia has become a climate change activist. In 2018 he joined the environmental movement Extinction Rebellion "after growing frustration at the lack of progress on decarbonisation – particularly in transport". He told LTT: "I was arrested twice in 2019 and fined £500 for taking part in road blockages in London. I was then told (third-hand, verbally and unattributed) that I was 'blacklisted' from

government research projects.

"I was arrested again twice in August 2021, once correctly and the second time wrongfully. I was subsequently 'de-arrested'. I am currently 'released under investigation'."

Following his retirement, Melia plans to embark on a cycling odyssey across Europe. "Since I stopped flying in 2005 I have never been outside Western Europe, so next March I am planning to cycle across Europe, through the Balkans to Greece," he said. "Brexit has made that a lot more complicated – I may be taking the last ever opportunity for a British citizen to make a trip like this, before the Schengen Zone expands into the Balkans.

"I will be visiting some interesting places along the way."

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