

Supervisors:

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Emissions from different journeys

Emissions per passenger for journey

■ CO2 emissions ■ Secondary effects from high altitude, non-CO2 emissions



Shaping the transition towards a low carbon emission travelling policy at UAB

Research activities have traditionally involved a number of air trips with a high impact on the environment in terms of GHG emissions. UAB is currently re-designing a new business travel policy that considers environmental impacts. ICTA is undertaking a study to inform the development of the plan. So far, the gross emissions have been calculated using different methods with very variable results.

The objective of this TFM is to integrate LCA and Metabolism assessments to develop an “ICTA” methodology of assessment of the socio-environmental impacts of air travel in academia. Then use this method to assess different strategies potentially included in the plan. It is hosted by ICTA’s working group on sustainable travel and the results are expected to be used within UAB and the working group for the next years.

Main aim: develop a method for the environmental assessment of air travel at ICTA

Temptative Tasks:

- 1) To build up on the existing literature review on methods for the calculation of GHG emissions of air travel
- 2) To build a library of LCI on aircraft types
- 3) To develop the ICTA methodology for air travel environmental impact assessment
- 4) To use UAB travel database (the working group already has this) and the results of a survey run in December 2020 to assess different scenarios of strategy implementation
- 5) To write a paper introducing the methodology

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Assessing the gender perspective of air travel reduction policies

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Previous studies have shown that the impact of avoiding air travel over the career changes with the career stage. However, no study has yet assessed how air travel reduction measures would affect gender bias. The premise is that in increasing time travel, researchers with family commitments will see their careers more affected and that women are more involved in family commitments than men.

The objective of this TFM is to assess if and how different measures of air travel reduction at UAB will affect differently men and women. This study will support the sustainable travel plan of UAB by helping propose measures that do not create a higher pressure on women than on men.

Main aim: assess the environmental impacts of air travel reduction policies over the career of academics with a gender perspective

Temptative Tasks:

- 1) To do a literature review on the importance of air travel for academic careers and on work life balance in academic with a gender perspective
- 2) To use previous studies of ICTA's working group on air travel to assess air travel emissions, and travel times at UAB by men and women.
- 3) To assess how different air travel reduction measures would change travel patterns for men and women and
- 4) To use the survey developed by ICTA's working group to assess how the reduction measures would impact the career of academics with a gender perspective.
- 5) To write a paper with the results with the support of the working group