

Women on Wheels: unlocking cycling potential in Dublin

25th June 2019, Velo-city Dublin 2019

Overcoming Imbalances How to make cycling inclusive for all?

Giulia Grigoli



Why it matters?

"I think [the bicycle] has done more to emancipate women than any one thing in the world. I rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a bike. It gives her a feeling of self-reliance and independence the moment she takes her seat; and away she goes, the picture of untrammelled womanhood."

Susan B. Anthony, 1896



Women
on
Wheels

"Mothers want the means and conditions for them to be able to transport their children safely".

Mamachari protest, Japan, 2008

Why it matters?



Women
on
Wheels

Women on Wheels: unlocking cycling potential in Delhi



Women on Wheels



Where are all the women?

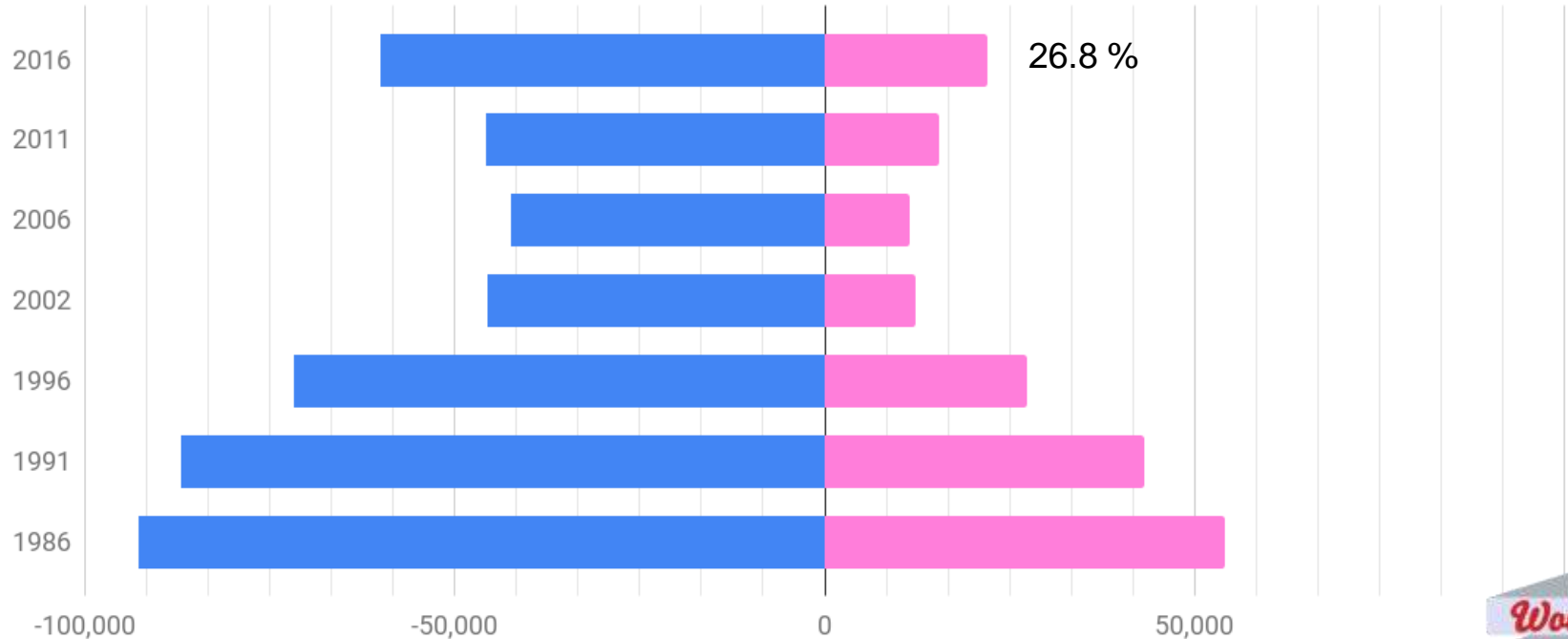


Only 27% of all people cycling in Dublin are women.

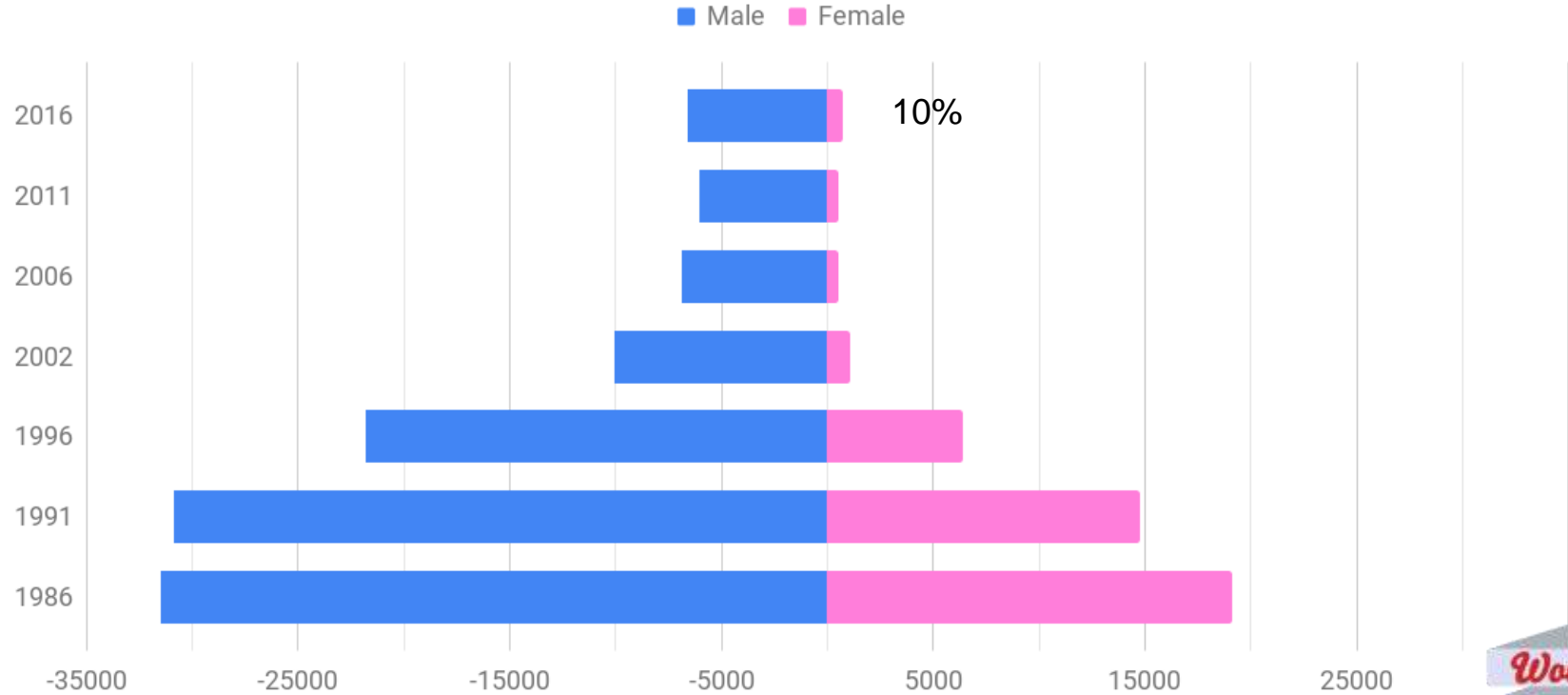


Number of people who use the bicycle as main mode of transport to travel to work, school or college (Census data since 1986)

■ Male ■ Female



Number of students at school or college aged between 13 and 18 years who use the bicycle as main mode of transport (Census data since 1986)



Listening Workshop



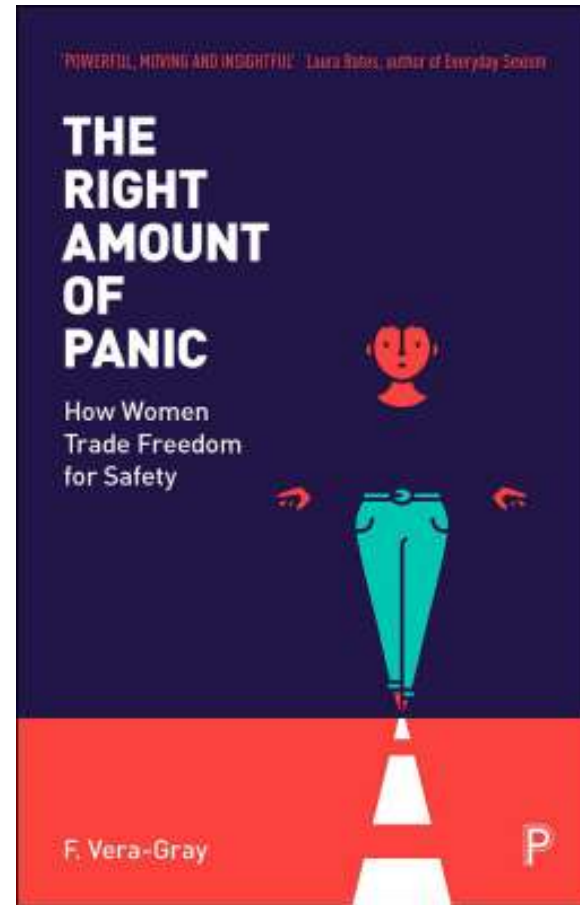
Women on Wheels: unlocking cycling potential in Dublin

Concept of Safety Work

“Refers to the range of modifications, adaptations, decisions that women take often habitually in order to maintain a sense of safety in public spaces.”

“It is work because it occupies time, requires energy and effort – all of which could be used for more rewarding activities.”

Liz Kelly – sociologist, working on violence against women, London



Research Methodology



Briefing Session

In April 2019 we recruited 20 women to be part of the 2nd phase of the project



- **20 women selected** (sample included diverse range of characteristics: age/ethnicity/years of experience cycling/ number of kids);
- **2 weeks of research:** Liberty Bell and daily diary;
- Debrief **face to face interviews**;
- **Analysis** of transcripts.

Joy of Cycling & Feeling of Community

"It's one of my favourite things about cycling, this interaction that you don't get when you're in a car."

Joy of Cycling & Feeling of Community

“What I love about cycling is my ability to see the people around me and to talk to them.”



Different Perceptions of Safety & Safety Strategies

“When I cycle to and from work – hi-vis dress, pants – face is covered – people might not know that I’m a woman cycling really. So I don’t get bothered by anyone, I don’t get catcalled or hassled or anything.”



Different Perceptions of Safety & Safety Strategies

"If I'm in a spot where there are a lot of taxi drivers, I have to be very aggressive and take the lane to get across."



Different Perceptions of Safety & Safety Strategies

"I actually do feel safer when I cycle..." [Rather than walking.]



Identity Issues: Women or Cyclists?



Women on Wheels: unlocking cycling potential in Dublin



Identity Issues: Women or Cyclists?

“people often say that you're brave whereas for men it's just normal, and I feel that I come up against that a lot or people say that a lot. They're surprised to see you on the road”

Identity Issues: Women or Cyclists?

“When other drivers are saying 'they all drove through the red lights' – well I don't. Generally speaking I don't. I get off the bike [...] You're being tarnished.”

Different expectations on appearance of women and men

“So it's just the expectation of what we're supposed to wear in the professional world, it's not... actually active-friendly.”

Different expectations on appearance of women and men

“There's no issue wearing high heels for cycling. You can cycle to a restaurant – no walking from the car.”

Different needs and types of trips

“...when you've got a child on the bike or have grocery shopping on a bike. Like, a lot of guys go cycling around and they don't even have mudguards on their bikes they're just zipping around the place. But when you're weighed down by stuff you're not as stable. And those things make a big difference when you're not as stable.”

Recommendations

1. MORE INCLUSIVE CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURES: we need to provide infrastructures that give a better sense of safety for everyone. We need to apply a holistic approach in the way we plan and design public spaces for people who cycle in Dublin;
2. RAISE FEMALE REPRESENTATION TO BUILD AN INCLUSIVE IMAGE OF CYCLING: We want to normalise cycling for women and create a cycling image and culture that everyone can relate and empathise with;
3. MORE ANALYSIS: Gendered approach to data collection for Transport Planning, listen to more women about their needs.

Women on Wheels: unlocking cycling potential in Dublin

Team: Louise Williams, Conor Cahill, Giulia Grigoli, Michelle Browne, Brian Mac Domhnaill, Janet Horner, Áine Tubridy, Mairéad Forsythe, Malgorzata Stach, Síle Ginnane, Robert Egan.

giulia@womenonwheels.ie

womenonwheels.ie

**DUBLIN
CYCLING
CAMPAIGN**

DublinCycling.com

@dublincycling

CommunityFoundation.ie

@CommunityFound

LibertyBell.ie

@fluidedge





Women
on
Wheels

Women on Wheels: unlocking cycling potential in Dublin

Photo: www.holstphoto.com