Program

Thursday, April 13, 2022
12:15 PM

Welcome
Bill Fulton
Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research

Keynote
Autonorama: The Illusory Promise of High-Tech Driving

Peter Norton
Associate Professor of History in the Department of Engineering and Society at the University of Virginia

Question & Answer

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HOUSTON ENDOWMENT
According to tech companies, automakers and consultancies, autonomous vehicles will drive themselves better than we can—and sooner than we think. They promise us that with high-tech cars, we can have “zero crashes, zero emissions, and zero congestion.” Despite the extraordinary technological developments of the last 20 years, however, the practical possibility of widespread automatic driving remains elusive.

In “Autonorama,” technology historian Peter Norton argues that technology cannot make car dependency sustainable, affordable, healthful, or inclusive. The supposed solutions divert us from transport sufficiency: an unspectacular state we can pursue now, at far less cost, with technology we already have.

**About the Kinder Institute for Urban Research**

The Kinder Institute for Urban Research is a multidisciplinary think-and-do tank housed at Rice University in central Houston, focusing on urban issues in Houston, the American Sun Belt and around the world. Through informed research, data and policy analysis, the Kinder Institute hopes to engage civic and political leaders to implement solutions to critical urban issues.

**About Urban Reads**

The Kinder Institute’s Urban Reads series showcases recently published works by local and national urban experts. Previous Urban Reads speakers have included former Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, TransitCenter Director of Research Steven Higashide, labor economist Rucker C. Johnson and transportation expert and journalist Angie Schmitt.

**Join the Conversation**

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About the Speaker

Peter Norton

Peter Norton is an associate professor of history in the Department of Engineering and Society at the University of Virginia. Norton has also been a visiting faculty member at the Technical University of Eindhoven in the Netherlands, and is a member of the University of Virginia’s Center for Transportation Studies. He is the author of “Fighting Traffic: The Dawn of the Motor Age in the American City” (MIT Press), and of “Autonorama: The Illusory Promise of High-Tech Driving” (Island Press, 2021). Norton is a winner of the Abbott Payson Usher Prize of the Society for the History of Technology. He is a frequent speaker on the subject of sustainable and equitable urban mobility.

“Autonorama” is available for purchase from retailers nationwide.

Visit https://islandpress.org/books/autonorama and use promo code WEBINAR to save 30% off the list price at checkout.
May 25, 2022 | 12:15 PM
Kinder Institute Forum: Scott Beyer
Urban affairs journalist Scott Beyer will discuss how a free-market approach to housing, transportation, public administration and more can create more livable cities.

Kinder Institute Luncheon 2022
Honoring Dr. Anne S. Chao
Featuring Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 • Marriott Marquis Houston (Discovery Green)

FREE | Register: kinder.rice.edu/events
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