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Bio:

Juliana Betancur Arenas is a PhD researcher in sustainable mobility at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Brussels, Belgium. She holds a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from EAFIT University in Medellin, Colombia and graduated with a Master's in Urban Studies from the VUB and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Juliana has working experience in designing and constructing cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in Colombia and France. Nowadays, her work as a researcher focuses on the barriers and motivators to cycling and the adoption process of other active modes, such as cargo bikes. She is also interested in the interlinkage between gender, ethnicity, culture and cycling mobility and has worked on the motivators and deterrents for migrant women to cycle in Brussels.

Along with my colleague Samyajit Basu from India, I am interested in exploring non-Western practices and methodologies to understand complex topics such as mobility inequalities, both in the global majority (especially in my country, Colombia) and our current context (Brussels, considered as one of the most racial and ethnically diverse areas in the world). We had an insightful discussion with VUB researcher Honghui Pan, during which we concluded on the relevance and need for acknowledging and legitimizing indigenous philosophies and practices in our different domains. She then told us about the IP task force.