

Getting from A to the Bahama's: An exploratory study of people with an autism spectrum disorder.

Veerle Ross¹, An Neven¹, Kris Brijs¹, Ellen Jongen², Veerle Cops¹, Elke Hermans¹

¹ Hasselt University, School of Transportation Sciences, Transportation Research Institute, Agoralaan, 3590 Diepenbeek, Belgium

² Open University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Valkenburgerweg 177, Heerlen, The Netherlands

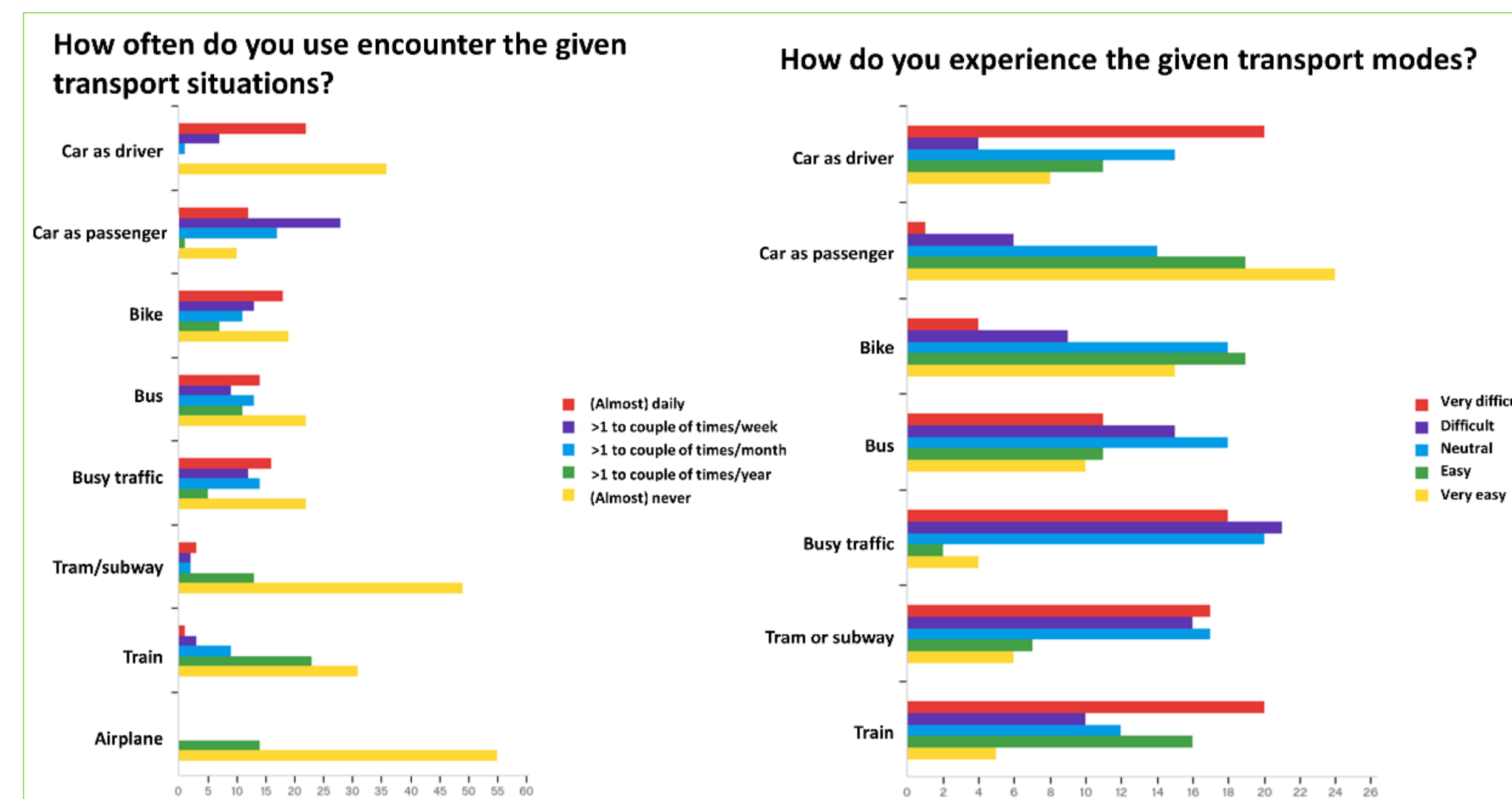
Introduction

People with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can be limited in autonomy and social inclusion

E.g., due to possible impairments related to use of public transport and driving, but also to the less explored domain of tourism (Feeley et al., 2015; Hamed, 2013; Ross et al., 2015)

GOAL: This cross-sectional survey study explored possible problems related to transportation and tourism

Transportation



Tourism

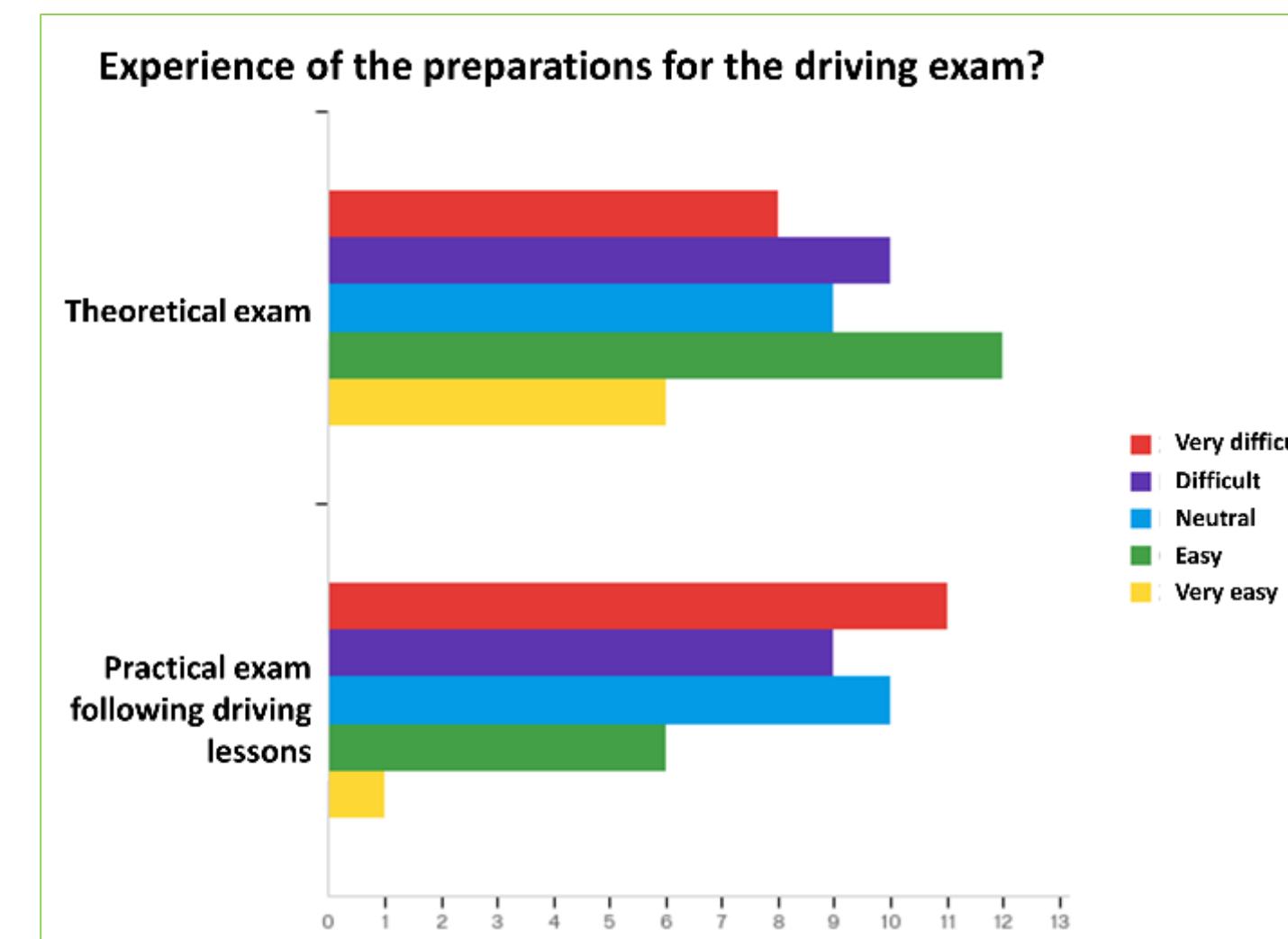
Transport mode on your 'ideal' vacation?	Transport mode to destination during last vacation?	Transport mode at destination during last vacation?
Car 56.86%	Car 50.77%	Rail 24.74%
Plane 37.25%	Bus 18.46%	Bus 19.59%
Train 3.92%	Plane 16.92%	Boat 9.28%
Bus 1.96%	Train 13.85%	Bike 7.22%
Boat 0.00%	Boat 0.00%	Other 4.12%

Study

Exploratory questionnaire in Flanders, Belgium

This poster highlights some key closed questions from an initial sample (analyses ongoing)

78 respondents started the questionnaire (51.28% male, mean age 26.48, 50.65% did not own a driver license, 54 finished the questionnaire)

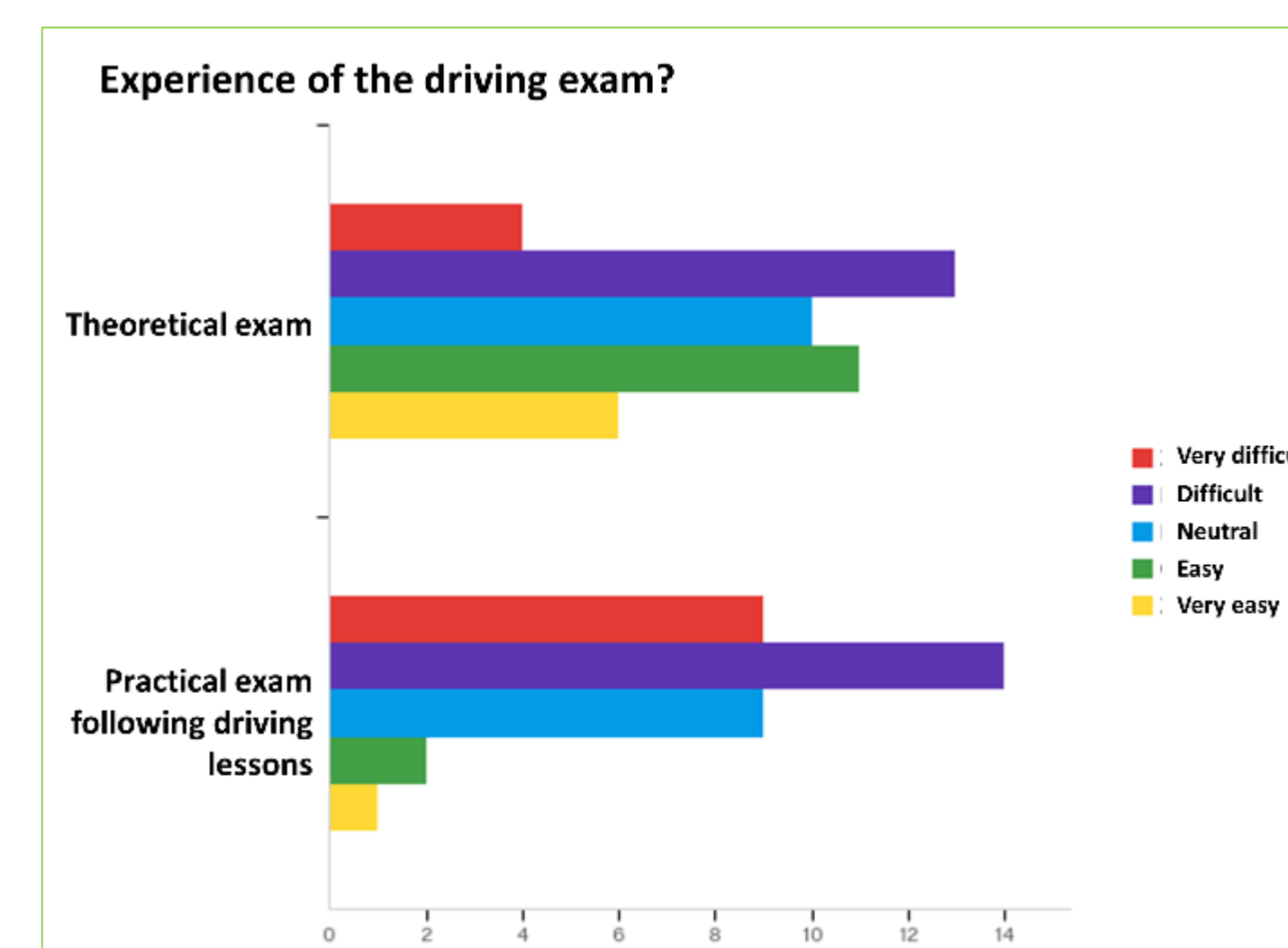


Travel company on your 'ideal' vacation?	Travel company during last vacation?
Friends and family 82.00%	Friends and family 76.92%
Group of others with ASD 12.00%	Group of others with ASD 12.00%
Group of others 4.00%	Alone 7.69%
Alone 2.00%	Other 6.15%

Next steps

Analyze the remaining and open questions

Future studies: focus specifically on older sample, make use of interviews for detailed analyses



Who would plan your 'ideal' vacation?	Who planned your last vacation?	Did the last vacation involve a travel agency?	Did the planning take ASD diagnosis into account?
Myself 52.94%	Family/acquaintances 67.92%	No 75.93%	No 52.83%
Family/acquaintances 39.22%	Myself 32.08%	Yes 24.07%	Yes 47.17%
Travel agency 7.84%			

Email: veerle.ross@uhasselt.be