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The car, its infrastructure, and the culture of automotive mobility is a socio-technical arrangement that changed our way of thinking, feeling and living fundamentally.

People in industrialized countries were having a love affair with the car. It was the materialized promise of freedom and independence.

### **Was?**

*This love affair appears to be coming to an end:* The share of young people with a driving licence is dropping in almost all OECD-countries (see figure 1). The reasons for this trend are unclear: be it small GDP growth rates in developed countries, accompanied by shrinking purchasing power of the average household, and the emergence of a sharing economy, be it accelerated urbanization; – be it the growing importance of social media; – or certain mobility related internet applications; – or possibly more deeply-rooted changes of behaviours, preferences, and norms. In any case, there is something going on that gives urban planners, Big Oil and the automobile-industrial complex a severe headache.

*Günter Getzinger, Graz, in June 2015*

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