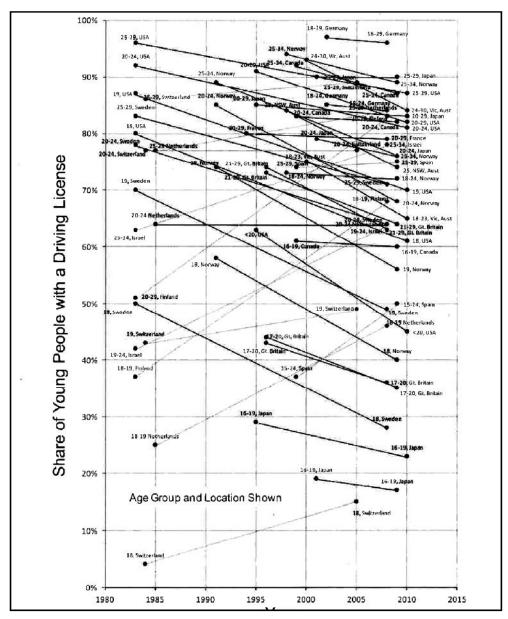
This Is Just to Say...

Figure 1. Young people driver licensing trends from international data



Source: Delbosc & Currie 2013b (drawing on the works of Raimond and Milthorpe (2010), Kuhnimhof et. al. (2012a), Sivak & Schoettle (2012a, 2012b), & Delbosc & Currie (2013)).

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The car, its infrastructure, and the culture of automotive mobility is a sociotechnical 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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