



SPEAKER PROFILE

Katja Schechtner

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Katja Schechtner is an urban scientist developing technologies and policies to keep cities on the move. Her work spans the intersection of transport, data, and human experience, with current research at MIT Senseable City Lab and MIT LCAU focused on how people perceive and interact with the built and natural environment. Her transport career has taken her across continents and institutions: from directing Europe's largest crowd dynamics research lab in her native Austria, to shaping Smart City strategy for the EU Commission, advising the Inter-American Development Bank on mobility, managing transport technology programs at the Asian Development Bank, and negotiating innovation policy at the ITF at OECD. Alongside academic affiliations at MIT, Ca'Foscari and TU Vienna, she has published extensively on urban data and accountability. She also serves on the supervisory boards of AIT, Austria's largest research and technology organization, and the fintech subsidiary of the Austrian National Bank and on behalf of the Austrian government on the founding board of IT:U, a university focused on digital transformation. A global urban nomad, she bridges science, policy, and culture across every timezone and transport mode.

