



**Title: Pop-up food vendors as spatially mobile practices and their implications for sustainability**

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This paper conceptualizes pop-up food vendors as a retail practice defined in terms of its temporality, spatially mobile infrastructure, distinct business model and special competencies. From ‘filling’ empty spaces and livening up barren side streets to presenting new and creative business models, pop-up food outlets have become increasingly commonplace in urban food environments and represent today’s new age of social media, globalization, spatial mobility and fast paced emerging innovations.

Eating is increasingly considered a socio-spatial practice, thus pop-up food outlets are an essential part of spatial design and planning. Food related land uses have long been associated with sustainable urbanism not only in terms of spatial planning and design but also in terms of intensive energy and resource consumption along the industrialised food chain. Drawing on an ethnography of RMIT University’s city campus as a site of food provisioning and consumption, this paper investigates how food retail practices of pop up vendors performed in different spaces can generate different impacts on food-scapes. This will be explored through the notion that all mobilities entail highly embedded and immobile infrastructures, therefore the way in which these seemingly non-permanent infrastructures interact with the existing infrastructures can have different implications for sustainability.