Cyclist-related content in driver licensing processes: cyclists as hazards

Jennifer Bonham, Marilyn Johnson, Narelle Haworth
International Cycling Conference, Mannheim, Germany, 19-21 September
Cyclist-related content in driver licensing processes
Cyclists as Hazards

Hazards may be parked cars, cyclists or pedestrians.  
*Hazard Perception Handbook, NSW, p. 59*

Looking ahead also means scanning from side to side for hazards on the roadside or at intersections. Hazards may be parked cars, cyclists or pedestrians.  
*Mylicence.sa.gov.au, SA*

As you’re driving, talk about the hazards (or potential hazards) you spot, such as:

• other road users such as cyclists (to the left, right, ahead, behind or oncoming).  
*Novice Driver Handbook, TAS, p.23*
Hazard Perception Test UK

Theory Test - Hazard Perception Introduction
988,838 views

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1x_u9lQFVM
Research Question

How has it become possible to identify cyclists as ‘hazards’ in driver education and training materials and what are the effects?
Discursive practice (dispositif) of transport

Source: Bonham, Bacchi and Wanner (2015)
Genealogy of ‘hazards’ and ‘hazard perception’

Pre-1940s  accident proneness

1940-60s  shift – environment, danger, emergency situation, perceptual style, moving/non-moving hazards

1970s  hazard perception
What is a hazard?

Any object, situation, occurrence or combination of these that introduces the possibility of the individual road user experiencing harm

Haworth et al., 2003

Situations in which the driver may need to change speed or direction of their vehicle to prevent a potential collision

Lim et al., 2013
1980s

‘the unexpected appearance of pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists or cars on the brink of collision’

_Benda and Hoyos, 1983_
‘Passive hazards...a bicycle rider entering from a side street’

_Deery and Love, 1996_

‘lead car had to stop for two cyclists and an oncoming car’

_Sagberg and Bjornskau, 2006_

‘a cyclist about to cross the road is a hazard indicator’

_Petzoldt et al., 2013_
Concluding Remarks

For 35 years researchers have participated in constituting cyclists as ‘hazards’.

Following from this it is hardly surprising that

- hazard perception testing in driver education and training identifies cyclists as hazards
- we see tensions between drivers and cyclists
- drivers report negative attitudes to cyclists
People are not hazards
Special Thanks

Research staff: Rachael Nielsen and Cathy Jervis

Partner Organisations

Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Amy Gillett FOUNDATION
Safe together

Department of Planning,
Transport and Infrastructure

Motor Accident Commission

Department of Planning,
Transport and Infrastructure

Adelaide City Council

Northern Territory Government
Thank you for your attention
jennifer.bonham@adelaide.edu.au