An Ethnographic Study of Bell Island Ferry Community

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This is a preliminary post-fieldwork report about research on the household and community-level impacts of commuting from and to Bell Island for work. Located in Conception Bay, Bell Island is a ferry-reliant island community that was once a centre of industrial employment. Today, approximately one-fourth of the island’s population are registered working commuters; and all residents must commute to access medical and other services on the Newfoundland mainland. This research takes a feminist political economy approach to work mobilities by paying equal attention to waged employment and unwaged reproductive labour. The project is part of the On the Move Partnership.