



# Welcome to Roadsides

written by Roadsides  
March, 2020



The side of a road is a good place for ethnography, we think. One of us owns a field next to a country road. It is a twenty-minute drive from the nearest McDonald's restaurant. Judging from the rubbish Matthäus finds in the pasture,



that is the time it takes to finish a Big Mac and a soda. Even more than a railroad (Latour 1993: 117), a roadside is neither local nor global. Waiting at the side of the road, at any moment, a window can open for a soda can to be discarded, or a vehicle can stop and maybe you can hitch a ride. But more often than not, the cars and trucks swoosh by and leave you covered in their dust, speeding off to that global elsewhere.

*Roads connect and separate, they facilitate flow and scatter way points, they serve as vital infrastructures of contemporary life.*

By the roadside, we can appreciate how infrastructures come to matter.