

The Phone Vibration Study

From Nonclusive by Design #12, Vibrating Inequality.

WHAT IT IS

Attach a smartphone to a wheelchair, walker, or stroller and record the vibrations as you move through the city. Lived experience is hard to convey in words. Let the sensors testify instead.

HOW TO RUN IT

1. **Get the app:** download **SparkVue** by Pasco Scientific.
2. **Select sensors:** “Build new experiment” (top menu option) → choose “Sensor Data” (button in the middle of the screen) → choose the “On-board Acceleration Sensor” → choose acceleration resultant or X-Y-Z axes, and pick a graph style.
3. **Mount the phone:** use Velcro or a sturdy mount to attach it to a wheelchair, walker, or stroller, as close to the front wheels or axle as possible.
4. **Record:** hit “Start” in SparkVue and roll over different surfaces. Use the phone’s screen-recording features to record a video of your screen.
5. **Optional:** record video as well, for instance on a GoPro or Insta360 camera. This way, you can follow what happens over time, and even sync it to the screen-recording.

If you get stuck, send me a message.

TALK ABOUT IT

What did the graphs show that words would not have carried? Which surfaces surprised you? **The vibrations are design choices, but what do they say?** And last: **what do you take with you?**