

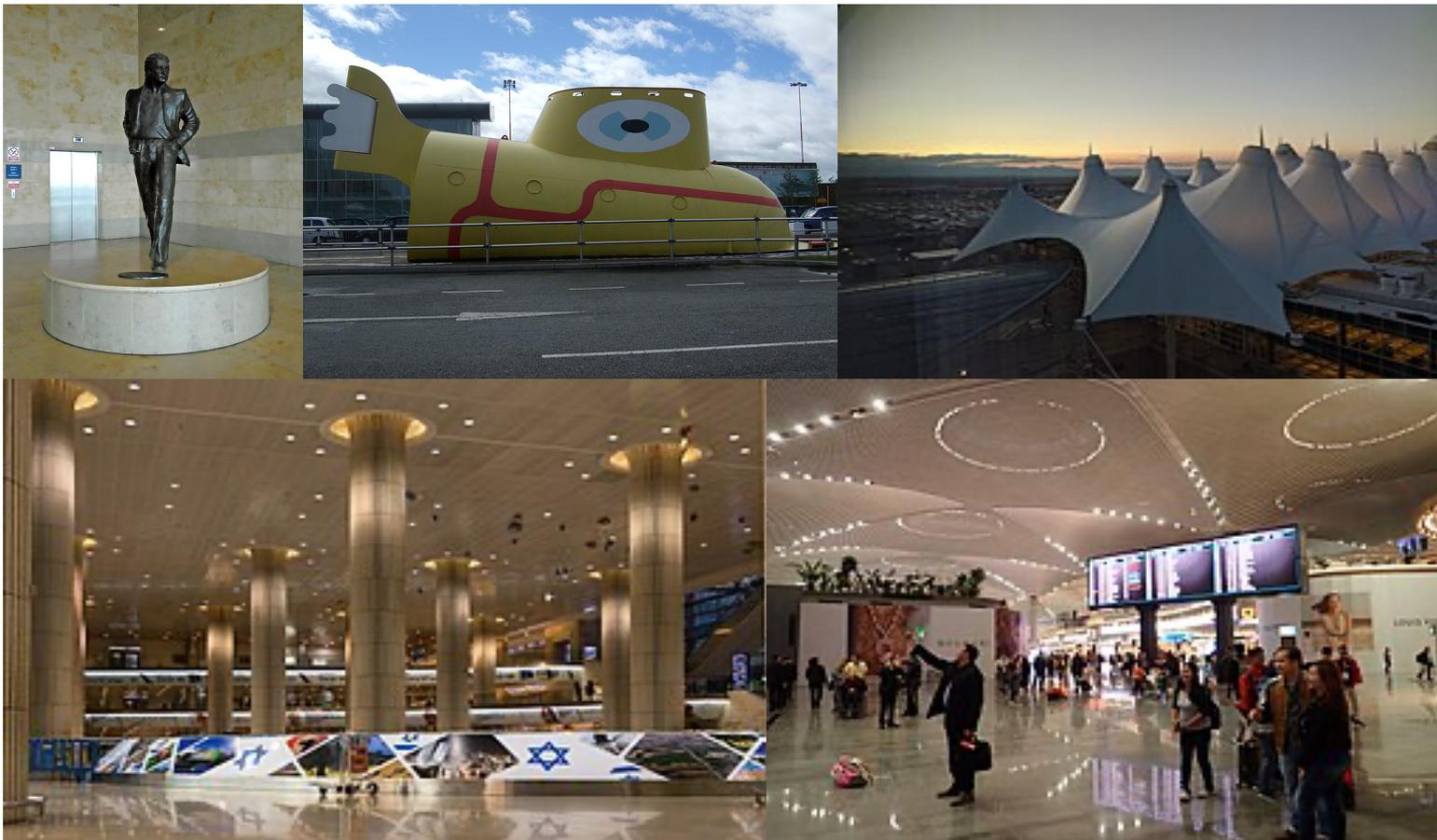
## Air-travel mobilities: Activity Sheet

### Activity 1. What kind of place is an airport?

Consider these images of airport terminals. What aspects of the airport terminal you can see (or perhaps you can think about your own experience of an airport) that tell us something about globalization?

Or in other words, and in mind of the air-travel mobilities lecture, globalization doesn't just mean connections to the far off, but also the way connections to the local are restructured. Can you see this in the airport?

- Could you think about where people have come from, and where they are going? Could you see place names and places anywhere? What signs, shapes and symbols tell us about the international, or even the local? Can you guess where the airports are?



Top: from left to right, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Denver Airport  
 Bottom: from left to right, Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Istanbul Airport

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## Activity 2. Connections and Interdependencies

Let us focus on the global interruptions to air-travel from events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, or the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull in 2010 which shut down swathes of airspace around Europe for several weeks, affecting not only European states. Let us consider the economic, political, social and environmental interdependencies of air-travel in the contemporary world.



Figure 1. estimated worldwide distribution of air transport passengers from Wuhan, January 2020<sup>1</sup>

- a) You may have seen lots of different maps and representations of the spread of COVID-19 like figure 1, some of these show networks between cities connected by airline routes. What might air-travel have to do with the spread of pandemics and diseases?

ICAO (<https://data.icao.int/coVID-19/country-pair.htm>) and RAND ([https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RRA248-2.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA248-2.html)) have developed 'dashboards' to help visualise air-travel's role in the spread of the pandemic. Have a look at their maps and see if it provides some answers

- b) What movements and services do you think have been affected most by these temporary breakdowns in the global mobilities of air-travel?

Consider:

- The movements of people? And for what reasons:
  - for business
  - leisure and tourism
  - for migration
  - to see family
  - to care
- Supply chains:
  - food,
  - mail,
  - medicines,
  - other commodities,
  - even animals

What might the consequences of the disruptions be, short and long term? Who, and from which parts of the world, might be effected more than others?

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<sup>1</sup> Christidis, Panayotis, and Aris Christodoulou. 2020. "The Predictive Capacity of Air Travel Patterns during the Global Spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Risk, Uncertainty and Randomness" *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 17, no. 10: 3356. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17103356>

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