

Gender and the City: Places for Everyone

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Background

This presentation will outline the findings of my master's dissertation: Zoning Practices and the Gendering of Space: A Perth to Vancouver Comparative. I was the first recipient of the Denis McLeod Travel Scholarship for Comparative Research into Planning Systems that funded my travel to Vancouver for fieldwork in April 2017. Considering the city through a female lens is not a new way of thinking, however it is yet to be brought into the planning mainstream in Australia. It is a process that places paramount importance on the perspectives and experiences of all users of urban space, so that cities are equal.

Methods

In Perth and Vancouver I conducted the "go-along" method; a form of walking interview where you discuss topics regarding space as you experience it. I gained expert opinions from those in private consultancy, academia, government and elected officials.

Results

Objectives of the research that I will discuss in the presentation include describing the gendered experience of space, reviewing zoning practices in Perth and Vancouver, and offering recommendations relevant to a Perth context. Through this comparison I will highlight the barriers and facilitators to creating urban spaces that are accessible and function for all citizens.

Conclusion

The gendered planning approach, fast gaining traction across Australia and worldwide, aligns strongly with the theme; *Frontiers of Planning*. Further, central to the gendered planning approach is equality of space, which complements both the Culture + Place and Demographics + Communities themes. My research is based on Perth as a case study, ensuring WA is in Focus. Prosperity + Governance is also considered as I present findings on how a more inclusive planning profession will lead to better community outcomes. My goal for this research and presentation is to contribute to the continuing shift towards equitable planning of our cities.