



AESOP 2025 CONGRESS

Istanbul, 7-11 July



PLANNING AS A TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION IN AN AGE OF PLANETARY CRISIS



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Colophon

Title

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION IN AN AGE OF PLANETARY CRISIS

Subtitle

Book of Abstracts - AESOP Annual Congress 2025

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ISBN

9789464981841

Cover Design

Milk Agency

Published by

AESOP

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class-oriented analysis. Specifically, it examines how class - understood through an intersectional framework - shapes housing access for both lower- and upper-class migrant groups in the Zurich urban area. Given Zurich's strong economic competitiveness, its increasing socioeconomic polarization, and the severity of its housing crisis, understanding the mechanisms that influence housing access is crucial.

More precisely, we ask: What are the main mechanisms in the housing access process for lower- and upper-class migrants? To answer this research question, we conducted twenty-four in-depth qualitative interviews with stakeholders and users of urban housing in Zurich to: first, study the **housing access process** (housing search, home viewing, application procedure, selection process, property allocation, and final access); second, look at both the **human** (landlords, real estates, intermediaries) and **digital factors** (platforms, documentation, background checks); third, understand their impact in terms of **housing accessibility** (housing affordability, housing and neighborhood quality and location, housing trajectories and security) for migrants by class.

Our key finding is that class -at the intersection with the migratory background - plays a prominent role in shaping human and digital interactions throughout the housing access process. Specifically, economic conditions -such as income, title, profession, and employer -significantly influence the extent to which migrants' applications are selected and their housing needs - in economic, social, and spatial terms - are met.

Why does money count the most in housing accessibility for the migrant population in the Zurich metropolitan area? We believe it is because of political responsibilities: 1. because of economic development strategies meant to attract and facilitate upper-class migrants; 2. because of profit-oriented logic in the provision and allocation of housing that privileges upper-class migrants; 3. because of inadequate provision of affordable and accessible housing for lower-class migrants.

Keywords:

Migration; polarization; housing accessibility; class; Zurich

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disciplinary research on urban vulnerability

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In contemporary society, the growing demographic of older adults and rapid urbanization make rethinking the relationship between health and the urban environment crucial (WHO, 2017). Housing quality and organization of urban spaces significantly impact older adults' physical and mental health, shaping their aging trajectories (Oswald et al., 2011). This underscores the need for innovative, inclusive housing and urban models, challenging ageist stereotypes that equate aging with assisted living (Phillipson, 2013). Aging in Place (AIP), which aims to support older adults in maintaining social connections and fostering meaningful relationships within supportive environments (WHO, 2007), could represent a paradigm shift. It offers a framework for understanding how aging trajectories lead to varying quality of life outcomes depending on residential and urban contexts by integrating perspectives on healthy aging and urban health (Lewis & Buffel, 2020; Yarker, Doran & Buffel, 2024). Psychologically, AIP focuses not only on modifying physical spaces to accommodate aging but also on the connection between urban environments and health development (WHO, 2017). Contemporary psychological research, such as the lifespan development approach (Morganti, 2024) and Stanford University's "New Map of Life" (longevity.stanford.edu), supports this perspective. Moreover, research highlights the role of residential living, as well as cultural, economic, and social structures, in promoting healthy longevity (Rosenwohl-Mack et al., 2018). Addressing the complexity of AIP requires a multidisciplinary approach in urban analysis and public policy-making. The Italian national research project "CASA" exemplifies this methodology by integrating demography, statistics, psychology, and urban planning to examine housing and urban vulnerability. Focusing on Bergamo, a medium-sized city in Italy, CASA aims to develop strategies applicable to similar urban contexts. The project investigates how urban characteristics influence aging trajectories, offering insights for creating inclusive, age-friendly environments.

The psychological perspective within the CASA project, as presented here, provides a situated understanding of place, emphasizing the dynamic individual-environment relationship (Butti & Morganti, 2024). This redefinition of AIP proposes a novel conceptualization in which contexts are defined as sets of affordances—opportunities for action (Gibson, 1977)—that shape and are shaped by individuals who are in interaction and by interacting within the contexts. This theoretical framework raises research questions concerning the influence of urban environments on healthy aging and the potential creation of barriers that increase individual's vulnerability. The analysis is underpinned by a bio-psycho-social-ecological lifespan approach, as initially conceptualized by Bronfenbrenner (1979), encompassing both individual experiences and broader systemic factors. It explores how older adults perceive and manage their housing and aging processes in relation to healthy longevity.

A comprehensive investigation into the dynamics of neighborhoods in Bergamo is being conducted, encompassing five distinct spatial regions within the city. Using a mixed-method approach, the research combines quantitative and qualitative data collection, including in-depth interviews, surveys, and focus groups, ensuring a nuanced exploration of individual-environment interactions.

Preliminary findings underscore salient themes, namely autonomy, independence, sociality, and physical health. The housing choices of participants reflect a strong desire for independence, indicating a sense of empowerment. However, it is important to note that a strong sense of place attachment can also lead to vulnerability if individuals lack awareness and responsibility for their aging processes. These findings emphasize the imperative for incorporating residents' voices into urban and housing planning. Understanding the constraints and possibilities of different environments is essential, considering the physical and mental conditions of inhabitants and the affordances available to them.

Understanding how urban spaces function as either constraints or enablers of daily life requires observing them through this lens. This analysis will facilitate a deeper under-

standing of how cities, along with their structural and relational elements, can become environments conducive to healthy aging.

Keywords:

Aging in place; age-friendly city; healthy longevity; empowerment; social inclusion

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T_07 INCLUSION (A) / 440

Rethinking Social Inclusivity. The Case of Urban Villages in Delhi

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Rapid urbanization has transformed cities into vibrant yet unequal spaces, often escalating socio-spatial inequalities through commercialization, marginalization, and gentrification (Raymond et al., 2021). Marginalized communities tend to seek refuge in informal settlements like slums, squatter settlements, and urban villages, wherein exclusion manifests spatially (McCartney and Krishnamurthy, 2018). Urban villages, formerly rural settlements engulfed by expanding cities due to urban expansion and migration, stand out as distinct spaces within the urban landscape. However, today, urban villages have become a major challenge in rapidly developing nations such as China, India, and Indonesia (Banerjee, 2021). Despite their critical role in integrating rural migrants and supporting the local economy, urban villages are viewed as urban blight. High-density, mixed-use development, unorganized land use, inadequate infrastructure, substandard rental housing typifies these areas, while their exclusion from urban planning frameworks exacerbates the socio-spatial divide (Al, 2014, Zhang et al., 2003, Thinh et al., 2024).

It can be argued that urban villages become marginalized entities due to biases in centralized planning, which prioritizes economic gains over community needs. Their exclusion from the policy landscape increased the potential of gentrification, displacing both indigenous villagers and rural migrants while intensifying socio-economic disparities. To confirm this hypothesis, this study undertakes a qualitative analysis of zoning and planning policies in Delhi’s National Capital Territory (NCT), India, with a focus on Hauz Khas and Zamrudpur urban villages. Through a case study approach, the study examines how