

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ABSTRACTS FOR 1990

Gwendolyn Brewer, Assistant Editor

The following abstracts represent graduate student theses and dissertations completed in 1990. Each relates to the field of housing and was sponsored or advised by one or more AAHE members. This section enables AAHE members and friends to identify the content and direction of research among new housing professionals. It also highlights the accomplishments of housing educators and their universities in producing and promoting the study of housing. The listing includes 15 entries from nine universities. They are listed alphabetically by student name preceded by title. Following the abstract is the degree and date awarded, the advisor(s) name, and the institutional affiliation.

RESOURCE AND DEMAND EFFECTS ON ELDERLY FUNCTIONALITY AND RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY

M L Cantwell

Focusing on conditions related to well-being of the elderly, the study sought to identify the way in which demands and resources associated with Deacon's and Firebaugh's (1988) personal and managerial system influence functionality and changes in residential location. Dependent variables were functionality, measured by hours spent by elderly individuals in household work, and residential mobility indicated by whether the elderly individual changed primary residence. Assessment of interaction between the dependent variables within a managerial context included measures of the three components of the ecosystem hierarchy. LISREL was used to estimate a linear, structural equation model characterized by causal relationship identified in literature. Longitudinal data (1980-1984) from ISR, University of Michigan, provided the weighted sample of 899 noninstitutionalized individuals and subgroups of 341 males and 558 females aged 65 and over in 1980. Results indicated that mobility intervenes to either enhance or weaken influence of other factors on functionality, which intervenes in relationship of other variables to residential mobility. Personal and household characteristics as well as age related events influenced functionality; these characteristics exerted less influence on residential mobility. Micro- and macro-environmental variables had greater influence on residential mobility than on functionality and the direction of influence of these variables tended to be consistent across the gender groups.

Doctorate, 1990

A Coveney

Ohio State University, Department of Family Resource Management.

PREDICTING LEISURE ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION AMONG OLDER PEOPLE IN A RECREATIONAL NATURALLY OCCURRING RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

M C Danley

Based on the Taney County, Missouri, Retirement Migration Research Project, this thesis examines older people's participation in leisure activity in a naturally occurring retirement community area characterized by diverse recreational and natural environmental features. A chi-square analysis of participation and personal characteristics revealed the following associations: age was associated with participation levels in outdoors/nature and reading activities; health with volunteering, reading, and exercising; morale with volunteering; marital status with outdoors/nature; income with socializing and entertainment; and education with outdoors/nature, socializing, volunteering, reading, exercising, and entertainment activities. Pearson coefficients indicate participation in each activity category is associated with psychological benefits of participation; leisure activity participation based on psychological benefits of participation was predicted with multiple-regression analysis. Using multi-attribute utility technology (MAUT) analysis, the leisure activity categories' order of importance was: hobbies/handiwork, outdoors/nature, reading, socializing, exercising, volunteering, entertainment, and seeing the world. When personal independence levels decrease due to age related processes, an analysis of the psychological benefits associated with leisure-activity participation suggests that certain activities may be satisfactorily substituted by other leisure activities so that older people may remain involved in recreational pursuits.

Masters, 1990

R Phillips

University of Missouri, Department of Environmental Design.

ASSESSMENT OF HOUSING, NEIGHBORHOOD, LIFE, AND FAMILIAL SATISFACTION OF URBAN AND RURAL ELDERLY OKLAHOMANS

S E Drummond

This study examined the degree to which Oklahoma rural and urban elderly perceive that their current housing meets their needs. Specific objectives were to analyze relationships between four satisfaction categories and selected variables. The categories and variables were: 1) housing/neighborhood satisfaction and the variables of life satisfaction, family satisfaction, and individual activity level; 2) to determine relationship between health and life satisfaction, family satisfaction, and housing/neighborhood satisfaction; 3) to examine relationship between individual activity level and life satisfaction, family relationships, and housing/neighborhood satisfaction; and 4) to compare housing and demographic data of selected Oklahomans with state, regional, and national samples. No significant differences were recorded for urban and rural respondents for activity level and family relationship scores, nor were differences found for urban and rural respondents in life satisfaction scores, activity level scores, or self-assessed health scores. Life satisfaction, activity level, and monthly income were found to have a statistically significant impact on housing/neighborhood satisfaction scores. These three variables explained over 25 percent of the variance among the housing/neighborhood

satisfaction scores of respondents. A strong positive relationship between self-assessed health and life satisfaction, family relationships, and housing/neighborhood satisfaction scores was recorded. Life satisfaction, family relationships, and housing/neighborhood satisfaction were significant contributors to the activity-level scores of the respondents.

Doctorate, 1990

M J Weber

Oklahoma State University, Department of Housing, Interior Design, and Consumer Studies.

POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION OF PERSHING CAFETERIA

S R Elledge

This post-occupancy evaluation investigated the seating choices of student users of the Pershing Cafeteria, a university-based, residence-hall cafeteria, to assess the success of its spatial design. The study focused on the influence of the physical attributes of the building and social attributes of its users. A single survey questionnaire solicited students' patterns of seat selection and their perception of other students' usage patterns. Data from 214 student subjects were analyzed by means of two-way contingency tables, using the chi-square test for independence and to identify significant differences ($p < .05$). Students were most likely to select a seat with friends or at a location to see friends arrive. The close proximity of students within the residence-hall environment influenced the choice of seating in the cafeteria. Design guidelines were created from the findings.

Masters, 1990

R Phillips

University of Missouri, Department of Environmental Design.

A MODEL OF PERSON-ENVIRONMENT FIT AMONG OLDER RURAL ADULTS

S C Forquer

Using eight environmental attributes developed by Windley and Scheidt (1981)--sociality, comfort, accessibility, quality, privacy, adaptability, control, and sensory stimulation--this study examines the perceived fit between the needs and preferences of the older resident in the existing home environment. Perceived environmental fit measures were developed and tests were conducted for significant variance across selected demographic variables by combining perceived relative importance rankings and perceived degree of accommodation for each of the eight attributes. While initially developed as objective measures, subjective measures of the attributes are used here based on attribute importance and accommodation. Factor analysis was performed on

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the environmental fit measures. Four factors: environmental quality, environmental control, environmental versatility, and environmental accessibility, explained 70.1 percent of the variance in the sample. The four factors were not significantly different across age categories and gender. However, environmental versatility had an increasingly negative fit value as the length of permanent residence increased.

Masters, 1990

R Phillips

University of Missouri, Department of Environmental Design.

CERTIFIED KITCHEN DESIGNERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AND PERCEPTIONS OF DESIGN FOR MATURE AMERICANS

B S Guetzko

Based on Diffusion of Innovations Theory, this study examined if and how kitchen designers address the needs of clients age 50 and older and whether designers' perceptions of current and future demands for specialized kitchen products and features facilitate "aging in place." A mail survey of 600 randomly selected Certified Kitchen Designers (CKD) yielded 305 responses. Recommendations from the designers for kitchen configuration, appliances, and work features were consistent with the literature. Although the kitchen was recognized as vital to independent living, the provision of "special" features in kitchen designs were infrequent. While kitchen designers' specialized knowledge was relatively high, awareness of need and actual incorporation of features was not prominent. Marketing approaches did not appear to focus on age; rather, life enhancement and universal design were typical rationales for design promotion. In the future, CKDs could increase activity as agents of change by promoting kitchen designs that enable older persons to age in place.

Masters, 1990

B J White

Kansas State University, Department of Clothing, Textiles, and Interior Design.

RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY AND ADJUSTMENTS TO HOUSING QUALITY BY DUAL-EARNER FAMILIES

E M V Guimaraes

This study investigated conditions which provoke residential mobility for housing and factors that precede adjustment in the quality of housing. Longitudinal data for 972 dual-earner families from the National Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan

were analyzed using Unweighted Least Square analysis. The most important determinant of change in quality of housing was mobility. Such mobility was triggered by tenure and dwelling-type deficits and a relatively high value per room in 1980. Younger households or those with lower incomes were more likely to experience deficits in housing than others.

Masters, 1990

A Coveney

Ohio State University, Department of Family Resource Management.

PERCEIVED PERSON-ENVIRONMENT FIT AMONG NATIVES AND NON-NATIVES: OLDER ADULTS RESIDING IN TANEY COUNTY, MISSOURI

M K Gupka

This study identified varying levels of person-environment fit for a population of elderly retirees in Taney County, Missouri, based on their degree of "nativeness." Analysis indicated no statistically significant differences between natives and non-natives on perceived importance of the following attributes of the residential environment: sociality, environmental accessibility, adaptability, privacy, environmental control, environmental quality, sensory stimulation, and comfort. Significant differences were found for satisfaction with the attribute of control. Natives reported a higher level of perceived satisfaction with their housing than non-natives. Statistically significant differences were also found between natives and non-natives in their levels of person-environment fit as related to the psychosocial environment. Natives reported having more friends, higher frequency of visitation. Non-natives reported higher levels of perceived physical health, higher incomes, and significantly more of them had spouses. Natives reported a higher level of satisfaction with their decision to live in Taney County. Differing levels of person-environment fit between natives and non-natives are attributed to subcultural differences between the two groups. The study suggests examining and understanding humans as biological, psychological, sociological, and cultural beings in order to enhance the person-environment fit and thus promote independent living by older adults.

Doctorate, 1990

R Brent and R Phillips

University of Missouri-Columbia, Department of Environmental Design.

POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION OF SUBSIDIZED HOUSING AS PERCEIVED BY INDEPENDENT ELDERLY RESIDENTS

P S Ledoux

This study examined the perceptions of elderly residents of subsidized congregate housing. Residents of two housing complexes for the elderly in a small New England town were interviewed. Four hypotheses were tested: 1) Similarities will be found in the personal and social climate of respondents in each of the two complexes, 2) Previous

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housing type will have an effect on respondents' personal and social climate, 3) Similarities will be found between personal space attitudes of respondents in each of the two complexes, and 4) Previous housing type will have an effect on respondents' personal space attitudes. Social climate (PES) and space attitude (PSA) responses were not significantly different based upon residents' most recent previous housing type. This indicated the lack of influence of respondents' previous housing type on both personal space attitudes and social climate.

Doctorate, 1988

M Inman

Purdue University, Consumer Sciences and Retailing Department.

THE RECEPTIVITY OF HOUSING POLICY INITIATIVES: ADEQUATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE RURAL SOUTH

G G Shelton

This study assessed the impact of four aspects of housing actor's receptivity to housing-policy initiatives. These aspects were housing knowledge and involvement, perceptions of community situations influencing housing, support for housing programs, and demographic characteristics. Perceptions of housing policy initiatives relative to funding for housing assistance and support for land-use controls also were examined. Using data from the Southern Regional Research Project S-194, "Barriers and Incentives to Affordable Housing," responses from 786 housing actors living and/or working in 28 communities in seven southern states were analyzed. A conceptual model was proposed to test the hypothesized relationships. Relationships were examined by multiple regression. Two hypotheses were tested: 1) housing actors' receptiveness to housing-policy initiatives relative to funding for housing assistance were not a function of housing knowledge, perceptions, support, and personal demographic characteristics, and 2) housing actors' receptiveness to housing-policy initiatives relative to support for land-use controls was not a function of housing knowledge, perceptions, support, and personal demographic characteristics. The first regression equation explained 45 percent of variability in housing actors' receptiveness to funding for housing assistance. Four variables, housing discrimination towards groups with special needs, support of loans and grants for housing and community development, rental assistance, and home owner assistance, entered the equation. The second regression equation explained only 14 percent of variability in housing actors' receptiveness to support land-use controls. Housing discrimination towards groups with special needs, demand for manufactured housing, support of loans and grants for home owner's assistance, and rental assistance were the contributing variables in the second model. Results suggest that the tested models should be revised.

Doctorate, 1990

S S Day, R C Goss, and H L Wells

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Department of Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management.