

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ABSTRACTS FOR 1991

Julia Beamish, Assistant Editor

The following abstracts represent graduate student theses and dissertations completed in 1991. 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 seven entries from five 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.

ATTACHMENT-TO-HOME AND OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING MOBILITY INTENTIONS OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS: IMPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING THE ELDERLY

Carla Crosby Earhart

The purpose of this study was to examine the factors that influence rural households' desire to move. In 1988, 1,648 rural households, randomly selected from telephone directories in two Southern states, responded via a mail questionnaire to questions related to their socio-demographic and housing characteristics, residential satisfaction, and mobility intentions. A randomly selected subset (n = 198) of the original sample responded to an in-depth telephone interview to verify the original information and to assess their attachment-to-home. The follow-up study was supplemented by county property assessment records of the respondents' residences. Results of the study reveal that the respondents' age, residential satisfaction, and attachment-to-home are significantly related to mobility intentions. Further, the explained variation of the mobility intentions model is appreciably improved when attachment-to-home factors are added to the traditional mobility intentions variables. In addition, attachment-to-home factors appear to act as intervening variables between respondent characteristics and their desire to move.

Doctorate, 1991

M. Weber

Oklahoma State University

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE CONSUMERS' DECISION-MAKING CONCERNING ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Angela Margaret Green

This study was conducted to determine whether consumers who differ on their decisions to purchase homes that have energy conservation programs also differ on their levels of environmental responsibility, perception of savings derived from the use of energy programs and household income. Surveys for this study were sent to 289 households in Clarke and Oconee counties in Georgia. Responses were received from 163 households for an overall response rate of 56.4 percent. Discriminant analysis was used to distinguish first among the actual energy program groups and then among the energy program groups in which consumers perceived themselves to be members. Specifically, the results show that Energy Wise householders have higher incomes and higher levels of environmental responsibility than Good Cents homeowners and owners of homes with no program. However, Good Cents homeowners perceived that the savings derived from the use of energy conservation programs were higher, as compared to the other two groups, with Energy Wise homeowners having the lowest perception of savings of all the groups.

Masters, 1991

A. Sweaney

The University of Georgia

EFFECT OF HOUSEHOLD AND HOUSING FACTORS ON INDOOR TEMPERATURE

Louise Lilley Hinsley

This study is a secondary analysis of survey data from a nationwide representative sample of 5,682 households collected by the Department of Energy in the 1984-1985 Residential Energy Consumption Survey.

A modification of Dr. Judith Urich's household energy management behavior model was used to develop an indoor temperature conceptual model. Indoor temperatures serving as dependent variables included temperatures while residents were home, temperatures at night, and temperatures while no one was home. After examining the large data set, SAS linear regression was used to extract the following independent variables: housing factors (main heating fuel use, age of house, roof and wall insulation, storm windows and doors, number of floors, number of rooms, presence of waterbed, dishwasher, and pool), household factors (family life cycle stage, education of household head, sex of household head, family income, climate zone, size of family, ethnicity of family, and number of generations), and managerial practices (retrofitting dwelling, retrofitting equipment, space heated, and auxiliary heating).

Significant predictors of indoor temperature are discussed. These data results could assist the Department of Energy with their research and assist with updating their survey instrument.

Masters, 1992

M. Inman and K Warsco

East Carolina University

THE RURAL ELDERLY: PERSONAL INNOVATIVENESS TOWARD HOUSING AND ACCEPTANCE OF NONTRADITIONAL HOUSING TYPES

Oh-Jung Kwon

The purpose of this study was to determine factors that affect elderly individuals' innovativeness toward housing and their acceptance of nontraditional housing types. The study analyzed data from the Southern Region Research Project, S-194, "Barriers and Incentives to Affordable Housing." The majority of respondents were retired, white males with a mean age of 66.4 years. They had less than a 12th grade education with incomes below \$24,999 per year. They were single-family, detached homeowners with no mortgages. ANOVA and Multiple Regression were used to test five null hypotheses. The following factors played a role in determining both personal innovativeness toward housing and acceptance of more nontraditional housing types: age, whether they have previously lived in larger communities, income, the type of unit in which they currently reside, and amount spent on rent or house payments.

"Experimentation and new design/ideas" and "new housing types" factors have the most significant effects on elderly individuals' acceptance of nontraditional housing type(s).

Doctorate, 1991

R. Goss

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

ASSESSMENT OF NON-PROFIT HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME HOMEBUYERS IN LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

Deidre Berry Miller

The purpose of the study was to examine the Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship (LCF) program in depth and speculate on its implementation in other geographical areas. LCF is a non-profit organization in Lynchburg, Virginia that created a joint venture combining public and private initiatives and investments, allowing each agency to perform in its specialized area. Subsidized homes were built for low-income working families which ensured that monthly mortgage payments would not exceed 25 percent of their income.

Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the homebuyers' questionnaire. The housing categories (design, amount of space, cost, and maintenance) considered important by the homebuyers were satisfied, and homebuyers were satisfied with their homes. The intermediaries' questionnaire posed discussions of their specific role in the program and an assessment of the program. The LCF Homeownership Program has been considered a successful program that could be implemented in other geographical areas.

Masters, 1991

R. Goss

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Abstracts

THE EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ON NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGES: A CASE STUDY OF THE HILL DISTRICT OF ST PAUL, MINNESOTA

Kristine Laurel Madison Nelson

This study was undertaken to determine whether United States Government housing policies and programs that were meant to address the problems of blight and the slums in urban areas have had a positive effect. To this end, the history of slum housing was chronicled, and legislation aimed at its improvement was discussed. The effects of government housing policies and programs on a specific portion of St. Paul, Minnesota was analyzed in the case study of that city. The analysis is divided into a number of sections. The first section discusses institutional and economic theories of neighborhood change. The next section discusses the historical development of slums and government efforts to regulate or eradicate them. In the third section, the development of St. Paul is detailed historically and in the context of the effects of government programs and policies. To further analyze these effects, the next section examines a sample area of the city. The final section evaluates the results of public intervention on the sample area.

Masters, 1991

E. Morris

University of Minnesota

ASSESSMENT OF PERCEPTIONS OF DESIGN EDUCATORS AND PROFESSIONALS REGARDING LIGHTING CONCEPTS FOR DESIGN EDUCATION

Asha Hegde-Niezgoda

The purpose of this study was to evaluate perceptions of design professionals and lighting educators regarding components of interior lighting practices and education. The objectives include: (1) to assess and compare perceptions of interior designers, architects, and members of the lighting industry regarding lighting concepts, (2) to assess and compare perceptions of architecture and interior design lighting educators regarding lighting concepts, (3) to assess and compare perceptions of lighting design professionals and lighting design educators regarding interior lighting concepts, and (4) to make recommendations for interior lighting curricula based on educational models and the findings of this study. The educators and professionals rated the use of lighting resources as less valuable to their career than concepts under the category of acquisition of lighting knowledge. Majority of the concepts under the lighting education category received high rating indicating that both the professionals and educators considered these concepts important to be included in the interior lighting curricula. Both groups considered the qualitative aspects of lighting as important or valuable concepts. The results of this study document the shift of emphasis from the quantity of light to the quality of light.

Doctorate, 1991

M. Weber

Oklahoma State University