

## STS Conference Graz 2015

Critical Issues in Science, Technology and Society Studies, 11-12 May 2015

### Keynote Abstract

#### ***“Social Sustainability Assessment Tools in the Early Planning of Refurbishment and Infill Development in Finland”***

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Urban regeneration is a key strategic measure for European sustainability. Targets for the social dimension of sustainability are loosely defined and tools for participatory design are constantly developing. In 2014 Finnish architecture students made design proposals for infill development based on municipal sustainability strategies and assessment tools for communal involvement. Design work was supported by research to develop user and business-oriented renovation concepts for the refurbishment and extension of suburban apartment buildings. Design proposals were assessed according to a standardized framework for the social performance in design and planning of construction works, for insight into their relevance for stakeholders at different levels of assessment. The focus on participatory design highlighted residents' opinions, visions, different needs of age groups and social impacts of built environments. Stakeholder participative methods included interviews, workshops, on-site analysis, and interactive tools with websites, social media and GIS. Findings were associated with specific locations, services and infrastructures, and were structured in more concrete terms than the abstract categories in the standardized assessment of social performance in buildings. Assessments are specific to the functional unit of buildings, but the overarching principles of sustainability pertain to spatial, temporal, material and social interrelations. Principles are applicable on different scales, but design decisions are a contextual synthesis of observations and trade-offs between priorities in problem solving. The process and implementation of design is complex and based on numerous drivers and interests.

#### Reference:

le Roux, S., Cronhjort, Y. (2014) Impact of social sustainability assessment tools in the early planning phase of refurbishment and infill development. Vol. 4 of *Proceeding of World Sustainable Building 2014 Barcelona Conference*. Green Building Council España. ISBN 978-84-697-1815-5. 286-292.  
[http://www.wsb14barcelona.org/downloads/CreatingNewResources\\_volume4.pdf](http://www.wsb14barcelona.org/downloads/CreatingNewResources_volume4.pdf)

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