

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

(In-) equality before the law - house adapting policy in Sweden.

- **Format:**

Written paper and presentation in-person.

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- **Abstract:**

In Sweden approximately one million individuals have some form of disability (Bonander et al., 2014), and a recent survey of Swedish living conditions found that disabilities are more frequently diagnosed in women compared to men, with the only exception to that being hearing loss (Swedish Agency for Participation, 2015). This paper will discuss the government policy regarding housing adaptation in Sweden by combining two political perspectives: housing politics and disability politics.

In Sweden the process of residential adaptation is legislated and also the right to have support to enabling the individual to maintain an independent life, where the individual

feels safe and has improved accessibility (The Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairment (LSS), 1993; The Social Service Act (SoL), 2001). However, the interpretation of the law on a municipal level is still unequal, and not all those in need of or house adaptation are receiving it (The National Board of Housing and Planning, 2014; The National Board of Health and Welfare, 2015).

The paper will analyze court documents from Western Sweden related to appeals on house adaptations for the age group 18-25 years during 2010-2016. This selection also problematize The UN statement (2006) about "The right to life, freedom and personal safety' for people living with disabilities", the transaction from youth to adult and the importance of the first apartment as a part of independent living.

The aim is to highlight the discrepancy between- and within cases of approved/denied housing adaption in the court. The upcoming results of the study will contribute to a discussion regarding the relation between design and active living, but also the importance of design as a facilitator or hinderer for independency.

- **Author(s) Biography:**

Charlotta Thodelius has an MA in Criminology from the University of Gothenburg and is Doctoral Student in Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology. The PhD-project is aiming at exploring and elaborating suitable preventive strategies to decrease the amount of adolescents' injury events by using strategies based on modification of the physical environment.

Jörgen Lundälv is an Associate professor in Social Work at the department of Social Work, University of Gothenburg specializing disability research, inclusive research and research politics in Sweden.

Both authors are members in an interdisciplinary research project called Arch Safe, founded by Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) from 2014 to 2018. ArchSafe focusses on injury events in residential areas, aiming at finding certain risk groups and/or risk environments of injury events and developing effective prevention strategies by modification of the physical environment.