



University of the
West of England

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

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Healthy urban environments and social housing in Leon, Mexico.

- **Format:**

Written paper / Presentation (in-person)

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Social housing in Mexico is the dominant sector at the present in the country. Current provision in this sector has significant impact in the development of Mexican cities. The research seeks to define what characteristics are preventing the formation of healthy urban environments in social housing. The city of Leon is particularly relevant and is the focus of the presented research.

The concept of healthy urban environments is a focus for this research. It asks how the built environment can play a critical part to ensure the well-being of communities living in social housing developments. It identifies deep-seated issues around the fundamentals of regulatory and procurement environments. The work engages with the challenges that continue to inform inadequately planned urban growth as seen through rapid and uncontrollable expansion of social housing developments. These schemes are mainly located on the outskirts of the cities and are inherently problematic

on terms of sustainable metrics and strategies. This research examines a new policy that is being applied in Leon. This policy aims to introduce vertical social housing in consolidated neighbourhoods. The comparison between the peripheral sprawl housing and this new policy helps us to understand the issues that impede healthy urban environments.

These aspects are examined through an analysis of social housing in the country and new fieldwork in the city of Leon. In presenting these findings the research suggests ways to better implement social housing procurement in the city and the promotion of healthy and cohesive urban environments.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Delia completed her Bachelor's degree in Architecture at Universidad Iberoamericana Leon. She obtained an MSc in Advanced Sustainable Design from the University of Edinburgh. She holds a Mexican Science and Technology Council (CONACyT) scholarship. During her master's dissertation, she worked on sustainable strategies in social housing. The objective was to identify the complexities of the application of sustainable strategies in social housing.

After completing the Masters' degree, she began her PhD in September of 2015. The primary objective of the PhD is to define a series of sustainable strategies that might reduce the negative impact of social housing in Leon, Mexico. The research focuses on social housing and urban growth; but also, she is aiming to understand the issues of the current provision of social housing.