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

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Active aging and urban sociability: a study on older women

- **Format:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Active Aging includes factors such as social participation of elderly in the aging process. Urban spaces can both encourage social interactions and inhibit users, especially those vulnerable in situations of insecurity like older women. The world population faces processes of aging and feminization. These older women are often restricted to controlled socialization, such as groups of indoor activities. This study is part of a research on intergenerational relations in the city of Pelotas, Brazil, and **analyzes** the insertion of older women in squares, urban parks, *largos* and commercial boardwalks through mapping the age and gender use of spaces and investigation of factors that interfere in appropriation. **From** an ecological perspective of Environmental Psychology, bibliographical and documentary research were conducted. Observation

sessions generated twelve behavioral maps by area. **Although** in the city there are more older women (9.2%) than men (6.1%), in none of the spaces they were majority in the age group. Unlike young appropriation, that is gender balanced. Older women are more present in the *largo* (7.47%), a potential place for programmed activities, and in the boardwalk (6.21%), where a male social microterritory was identified in the surroundings of cafes. Playgrounds were rarely attended by older women, although the presence of children is associated with safety. **In this study**, spaces for planned social activities are important for older women, which may reflect a lack of autonomous socialization. Unlike men, who constitute social microterritories, women did not constitute appropriation. The greater female elderly population allied to its lower frequency demonstrates gender differences in urban sociability. The gender equality in the young group may indicate that female urban appropriation changes as generations and mores are modified. Older women have shown more difficulty in urban appropriation than older men, not only because of vulnerability and security issues but also because of gender.

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

Thaís Debli Libardoni obtained the degree in Architecture and Urbanism in the year 2010 at the Federal University of Pelotas. Since then she has been architect and urbanist and partner-owner at LIBARDONI, an architectural, engineering and consulting firm. Currently, she is attending master's degree in the Postgraduate Program in Architecture and Urban Planning at the Federal University of Pelotas in the line of Perception and Environmental Evaluation by the User. Her main field of research involves Environmental Psychology with a focus on intergenerational relationships and the promotion of healthier urban public spaces for aging.

Lígia Maria Ávila Chiarelli holds a degree in Architecture and Urbanism from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (1978), a Master's degree in Social Development from the Catholic University of Pelotas (2000), a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (2006) and PhD in History from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (2014). She is currently an associate professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the Federal University of Pelotas. In 2016 she was Coordinator of the Social Forum of UFPel, organ linked to Pro Rectory of Extension and Culture of the Federal University of Pelotas.