



University of the  
West of England

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

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Post-Conflict Housing Resilience: A Complex Systems Approach to Social Resilience

- **Format:**

Presentation (in-person)

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Wellbeing and Resilience have become some of the widely discussed and debated concepts since the past 20 years. The growing rate of conflict has prompted enquiries into the resilience of the housing environment. Usually after a major disaster, there are two key terminologies that could be considered at different periods in time. These terminologies are known as shocks and stressors and are used to describe the short and long term challenges of the housing environment as a result of disasters. The study was carried out in Asagi Maras, an area in Famagusta, North Cyprus and was done to understand the nature of resilience in terms of mental health and wellbeing of the residents within the study area 40 years after the conflict that brought about a mass displacement and resettlement of people in Cyprus. In this work, the complex system approach was used with both qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze the post-conflict housing situation of Aşağı Maraş. The housing environment was considered

as a system constituting of several subsystems (Social, Environmental, Political, Economic subsystems). However, this work focuses on the social subsystem within the post-conflict housing context. It argues that for resilience to occur within the post-conflict housing environment there is a need to evaluate users' preferences and expectations. The study also argues for the importance of outdoor spaces (especially for recreation) as a positive consideration for wellbeing. It tried to determine the level of significance of gender, age, income and level of exposure on the perceived social character of a post-conflict housing environment and the satisfaction derived thereof. The results showed a strong relationship between perception, satisfaction and resilience within the housing environment. Using regression analysis, the study revealed that Perception and satisfaction within a post-conflict housing environment were influenced by age (73%), gender (74%), income and level of exposure (54%).

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

- Ugochukwu Knechi Elinwa is currently an instructor in the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Design and Architecture at Cyprus International University, Famagusta, Northern Cyprus. He earned his doctorate/ master's degree from the faculty of architecture at Eastern Mediterranean University, northern Cyprus in 2015. Prior to moving to Cyprus for his post graduate program, he successfully completed his bachelor's degree in architecture at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi, Bauchi state, Nigeria. Dr. Elinwa's interests are in Urban Planning, post disaster housing, energy efficiency in buildings, urban sustainability, building materials, building information modeling, and sustainable development. Dr. Elinwa has written two quality papers in top journals and made presentations at several international conferences.

Dr. Elinwa's Ph.D. research was on the Post-Conflict Housing Resilience situation in Aşağı Maraş community of north Cyprus. This community had been affected by the 1974 conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. This was followed by an extensive dissertation written on the post conflict housing resilience: case study of Aşağı Maraş

- John Emmanuel Ogbeba is currently a PhD candidate in the department of architecture at Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Northern Cyprus. He completed his bachelors in Architecture at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi, Nigeria, before moving to EMU in the spring of 2011 to study for masters in Architecture/ PhD studies. Ogbeba's real interests are in housing typology, urban morphology, energy efficient buildings, sustainable construction, post disaster housing, and BIPV. Mr. Ogbeba is currently researching on Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) Systems for dwellings in Northern Cyprus. He has

also co-authored and published a quality paper on "Alternative Energy Solutions Using BIPV in Apartment Buildings of Developing Countries: A Case Study of North Cyprus" in the Sustainability Journal.

Ogbeba is also passionate about post conflict housing in Northern Cyprus. In September 2014, Mr. Ogbeba and his friends initiated and carried out a humanitarian project to reach out to the Aşağı Maraş community which had been affected by the 1974 conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots (<https://ww1.emu.edu.tr/en/news/news/a-meaningful-project-from-the-international-students-of-emu/1206/pid/446> . Afterwards, an intensive research work on post conflict housing resilience: case study of Aşağı Maraş was carried out by the authors of this abstract.

Future research area of interest is the post conflict housing in northern Nigeria: IDP housing conditions.