Constructing an Urban Future: The sustainability and resilience of cities – infrastructures, communities, buildings and housing.

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Place Attachment and Sustainable Communities

• Format(s):
In-person presentation / Written paper

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• Abstract (300 words):
As cities in the developing nations are becoming urbanized at an accelerated pace and intensity, urban planners, design practitioners, and policy makers conjoin efforts to satisfy the emergent needs. The design and construction of a sustainable built environment offers adaptive amelioration to the risks of climate change, which ostensibly impacts the global south more than its counterpart at north. Therefore, for developing cities to become sustainably urbanized and planned, socio-economic factors in addition to environmentally devised technological innovations should be comprehensively conceived, to become more consciously assimilated in urban planning and design of residential neighborhoods in the developing countries. One of these social factors is place attachment which has been gaining traction in the last three decades due to the role it plays in understanding the implications of human-place bonding on predicting behaviors, which in turn prepares communities to become resilient and sustainable in face of possible risks that range from climate change displacement, environmental
depletion of resources, economic constraints, and social tensions. This paper explores the link between place attachment and the creation of more sustainable communities that are civically engaged and environmentally conscientious. As the dynamics of place attachment differ from one context to another, the study employs qualitative methods to mine through place attachment values of several residents of a neighborhood in Amman, the capital city of Jordan. Through semi-structured interviews with a representative section of the residential communities, the study analyzes the findings from affective and cognitive perspectives and evaluates their contribution to achieving sustainability. Based on the findings, the research proposes an agenda for future research directions in place attachment studies especially for the context of Jordan.

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

BA in Architectural Engineering from Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). Master Degree in Architecture from Virginia Tech University. Worked at Dar Al-Omran Architectural Design Office and TURATH Architecture and Urban Design Consultants. Taught at: University of Jordan, German Jordanian University, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Middle East University and Al-Ahliyya Amman University. During her career in the professional and academic practice, she focused on the design of green buildings. Accredited as a REP (Renewable Energy Professional) from AEE and a LEED AP BD+C (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – Accredited Professional – in Building Design & Construction) from the USGBC. Currently the head of Green Building Architectural Committee at the Jordanian Engineers Association, and is a board member at the Energy Conservation & Sustainable Environment Society. Received Al-Hussein Award for Excellence and Creativity in 2015 for her voluntary initiative (Bayti-Bee’ati) that aims to spread environmental awareness among the young generation to empower them to live responsibly in a an ecofriendly built environment.