Paper presentation

Abstract title: Beyond the family institution: Cohousing and organization of everyday life among people at the third age in Sweden 2012.

Submitting Author: Eva Sandstedt
Position: Prof
Affiliation: IBF Uppsala Univ.
Institute address: IBF uu, Box 785, 80129 Gävle
E-mail address: Eva.Sandstedt@ibf.uu.se
Country: Sweden

Other authors:

Preferred session: Sociology of Residence - Urban Studies

Equipment required:

Keywords:
Demography, Cohousing, organization, ambiguity

Abstract:
Beyond the family institution: Cohousing and organization of everyday life among people at the third age in Sweden 2012.
E. Sandstedt
Institutet för bostads- och Urbanforskning, Uppsala universitet
Box 785, SE-80129 Gävle
Eva.Sandstedt@ibf.uu.se
An important issue of sustainable development is how to organize housing and everyday life in society. In history we can find different ideas about the best way of living. One secular idea from the 20th century is to organize the society and living so that women’s emancipation is expanding and at the same time the feeling of community and cohesion is created. This would be done by rationalization of household work and shared physical spaces in collaborative- and cohousing. Social experiments with this kind of common spaces and living are said of many persons not to succeed, but the idea has continued to live. Today there is a worldwide movement that is discussing collaborating housing and in Sweden there is a growing interest not least among persons in the third age to establish this kind of housing and living. The demographic situation today with much more elderly people than before in the West world will actualize the question of collective housing as an important alternative to the building practices of today. In this
paper a qualitative study of existing cohousing (40+) in Sweden will be presented. What is typical for this kind of housing? Who is living here? How is life? The analysis will be done with help of macro- microsociological theory. Concepts such as class, gender, organization, interaction, ambiguity, identity, duties, expectations will be living in the text.