

## **Session 2C - Feminist cocreation of NBS for urban regeneration**

14:30 - 16:00 Friday, 17th June, 2022

Scientific Day - Theme 2. Innovating Public Space for Inclusive Cities

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The design, architecture and uses of cities have been historically created by and for men, within a patriarchal, colonialist and capitalist matrix. An approach to urban regeneration through the lens of gender opens up opportunities to promote respect for diversity, the acceptance of complexity and improved conditions of participation. Furthermore, an eco-feminist perspective in relation both to climate change and to environmental justice is essential to the rethinking of approaches to urban projects in relation to current city models – models which contribute greatly to environmental degradation, high levels of pollution and the waste of resources. Simultaneously, the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic cause us to reflect on new urban paradigms from a critical feminist perspective that prioritizes responses to the environmental crisis and the care crisis.

The intention of feminist co-creation is to include different experiences and knowledge of women's needs, ambitions and activism in the urban regeneration planning process and in the co-creation cycle of nature-based solutions (diagnostic, design, implementation and monitoring). It consists in applying the lens of women's (defined as all persons identifying as such) specificities as they intersect with other specificities such as age, gender, ethno-racialism, socioeconomic status, and functional diversity, amongst others. By focusing on the causes of discrimination and exclusion relating to a diverse group of women, feminist co-creation tackles issues of access to and the implementation of rights, with the aim of combating racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, ableism, ageism, adult-centrism and climate change, among others. Women offer specialized insights on the reconciliation of urban uses, and the needs and ambitions for production, reproduction and care work.

Valuable insights, interventions and policies are being put into practice by women. Women's historical footprint, eco-feminist design and the inclusion of gendered considerations in public budgets have been promoted by feminist and activist groups, as well as by women's grassroots movements. These are important and empowering alliances to forge in urban regeneration processes. Co-creation with and by women of all ages, including girls and older women, enables the contexts for urban regeneration processes to: 1) embrace specific and intersectional needs and ambitions; 2) consider the impact of urban design on women's lives, including perceptions of security and insecurity, equal access, use and care of facilities and public spaces; 3) generate equal opportunities for socialization, for developing social and solidarity initiatives and for resource redistribution in public budgeting.

This session is dedicated to debating the challenges and opportunities for the co-creation of NBS through the lens of gender in the context of inclusive urban regeneration. Proposals, which may come from different geographical, governance and participatory realities and cultures, are expected to identify case studies, experiences and guiding principles that contribute to the framing and consolidation of a gendered perspective, working to achieve an inclusive urban environment and public space for all. This may include contexts where active co-design and co-implementation by women was made possible and demonstrated its value, or where frictions due to the exclusion of women arose and what these made visible.