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## Diverse participation and participation in diversity

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## Diverse participation and participation in diversity

### **Abstract**

This Participation Network sponsored working group creates a venue to consider a number of current participatory design and research projects and continues similar sessions held at past edra conferences. In conjunction with other, topic or user group sessions which include a participatory focus this session allows the work of edra members to be critically discussed and debated from many points of view while still in progress.

### **Disciplines**

Architecture

### **Comments**

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## WORKING GROUPS

Augustin, Sally (PlaceCoach Inc., WI) and McCoy, Janetta (Arizona State University, AZ). **DATA GATHERING BY ENVIRONMENT-BEHAVIOR PROFESSIONALS - A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES AND INSTRUMENTS.**

Architectural programmers, academic researchers, designers, and others who need to know more about how humans interact with their physical environments gather information using various tools. New information gathering techniques and instruments are continually being created and existing ones are regularly revamped in useful ways. The purpose of this session is to involve all interested parties – practitioners in the field, researchers, teachers of environment-behavior courses, students, etc. – in a discussion of the best new data collection tools available to gauge human responses to particular environments. In this unstructured session, individuals will be invited to share new techniques and instruments that they have found useful for learning about human/environment interactions. These might range from new observation protocols to a set of insightful survey questions to virtual reality simulations to Internet based focus groups. The techniques and instruments discussed will be determined by the tools that attendees choose to share. (research methodology). 05-136

Paxson, Lynn, (Iowa State University, IA), Cahill, Caitlin (Graduate Center- City University of New York, NY), Owens, Patsy Eubanks (University of California, Davis, CA) and Lamba, Baldev (Temple University, PA). **DIVERSE PARTICIPATION AND PARTICIPATION IN DIVERSITY.**

This Participation Network sponsored working group creates a venue to consider a number of current participatory design and research projects and continues similar sessions held at past edra conferences. In conjunction with other topic or user group sessions which include a participatory focus this session allows the work of edra members to be critically discussed and debated from many points of view while still in progress. Cahill will present *Beyond 'us' and 'them'?* *Researching across difference*. Critical race and feminist theorists (Alcoff, 1995; Minh-ha, 1989, Kelley, 1998) have identified a significant problem of academic research being a conversation of 'us' with 'us' about 'them,' reflecting raced, classed, and gendered social hierarchies. This presentation considers how a participatory action research (PAR) process repositions those "studied" as subjects instead of objects of research (Friere, 1982; Torre & Fine, 2004). Discussion will draw upon the project "Makes me mad: Stereotypes of young urban women of color." Owens will present, *Diversity at the River: bringing a community*

*together*, a project to develop a park master plan in a small agricultural town. The town has an older, Anglo population with a long history in the community and a younger Latino/ a population with energy and enthusiasm. This project sought to bring together these residents, as well as the younger community members, to develop plans for a park that would be a place for the entire community. As the only designed open space in the area, this centrally located park plays both a symbolic and tangible role in bringing the community together. Multiple participation techniques were used to engage the various populations in identifying their goals for future park use and the community qualities they wanted to preserve or enhance in the park. The limitations and advantages of the various techniques will be discussed. Baldev Lamba will present *Inner City Revitalization through University/Community Partnership*. The revitalization process in Norris Square, an emerging Puerto Rican 'barrio' as a cultural destination in Philadelphia, and the subject of recent university/community collaboration, reveals an interactive model to foster socially and culturally responsive patterns of inhabitation. This presentation will include various ways of understanding and engaging community residents resulting in not only producing paper plans and reports, but also in making tangible contributions to the neighborhood. Paxson will present *Participating in the Diversity of Who We Are*, a discussion of some of the issues regarding participation in the design, construction, interpretation and management of the recently opened Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian on the mall in Washington D.C. Other participants and 'the audience' are encouraged to present specific project related information as well. This venue should allow participants to explore participation across design, research, planning, construction and managing of environments. Issues to be considered may include: evolving cultural contexts and issues, differences in current normative assumptions that shape participation, discussion of the importance or value of participation for creating 'diverse' environments, differences in 'top-down' and 'grass-roots' participation, difficulties and challenges in employing participatory techniques, discussing the 'benefits' of participation, and the relationship of participation to diversity, power, control, empowerment and environmental justice. (participation, enablement, neighborhood and community). 05-079

Rivlin, Leanne (City University of New York, NY) and Theeman, Meredith (City University of New York, NY). **CONFLICTS OVER SPACE: FROM NEIGHBORHOOD VIOLENCE TO INTERNATIONAL WAR.**

The conference theme of diversity offers an excellent opportunity for a discussion of spatial conflicts, a topic that is a major concern in contemporary times. A discussion of these issues by participants, one directed towards identifying salient issues and research possibilities, can offer some fresh