



**NORDREGIO**  
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

# Gender and Intersectionality Towards Sustainable Development

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- *Modernist mainstream planning historians have seen their subject as the profession and their object as describing and celebrating its emergence and achievements...If the subject of planning is the profession then only those who qualify as 'professionals' are seen as relevant historical agents. This approach has at least two significant limitations. The result is a narrative about the ideas and actions of **white middle-class men**, since **women and people of color** were, at least until recently, systematically excluded from the profession... And if the object of planning history is the emergence of the profession and its achievements, then there is the privileging of a **heroic city** (Planning as Progress) at the expense of any critical insight into or scrutiny of the actual practices of planning, including its knowledge bases. (Sandercock, 1998, p. 7)*

# Critical Perspectives

- a *gender perspective on everyday life*
- an *intersectional perspective on everyday life*

# A Gender Perspective

- “. . . the allocation of distinctive attributes on the basis of sex/sexuality is a doing of gender. Gender differences between the sexes may thus be understood not as the natural order of things, but historically, culturally and socially created. Sexual differences play an important role in organizing social relationships and differences in power”. (Arora Jonsson, 2013, p. 31)

# An Intersectional Perspective

- Which social categories, if any, are represented in the empirical material?
- Which social categories are absent?
- Are there any observable explicit or implicit assumptions about social categories and about relations between social categories?
- What identities are promoted and considered to serve as grounds for political action? Are any other aspects of identity neglected or deemed insignificant?

# Example 1

- The compact city is a top down perspective

# Example 2

- Eco-friendliness is framed by Swedish middle-class norms

# Example 3

- Snow removal in Karlskoga
- <http://youtu.be/f119l6FV324>