and EOL care goals for older LGBT adults with serious illness and their spouses/partners.

**Session 4385 (Symposium)**

**ENVIRONMENT STILL MATTERS: EXAMINING PERSON-PLACE-RELATIONSHIPS IN THE OLD AND THE NEW NORMAL ACROSS SETTINGS**

Chair: Frank Oswald Co-Chair: Habib Chaudhury Discussant: Amanda Grenier

In environmental gerontology, the home and the neighborhood have always been of particular interest for empirical research. Issues such as orientation and safety, place attachment and biographical bonding, have proven to be important for community dwellings older adults and for those living in care homes. However, with Covid-19, the seemingly stable person-place-relationships have been challenged. This symposium provides a set of applied research contributions that demonstrate the persistent salience of the environment by examining person-place-relationships in the old and the new normal in private homes and care homes. Contributions draw from ideas of “precarious ageing” (Grenier & Phillipson) and “pandemic precarity”, for instance to understand housing insecurity, while concepts from environmental gerontology are used to explain processes of environmental agency and belonging. The first contribution by Mahmood and colleagues introduces an environmental audit tool for people at risk of homelessness to assess built environmental features of housing and neighborhood that support housing stability in the face of insecurity. Second, Wanka provides data from people framed as ‘risk-groups’ through the Covid-19 pandemic and how they dealt with contact restrictions, showing the role of intergenerational neighborhood relations to mediate risks of pandemic precariousness. Third, Elkes examined mobility and wayfinding challenges for residents in a long-term care home and subsequent environmental interventions to improve orientation. Forth, Leontowitsch and colleagues present findings from long-term care home residents during the pandemic to gain understanding of their experiences of social isolation and a biographical sense of resilience. Finally, Amanda Grenier will serve as the session’s discussant.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF HOUSING FOR OLDER ADULTS FACING HOUSING INSECURITY**

Atiya Mahmood,1 Muhammad Qureshi,1 Habib Chaudhury,1 Sarah Canham,2 Rachel Weldrick,1 and Shelby Elkes,1 1 Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 2 University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States

The Aging in the Right Place Environmental Audit (AIRP-ENV) and Secondary Observation (AIRP-ENV-SO) tools were developed to conduct observation-based audit of the built environment in shelters, transitional housing, independent housing with offsite/onsite supports, and permanent supportive housing with onsite medical and/or specialized services for older adults experiencing (or at risk of) homelessness. The 241 item AIRP-ENV tool is used to audit the presence/absence of exterior and interior built environmental features that support housing stability. The seven open-ended questions in the AIRP-ENV-SO tool is used to collect contextual data on function, safety and land-use of surrounding neighborhood. Data were collected at four sites of a transitional housing program in Vancouver, Canada as part of a multi-year, multi-city partnership project on aging and homelessness. Preliminary results demonstrate that built environment and urban design features (e.g., access, privacy, flexible and supportive spaces) contribute towards tenants’ residential resiliency and aging in place.

**THE ROLE OF INTERGENERATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS FOR PRECARIOUS AGING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN GERMANY**

Anna Wanka, Goethe University Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Hessen, Germany

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the immediate living environment has significantly gained importance - particularly for people framed as ‘risk-groups’, such as older adults. Effects of contact restrictions to contain the spread of the virus have affected inequalities, uncertainties and loneliness in later life differently depending on the intergenerational relations, informal infrastructures of provisioning and networks of solidarity given in a certain neighborhood. The paper presents findings from a recent mixed-methods study in Frankfurt, Germany, combining a quantitative survey (n=1.000) with a longitudinal qualitative study (n=60). Results show how intergenerational neighborhood relations can play a crucial role in mediating risks of pandemic precariousness in later life, but also how older adults themselves significantly contributing to neighborhood networks of provisioning. Strengthening such very local relations is key to protecting all age groups from the effects of crises beyond the pandemic, and, in conclusion, ways to do so are being discussed.

**RESIDENTS’ WAYFINDING CHALLENGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS IN A CARE HOME**

Habib Chaudhury, and Shelby Elkes, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

This study evaluated the role of the built environment on residents’ wayfinding behaviours at Louis Brier Home in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The goal of this study was to explore baseline mobility challenges for the residents traveling between their bedrooms and social spaces. In response to this, low-cost environmental interventions were proposed and implemented to support safe and independent wayfinding for the residents. The project consisted of three phases. First phase involved a mixed methods approach using behavior mapping and spatial observations of the residents interacting with their physical environment, combined with one focus group with the staff members. In the second phase, researchers presented actionable environmental interventions for the care home administration to consider and implement. The final phase involved post-implementation behaviour mapping, spatial observations and a focus group session. The implemented environmental interventions influenced in improved resident wayfinding and orientation in the long-term care home.