

A pleasant place? Perspectives from significant others on the common spaces in nursing homes

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CONCLUSION

The experiences of the significant others revealed several perspectives on what they characterize as a pleasant place. They highlighted both challenges and opportunities for how the common spaces are used, and could be used, in everyday life in a nursing home. The reasoning about the physical environment design was closely intertwined with how privacy and community could be promoted in the common areas.

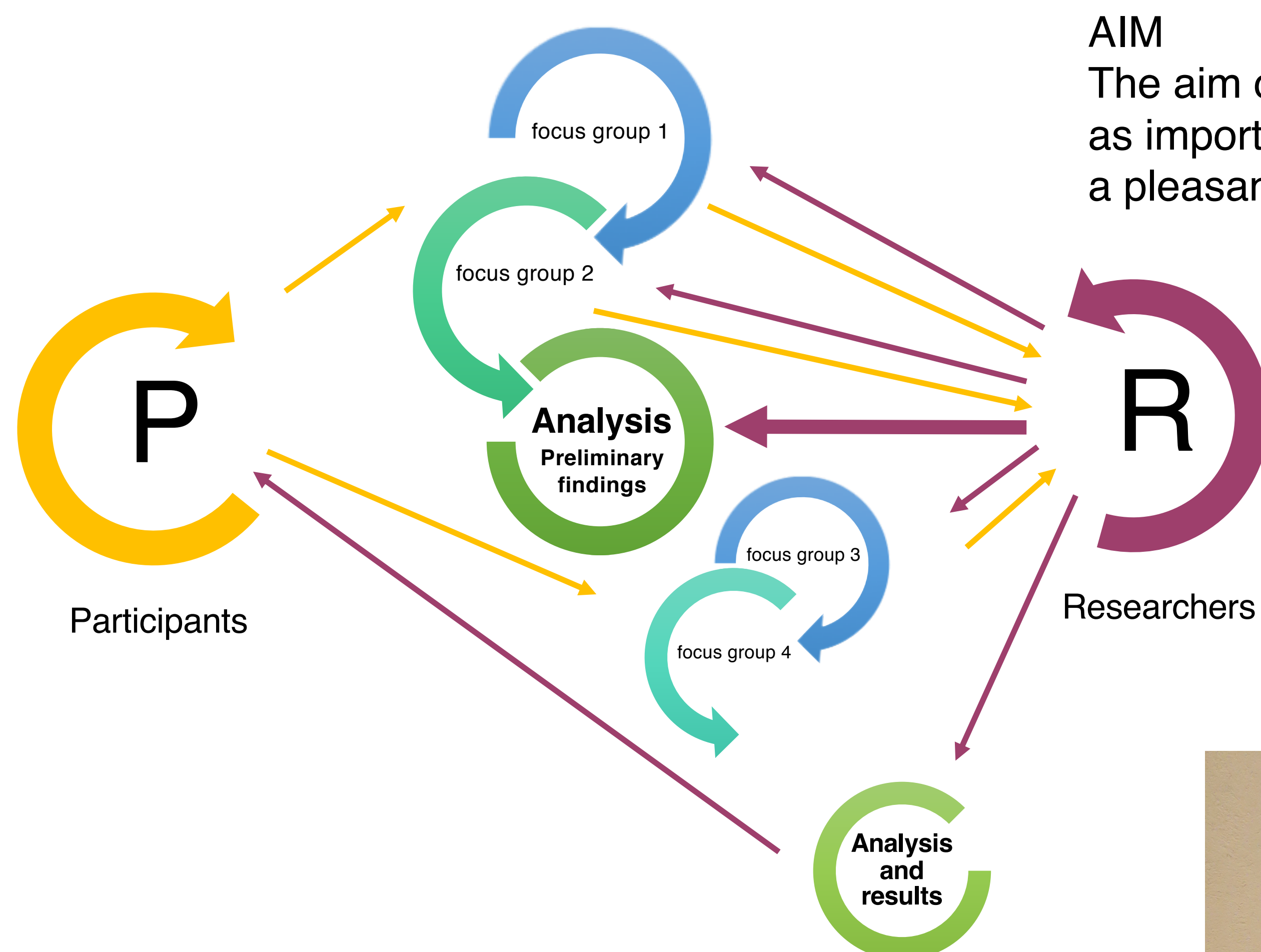


Photo M.Palmgren

Skulpturer Birgitta Wennerling

BACKGROUND

A nursing home is a multifaceted place that is suppose to serve as a home as well as a place for caring. To expand everyday life for the residents, beyond the private room/apartment, different locations that can support social interaction and daily activities are needed. To understand what creates a pleasant place, the significant others` experiences serve as a source of knowledge for how the common spaces in nursing homes are used and perceived.



AIM

The aim of the study was to explore what significant others perceive as important so that the common spaces in the nursing home become a pleasant place.

METHOD

Focus groups (n=2) were conducted with significant others to nursing home residents in Sweden. The focus group sessions were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. The material was analyzed with content analysis. Follow up sessions with new participants in new focus groups (n=2) were held after material was analysed and preliminary findings were gathered from the initial focus groups.

FINDINGS

Preliminary findings show that the significant others` experiences at the nursing home were described from a broad spectrum but could be summarized from the following categories:

- A dynamic place
- A place that is cared for
- Better than worse
- Why does it have to be so ugly?
- Contrasting logics

The photos illustrate a place in a corridor in the common areas in a nursing home, that suggest multiple uses at the same place but with different significance for the residents, the staff and the significant others.



Photo: M.Palmgren

A place that is cared for, A dynamic place, Contrasting logics.



Photo: M.Palmgren

Contrasting logics, Better than worse, Why does it have to be so ugly?



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