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**Women and Planning: Past, Present and Future**

**Background of the Study**A recent RTPI survey found that a relatively important proportion of female planners have faced—and are sometimes still facing— important barriers to their professional advancement. These barriers include (though they may not be limited to);
(1) *Lack of management development programme*
(2) *Lack of career mentors*
(3) *Age*
(4) *Lack of role models*
(5) *Gender*
(6) *Lack of family-friendly employer policies.*

A larger proportion of female respondents when compared to male respondents mentioned almost all barriers to professional advancement. In particular, the barrier of *gender* – which was suggested by 24% of female respondents compared to just 2% of male respondents, and the *lack of family-friendly employer policies* – mentioned by 14% of female respondents compared to 2% of their male counterparts.

**Aims/Objectives**The primary aim of this study is to better understand the *professional journey* of female planners – in particular, the barriers and obstacles directly or indirectly related to *gender* as experienced by women working in the planning profession.

A second aim is to gauge the impact of *gender mainstreaming* on planning related issues – that is, to gain an in-depth understanding of the success and failure to implement planning policies sensitive to gender specific needs in urban and rural environments.

**Outputs**Results of this study will inform a **report on Women in Planning**. Outputs will be presented at the **Women and Planning in the UK conference** to be held on 20th/21st May 2019at the Leeds Planning School. Results may be subsequently published as **an academic article in a peer-reviewed journal**. They may also inform the background of the **RTPI Inclusion and Diversity Action Plan** which will be launched later on this year.

**Participation**There are two ways to participate in this study:

* Via a short (30-45min) semi-structured interviewwith Deputy Head of Policy and Research Prof. Aude Bicquelet-Lock. Interviews will be held face-to-face or by phone/skype (until **Friday 5th April 2019**)
* Or, by filling in a questionnaire (on a word document) and returning it via email to Aude Bicquelet-Lock before **Monday 29th April** **2019.**

 **Anonymity and Confidentiality**Participation to this study via interview and online-consultation will remain anonymous. Participants will retain the right not to answer questions and to withdraw from the study at any point of the research. Interview transcripts and consultation documents will be treated with the strictest confidentiality. Once reports and articles have been produced participants will be sent a copy and will be offered the opportunity to comment on interim the findings.

 **Taking Part**Thank you for taking the time to read this briefing note. Should you have any questions or comments on this study please do not hesitate get in touch. Should you be interested to participate in this research please contact Prof. Aude Bicquelet-Lock at the RTPI aude.bicquelet@rtpi.org.uk