

19th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

9h30 – 10h50

SEMINAR SESSION 2 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

Seminar 10: Family Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: Nicholas Pleace, UK

Susana Batle Cladera, Núria Martínez Company, Jezabel Cartoixà Garcia, ES: Families Facing Residential Exclusion: A Case Study at Es Convent Residential Center (FSJD), Mallorca

Family homelessness is a growing social issue in Spain. The difficulties in accessing housing, particularly in areas strained by tourism, gentrification, migration, and real estate speculation, undermine rights beyond just housing, affecting health, education, and employment. Despite the increase in these cases, the profiles and needs of these families remain poorly understood due to their invisibility within categories C and D of residential exclusion according to ETHOS. In particular, the voices of children and adolescents are underrepresented in scientific literature, which limits the development of policies and programs that adequately address their processes of exclusion and inclusion.

This study outlines the results of a mixed-methods case study conducted at Es Convent residential center of the Sant Joan de Déu Foundation in Palma de Mallorca, a leading center in the field. Its aim is to analyze the profiles of these families and their needs to improve personalized care and encourage similar studies in other regions. To achieve this, five years of reports (2018-2022) were reviewed, semi-structured interviews were conducted with adult representatives from 12 family units (biparental, single-parent, and migrant), and a group walking interview was held with six children and adolescents.

The results reveal the housing trajectories of these families and the specific challenges faced by each profile as triggers for homelessness. They also highlight the importance of residential infrastructure and child well-being as key elements in family stability. Finally, the study identifies children's needs that often go unnoticed in support processes, impacting their bio-psycho-social health. This research underscores the urgent need to make family homelessness visible and amplify the voices of children and adolescents, preventing their reality from being interpreted solely through the lens of the adults in charge. Its findings are crucial for designing public policies and interventions that prioritize their well-being in contexts of residential exclusion.



Susana Batle Cladera is an applied social researcher specializing in the analysis of professional practice, social exclusion, and homelessness. She holds a PhD in Social Work from the University of Barcelona and has worked on the evaluation of programs such as *Primer la Llar* (Housing First) in Barcelona. Her work focuses on evaluating and redesigning social intervention projects to improve support for people in vulnerable situations. She has collaborated with multiple organizations on social inclusion projects. She has published research on intervention methodologies and received the Housing First Early Career Researcher Award in recognition of her work. She is a professor of social policies (Social Services) at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). Currently, she is a partner at OLMA, a consulting firm specialized in applied social research and public policy evaluation.



Núria Martínez Company is a social project technician specializing in childhood, adolescence, and the supervision of social care teams. With extensive experience in socio-educational intervention, she has worked on preventing gender-based violence, protecting children, and supporting young people in vulnerable situations. She is a member of OLMA.COOP, where she coordinates human resources and supervises teams in the social sector. She has led awareness and training projects focused on working with minors, particularly highlighting her work in gender equality and child protection spaces. Her efforts are centered on transforming care models from a rights-based and equity perspective.



Jezabel Cartoixà García is a sociologist and holds a PhD in Education and Society from the University of Barcelona. She specializes in applied social research and has worked on the analysis and evaluation of residential inclusion programs such as Housing First. Currently, she is a professor and researcher at the University of Barcelona and a member of the Social Work Research Group (GRITS). Her work focuses on homelessness, public policies, and participatory methodologies. She has collaborated on European projects related to social intervention and actively participates in publications and scientific conferences. Currently, she is a partner at OLMA, a consulting firm specialized in applied social research and public policy evaluation.

Michel Vols, NL: Evictions and Child Homelessness in the Netherlands: A Quantitative Court Case Study

Recent research by ETHOS indicates that nearly 20 percent of homeless individuals in the Netherlands are under the age of 18. This alarming statistic contrasts sharply with the country's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which mandates that the Dutch government must take all necessary measures to prevent child homelessness. This obligation extends to the judiciary, which has a vital role in preventing evictions—one of the primary causes of homelessness. In eviction cases, the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration for the judge. In 2025, the Dutch Supreme Court is expected to clarify the extent of this obligation.

This paper seeks to examine how courts address the obligation to consider the interests of children in cases where there is a risk of homelessness. It utilises a data science approach to analyse a unique quantitative database comprising over 6,000 Dutch court cases related to eviction. The paper investigates the role minors play in these court cases, whether and how their interests are assessed by the courts, whether the presence of a minor influences the court's decision, and how the risk of homelessness affects this decision. The findings will reveal that the protection against homelessness for minors varies significantly across different courts. Additionally, the paper will offer concrete recommendations for policies that courts could implement to enhance protection for minors at risk of homelessness.



Prof. Dr. Michel Vols is a professor of law at the University of Groningen, specialising in housing and legal methodology. He leads the EVICT project, funded by an ERC Starting Grant, which explores how legal systems handle evictions and their effects on vulnerable populations. His work combines legal analysis with data science to identify patterns in eviction cases. Previously, he received a VENI grant for research on tenant protection. Vols is a visiting professor at the University of Southampton. He co-chairs the Housing Law Research Network and is the editor of *Studies in Housing Law*.