19th European Research Conference

18th and 19th September, 2025
Venue: Leeuwenbergh church and Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

European Observatory on Homelessness

19th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

11h30 – 12h50	SEMINAR SESSION 3 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

Seminar 17: Innovative Research Methods (Room: X) - Chair: **Maša Filipovič Hrast, SI**

Alex Abramovich, CA: Pathways Interrupted: 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Leading Responses to Hidden Homelessness in Ontario, Canada

LGBTIQ+ youth are disproportionately represented among the homeless youth population. LGBTIQ+ youth experience homelessness at younger ages and are more likely to experience hidden homelessness due to stigma and discrimination compared to cisgender and heterosexual youth. Hidden homelessness refers to unstable and temporary housing situations, including couch surfing, staying at a motel/hotel, and with a friend, family, or partner. Accurate data on prevalence, experiences, and needs among LGBTIQ+ youth experiencing hidden homelessness are missing. This presentation focuses on the Pathways Interrupted study, which utilized Youth Participatory Action research and participatory visual methodologies to co-generate knowledge with community stakeholders, including youth with lived experience of homelessness, to engage in systemic change. Peer Researchers were hired across three sites in Ontario, Canada (Toronto, York Region, and London) to engage LGBTIQ+ youth (aged 16-29) with experiences of hidden homelessness to create cellphilms (short videos created with mobile technology) focused on the pathways into and out of hidden homelessness, gaps in services, and the needs of LGBTIQ+ youth. Cellphilming leverages youths' existing media skills into a research method that supports participants in creating rich and multidimensional data in a way that is inclusive and engaging. After creating and analyzing their cellphilms, youth participated in one-on-one interviews and focus group discussions to identify key themes and make recommendations to improve the youth homelessness response to hidden homelessness in their region. The objective of this research was to identify how homelessness prevention plans in regions that have moderate to high amounts of youth homelessness support could better intervene upstream to support LGBTIQ+ youth at risk of homelessness, such as addressing problematic home environments and/or supporting safe and secure re-housing. This presentation will share cellphilms, main study findings, and recommendations to improve youth homelessness responses and promote sustainable exits from homelessness among LGBTIQ+ youth.

Dr. Alex Abramovich is a Senior Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, and holds a Canada Research Chair in 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness and Mental Health. Dr. Abramovich is an internationally recognized leader, whose research addresses the health and social inequities experienced by 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and has informed innovative housing practices—including Canada's first transitional housing program for 2SLGBTQ+ youth. He has worked with all levels of government to develop policies that address the needs of 2SLGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness and is committed to research that ethically engages marginalized populations.

Frédérique Leresche, Giada De Coulon, Aubert Baptiste, CH: Living Without a Home: An Intersectional Research-Creation on Homelessness in Switzerland

This presentation explores homelessness among particularly marginalized groups in Switzerland: women, individuals with precarious or undocumented residency status, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Understanding homelessness among subalternized groups (Sarker, 2015) requires a commitment to a feminist and intersectional epistemology that acknowledges structural violence and systemic inequalities. This approach is grounded in a situated perspective (Harding, 2004) that recognizes all knowledge production as embedded in specific experiences and power relations. It also emphasizes the intrinsic political nature of emotions (Narayan, 1988) , shaping both the experience and analysis of homelessness.

While dominant narratives tend to render the homelessness of certain social groups invisible, favoring a neutral and

■ **European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL**
Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri AISBL

194 Chaussée de Louvain ■ 1210 Brussels ■ Belgium ■ Tel.: +32 2 538 66 69 ■ Fax: +32 2 539 41 74 ■ office@feantsa.org ■ www.feantsa.org

universalizing interpretation of the phenomenon, while at the same time making individuals guilty, this study highlights the structures that produce and sustain these vulnerabilities. To do so, we believe this is important to adopt methodological tools that grant access to subaltern knowledge and affective dimensions. For example, by the use of creative or research-creation methods, which offer alternative ways of exploring and conveying lived experiences. By integrating practices such as participatory storytelling, video, and performances, research provides a more nuanced and engaged representation of homelessness.

To illustrate this, we would like to present an audiovisual research project rooted in collaborative cinema, emphasizing co-creation rather than observation. Engaging with postcolonial and feminist critiques, this work challenges ethnographic authority and the Euro-androcentric nature of documentary production. The filmmaking process involves ethical and technical training workshops, fostering dialogue on representation and narrative choices. These images not only document homelessness from within but also interrogate how participants interpret their own experiences.

We hope to contributes to more inclusive, transformative research by recognizing the agency and voices of those affected while critically examining the socio-political structures that place them in precarious situations.

Frédérique Leresche (photo) *(University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, Fribourg) is a researcher and actress. Since 2016, she has been conducting research on the topics of non-take-up of rights, homelessness, and situations of social violence. She is also engaged in epistemological inquiries that question the conditions of knowledge production and develops research-creation and collaborative methodologies. Her research is grounded in feminist and subaltern theories, as well as critical and intersectional approaches.*

The research on which this presentation is based is carried out by a team of researchers including **Baptiste Aubert**, *visual anthropologist based at the University of Neuchâtel, and* **Giada de Coulon**, *ethnologist, researcher at University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, Fribourg.*