19th European Research Conference

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

European Observatory on Homelessness

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

18th SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

16h00 – 17h30	SEMINAR SESSION 1 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

Seminar 1: Women and Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: **Nicholas Pleace, UK**

Ana María Munizaga Acuña, Chile: Between Two Cities: A Comparative Study of the Living Conditions and Survival Strategies of Women experiencing homelessness in Santiago (Chile) and Barcelona (Spain) and the Public Policy Responses in Both Contexts

The presentation at the 19th European Research Conference is based on a study examining the living conditions of women experiencing homelessness in Santiago (Chile) and Barcelona (Spain). The study has two main objectives: first, to understand the survival strategies of these women, and second, to conduct a comparative review of the public policies targeting this population in both cities.

The theoretical framework of the study is grounded in the human rights approach, which recognizes women experiencing homelessness as full rights holders, emphasizing the importance of ensuring their dignity, security, and access to fundamental rights. The gender perspective is also incorporated to identify the specific issues affecting women, distinguishing them from other homeless groups. Additionally, theories of inequality will be applied to understand how social, economic, and political structures perpetuate their marginalization.

The analysis is approached from an intersectional perspective, identifying similarities and differences between women experiencing homelessness in both urban contexts and how the interaction of various factors contributes to their vulnerability. A comparative analysis of the policies and programs implemented in each city is also conducted, assessing advancements, best practices, and key lessons to improve public interventions.

The methodology includes semi-structured interviews with professionals working directly with this population and a comprehensive document review to contextualize the existing policies and strategies in both contexts.

This study is relevant for its integrated analysis, which deepens the understanding of the reality faced by women experiencing homelessness and their specific needs, offering a comprehensive view of the progress and challenges in public care for this population.

Ana María Munizaga Acuña holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, a Diploma in Poverty Reduction Strategies from Universidad de Chile, and a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Her expertise includes poverty, public policy, urban development, and homelessness. She presented research on the reconceptualization of homelessness using a radial categories methodology at the Second World Homelessness Conference, organized by the International Journal of Homelessness and the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness. She is also a senior consultant and researcher in social studies at the national level.

Cristina Lidon Moyano, Emiliano Navarro, Ignasi Oliveras, Isabel Morales, Ignacio Macpherson, Sonia Paz-Cantos, Pere Castellví, Consuelo León-Llorente, ES: Homelessness and Mental Health in Barcelona: A Gender Perspective Study

Background: In Spain, there has been little research on homelessness from a gender perspective. Therefore, the main objective of this project is to analyze the differentiated vulnerability of women living on the streets in Barcelona in terms of substance use and mental health.

Methods: A quantitative longitudinal study including a convenience sample of the homeless population in Barcelona (Spain), with preliminary data from 102 women and 215 men. Recruitment is taking place in shelters and reception centers. Structured surveys collect information using validated scales (anxiety and depression data are gathered using the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item scale (GAD-7) and the Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9)), as well as self-reported information to measure the study variables. Finally, the prevalence of primary variables, such as mental health disorders, will be calculated. All analyses will adjust for gender perspective

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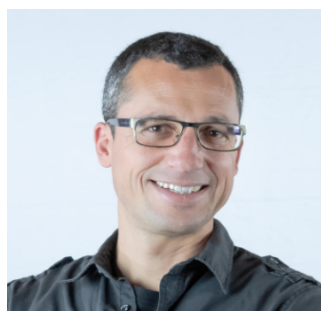
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Results: Preliminary results show significant differences between men and women in homelessness regarding mental health. In terms of self-reported diagnoses, women generally show higher prevalence, with the most common being anxiety (38.2%), depression (36.3%), and post-traumatic stress (11.8%). Among men, the most frequently reported diagnoses are depression (16.3%), anxiety (13%), and addictions (6%). On the other hand, among those who did not report a depression diagnosis, 66.7% of women and 57.9% of men might show signs of depression according to the PHQ-9. Similarly, among those who did not report an anxiety diagnosis, 72.6% of women and 55% of men might show signs of anxiety according to the GAD-7.

Conclusions: The results of this project will increase the recognition and scientific evidence of the secondary effects of homelessness. We will be able to work on resources and social strategies tailored to the specific characteristics and needs of women living on the streets.

Keywords: Mental health, homelessness, gender

Dr. Cristina Lidón-Moyano is an adjunct professor at the International University of Catalonia, specializing in Epidemiology, Public Health, and Statistics. She holds a Ph.D. in Health Sciences, Epidemiology, and Public Health from the International University of Catalonia, with postdoctoral research at the University of California, Merced. With over 10 years of experience in epidemiology and public health, her research focuses on addiction, mental health, tobacco control, and screen exposure in children. She leads several doctoral theses and is currently studying the vulnerability of homeless women in terms of addiction and mental health.

Pere Castelvi holds a PhD in Psychology and a Master's degree in Public Health and Psychopathology. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC) and a researcher specialized in Mental Health Epidemiology, particularly in the promotion of emotional well-being and the prevention of suicide in population-based studies.

Isabel Morales holds a PhD in Humanities and is a professor in the Department of Humanities at UIC. Her area of specialization is Anthropology. In particular, she conducts research on critical readings of naturalism as a framework for understanding the human condition. Her research also focuses on the constitution and nature of habits, explored from both scientific and philosophical perspectives.

Sonia de Paz Cantos is a biologist, epidemiologist, and specialist in healthcare management. She is currently a doctoral researcher at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, focusing on the use of screens in the pediatric population. She is passionate about understanding how early interactions with screens can shape developmental trajectories in early childhood.

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Dr. Ignasi Oliveras (ORCID: 0000-0002-3082-0355) *holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. (Autonomous University of Barcelona) in Neuroscience, specializing in animal models of neurodevelopmental disorders. His research has delved into comprehensive investigations of behavioral, pharmacological, and genetic factors related to schizophrenia. Currently, he's working at the International University of Catalonia on a project investigating gender differences in individuals experiencing homelessness. The main objective of this project is to analyze the differentiated vulnerability of women experiencing homelessness in Barcelona in terms of health, mental health, addictions, and the use of healthcare and social resources.*

Emiliano Navarro MSc is a doctoral student at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, and he is passionate about how statistical analyses can guide decision-making in health.

Consuelo de León holds a PhD in Business Administration from UPC and is currently the Associate Academic Director of the Campus de la Experiencia at UIC. Her main research focuses on the development of public-private social policies related to the labor market, gender, vulnerable groups, and the social inclusion of adults.

Ignacio Macpherson holds a PhD in Biology and Master's in Bioethics. He is a professor in the Faculty of Humanities at the International University of Catalonia (UIC) and a researcher in the field of patient vulnerability.

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Seminar 2: Housing First I (Room: X) - Chair: **Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE**

Elisabetta Leni, FI: Examining Housing Trajectories and Service Use Patterns Among Homeless Individuals in Finland: The Impact of Housing First Interventions

This study analyzes the housing histories and service use patterns of approximately 1,000 homeless individuals in Finland, focusing on the impact of Housing First interventions. The analysis uses a dataset constructed by linking multiple administrative registers covering the period 2016-2021. The dataset includes individual-level information on primary and secondary healthcare, social security, social services, as well as residential history, demographics, household composition, and mental health diagnoses.

The primary objective is to examine housing trajectories and the use of social and health services before and after Housing First placement, taking into account individual risk factors and specific support needs. To assess the impact of Housing First, we compare two groups of individuals who experienced homelessness in 2018-2019: a target group consisting of those who immediately received Housing First support, and a comparison group consisting of individuals who remained homeless for over a year before being placed in housing. Using a quasi-experimental design, we estimate changes in service use by comparing the two years prior to Housing First placement (or waiting list placement) and the two years after placement. In addition, we apply sequence analysis to examine housing trajectories over the four-year period and identify common pathways into and out of homelessness. This will help uncover key factors that influence both the onset of homelessness and successful transitions to stable housing. Preliminary findings will highlight shifts in housing trajectories and changes in service use, particularly in emergency care, hospitalizations, and social services following Housing First placement. These findings contribute to the understanding of how Housing First influences service use and offer potential avenues for improving the homelessness response system. This study also serves as a foundation for future cost-offset evaluations.

Elisabetta Leni is a researcher at the Y-Foundation, Finland. After working several years in the non-profit sector in Italy, she obtained a PhD in Economics at the University of Essex, UK. The current focus of her research is on homelessness and social housing.

Sarah Johnsen, UK: Gaining and Preserving Pioneer Status: Key Lessons from the Housing First Pathfinder Programme in Scotland

Scotland has been heralded as an international pioneer in Housing First implementation given the level of political commitment the approach has commanded and pace at which the intervention has scaled up in recent years. This status was catalysed by a major three-year 'Pathfinder' programme which scaled up Housing First provision in five areas (Aberdeen/shire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Stirling) and housed 579 people experiencing homelessness with so-called 'complex needs' (e.g., co-occurring problematic substance use and/or mental health problems). The Pathfinder served as a litmus test regarding the opportunities and challenges associated with scaling up Housing First at pace.

This paper distils nine key lessons emerging from an independent evaluation of the Pathfinder which comprised interviews and focus groups involving more than 200 participants over the programme's duration, as well as analysis of monitoring data, and project-level financial returns. These lessons illuminate the Pathfinder's achievements and limitations, together with factors facilitating and inhibiting Housing First mobilisation and mainstreaming at local and national scales. These will inform future delivery as Housing First increasingly becomes the default response for individuals with complex needs as per recent Scottish Government policy directives. At least some, if not all, are likely to resonate in other countries aiming to embed and/or expand Housing First provision.

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*Professor **Sarah Johnsen** is Director of the Centre for Homelessness and Inclusion Health at the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. She has been involved in research on homelessness and related forms of 'street culture' (e.g. begging and street drinking) for more than 20 years. Much of Sarah's most recent work has focused on the experiences of and policy responses for people experiencing homelessness who are concomitantly affected by substance use, poor mental health, and/or other associated forms of disadvantage.*

Seminar 3: Housing Programs I (Room: X) - Chair: **Maša Filipovič Hrast, SI**

Maarten Davelaar, Aly Gruppen, Dieke van Ewijk, NL: Supporting the Individual and the Community: Connecting People with Experience in Homelessness and Their Neighbours in Mixed Housing Projects

Mixed housing projects in the Netherlands are home to both socially excluded citizens and 'regular' tenants. Currently, approximately 90 of those projects provide independent living for former homeless people. Mixed housing, occasionally also called community living, refers to social housing projects (apartment buildings or small neighbourhoods) with mostly 30 to 150 residents. Other common characteristics are self-contained apartments, close cooperation between housing organisations and homeless services, the proximity of individual and community support, communal spaces and a focus on fostering friendly interactions (being good neighbours) between the tenants. This fast-growing field in the Netherlands can be labelled as a Housing First, or in some cases housing-led, approach combined with a community component. Recently (2021-2024) we conducted action and evaluative research on seven housing projects in the Utrecht agglomeration with on average 30% of all residents previously experiencing homelessness. This research, involving residents, practitioners, managers and policy makers, confirmed the outcomes of earlier research: most projects succeed in creating a supportive living environment, thus contributing to the social inclusion of former homeless persons. Yet, the new findings also underline the continuing challenges that homeless care providers and their staff face in trying to unlock for their clients the potential benefits of living in social mix housing projects. In order to strengthen a sense of community in these heterogeneous housing communities, individual support workers must encourage neighbourly contact. Beside this, they must help residents tackle misunderstandings, tensions and differences in expectations, address (self)stigma and help the broader community discover its assets. Many support workers struggle with the new tasks, roles and required skills that come with the shift from individual guidance to supporting the individual in the community. For homelessness services it also requires new ways of funding, accountability and cooperation with housing and community development professionals and organisations.

Maarten Davelaar *is a senior-researcher at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, research group Housing and Wellbeing. His focus includes housing, homelessness, community development and homemaking. He writes a dissertation on mixed housing at the University of Amsterdam.*

Aly Gruppen is a Social Work lecturer and senior-researcher on Housing and Wellbeing at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. She is an expert on the role of practitioners in mixed housing projects.

Dieke van Ewijk is researcher at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht and holds a MSc in Urbanism (Delft University of Technology) and a MSW in Community Development. Her fields of interest include the impact of the built environment on social interaction, community building and innovative housing concepts.

Henrique Joaquim, Pedro Martins, Fábio Simão, PT: Evaluating the Impact of "Shared Apartments" as an innovative Housing Response for Homelessness People in Portugal

This study assesses the impact of the "Shared Apartments" housing response within the framework of Portugal's National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People (ENIPSSA). This is a Housing-based intervention, for 2 to 5 people, with psychosocial support through a person-centered approach.
This project conducted with data from the Algarve region refers to the period between 2021-2025, involving a total of 388 homeless individuals, of whom 224 are part of the treatment group. The analysis measures the program's effectiveness in promoting social reintegration and long-term autonomy.
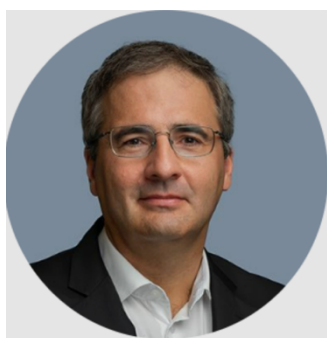The evaluation employs a quasi-experimental design, using Propensity Score Matching and duration methods, to compare outcomes between participants who accessed "Shared Apartments" and eligible individuals who did not due to limited "Shared Apartments" availability. The key impact indicators analyzed include the probability of overcoming homelessness, the sustainability of housing retention after six months and after one year, and improvements in employment and income levels. Furthermore, the study examines secondary the impact of indicators such as mental health addictive behaviors and social integration, which are critical factors for a successful and lasting reintegration.
Preliminary findings appear to indicate a positive, counterfactual effect of the intervention on exits from homelessness and maintaining stable housing. In this context, "Shared Apartments" may offer a more cost-effective solution that fosters social interaction and peer support, albeit with potential challenges related to privacy and compatibility among residents.

These preliminary findings may underscore the importance of sustained social support, personalized intervention plans, and cross-sector collaboration to enhance program scalability and long-term success. The insights gained and the evaluation methodology provide a foundation for replicating and adapting the "Shared Apartments" model and its evaluation across different regions of Portugal and perhaps internationally, contributing to evidence-based policy development in the field of homelessness trough a housing-led approach. Continued data collection and follow-up will refine these findings, supporting continuous improvement and strategic decision-making.

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Henrique Joaquim – *Social Worker, Social Work PhD (Universidade Católica Portuguesa), National Coordinator of the National Strategy for Homeless People, Portugal - training in Impact Assessment of Public Policies – Un. Nova SBE; and training at the "Insead Social Entrepreneurship Programme" (INSEAD) – Instituto de Empreendedorismo Social.*

Pedro Martins *is full Professor at Nova School of Business and Economics. Director, Economics for Policy Knowledge Center. PhD in economics from the University of Warwick (2005). Lecturer and Professor at Queen Mary University of London (2004-21). Secretary of State for Employment in the Government of Portugal (2011-13): responsible for reforms in employment protection legislation, active labour market policies, the public employment service, and tripartite dialogue. Member of the group of experts advising the Government of Greece and the European Commission on labour market reforms (2016). Current research: collective bargaining, training, and employment services. Scientific Director, Economics for Policy Knowledge Center, Nova SBE (https://economicsforpolicy.novasbe.pt/) and Co-Director, Executive Leadership in Public Administration.*

Fábio Simão – *Lawyer, Executive Director of MAPS the NGO responsible for implementing this intervention, Portugal.*

Seminar 4: Policy Design (Room: X) - Chair: **Mike Allen, IE**

Marta B. Borges, Ines Amaro, Alexandra Camilo, PT: The Social Risk Assessment Scale: A Tool for Identifying and Responding to Social Emergencies

This paper presents the Social Risk Assessment Scale, developed by the Portuguese National Emergency Hotline (LNES), as an essential tool for professionals to assess the level of risk in social emergency situations. In the context of social intervention and crisis management, this action-research project examines the theoretical basis, methodology and practical application of the scale in assessing vulnerability and guiding immediate response strategies.

Using a structured scoring process, the scale categorizes levels of risk based on factors such as individual, housing, socio-family, institutional and economic contexts. This research examines the challenges of implementing the scale and the benefits of standardised risk assessment in ensuring effective social protection interventions.

By integrating real-time risk classification into emergency response systems, this study highlights the role of the scale in informing decision-making processes and informing public policies aimed at reducing social vulnerability. The findings underscore the importance of evidence-based tools in strengthening crisis intervention frameworks and improving the coordination of social services.

Marta Borges - *Social Worker, Master in Communication Sciences, Organisations and New Technologies, Doctoral Candidate in Social Work at ISCTE, IUL, member of the Board of the Association of Social Workers and member of the Portuguese Society of Psychosomatics. She has experience in the field of addictive behaviours and dependencies since 1999, working in the areas of treatment, deterrence and harm reduction. Coordinator of the DICAD/ARSLVT Regional Harm Reduction Team between 2012 and 2020. Currently coordinator of the ISS,IP Social Emergency*

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Centre with responsibility for the National Social Emergency Line. Research interests: social work, harm reduction and trauma.

Research Team from the Portuguese Social Security Institute(ISS,IP):
Maria Inês Amaro *- Social Worker, Director of the Social Development Department*
Alexandra Camilo - Psychologist, Social Emergency Unit;
Ana Moreira - Psychologist, Social Emergency Unit - Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Renata Matos – Social Worker, Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Maria Gonçalves - Social Worker, Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Irene Capinha - Social Worker, Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Teresa Guerreiro - Social Worker, Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Dulce Lamas - Psychologist, Social Emergency Unit - Portuguese National Emergency Hotline

Michelle Binfield, Luke Arundel, Guillermo Rodriguez-Guzman and Graeme Gardner, UK: The UK's Test & Learn & Systems-Wide programme: Using evidence to accelerate an end to homelessness

We know that homelessness is a systemic issue, with both individual and structural factors. Individual factors include relationship breakdown, trauma, mental ill health, and substance use, while structural factors, experiences of poverty, financial insecurity linked to unemployment and the operation of the benefits system, housing supply and affordability, asylum and migration, and the impact of time spent in public institutions such as prison or the care system.
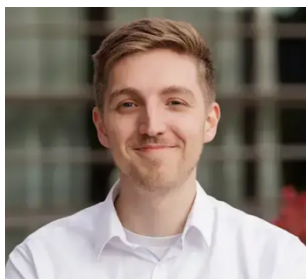
Despite recognition of the interrelated nature of these challenges, it is often difficult to address them at a systemic level, which requires a multi-faceted approach, involving collaboration between central, regional and local government, homelessness charities, landlords, and a wide range of other stakeholders. In many cases, we also lack evidence on the impact of many of our actions, including the potential for some interventions to be less effective than we anticipate or even cause harm. This limits our ability to focus limited resources where they matter the most.

Investments in understanding what works - particularly using scientific methods like randomised controlled trials - revolutionised the types of care people receive and the outcomes they experience. Systems-sensitive approaches offer a valuable complement, helping to identify opportunities for systems-wide change.

In this presentation, we will introduce and share reflections on the Test & Learn & Systems-wide evaluation programme, the first of its kind in homelessness. The programme to, commissioned by the UK government and delivered by a consortium led by the Centre for Homelessness Impact, is setting up new services and robustly evaluating them using randomised controlled trials (T&L); and employing a wide range of methods to identify opportunities for systems-wide change (SW).

Michelle Binfield *oversees the delivery of the Test and Learn and Systems-Wide Evaluation programme, and on our implementation work with local areas to support insights from evidence being put into practice. She has been involved in homelessness and rough sleeping for over 30 years as a provider, a commissioner, and a strategic lead. She has worked in central government, local government, and regional government.*

Luke Arundel *is Evidence and Data Lead at the Centre, where he leads multiple research projects including several of the Test & Learn evaluations. His focus is on impact evaluation, having worked on multiple randomised controlled trials and quasi-experimental designs in homelessness and higher education.*

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Seminar 5: Women and Homelessness I (Room: X) - Chair: **Nóra Teller, HU**

García-Cid Alba, Itziar Gandarias, Paula Torres, ES: From Residential Spaces to Safe Housing: An Analysis of Low-Threshold Accommodation Models for Women in Situations of Social Exclusion

Access to housing is a universal right and a crucial element in ensuring dignity and autonomy. However, for women in situations of social exclusion—particularly those affected by homelessness, gender-based violence, addiction, and mental health issues—traditional residential care models often impose restrictive conditions, limiting privacy and autonomy while reinforcing stigma. This research examines the implementation of low-threshold accommodation services for women promoted by the Inclusion Service of the Bizkaia Provincial Council. Specifically, it analyzes the experiences of four entities in the city of Bilbao (Spain) that have carried out a one-year pilot program.

Using a qualitative approach, the data was collected through semi-structured interviews with women residing in these accommodations, as well as focus groups with professionals from the social sector. This methodological design ensures a comprehensive understanding of how low-threshold housing services address women's needs and perceptions of safety and protection.

The study seeks to identify key differentiating elements between low-threshold housing models and conventional residential care. Furthermore, it examines women's perceptions of safe and protective spaces, emphasizing the importance of housing as a starting point—rather than a final objective—in their recovery process. This approach challenges patriarchal frameworks that dictate residential integration through high-intensity intervention models, advocating instead for flexible, community-based solutions that foster empowerment, harm reduction, and security. By addressing structural barriers to safe housing access, this research contributes to a broader reflection on the adequacy of existing residential services and the need for alternative models tailored to women's diverse needs. The findings will inform policymakers and social service providers on improving accommodation programs, ultimately promoting autonomy and long-term social inclusion for women in vulnerable situations.

Itziar Gandarias and *Alba García-Cid (photo)*, *PhD in Social Psychology, are both Associate Professors at the University of Deusto. They specialize in homelessness, gender, and social exclusion, doing research on hidden homelessness, gendered violence, and feminist perspectives in social intervention.*

Paula Torres is a research technician at the team, specialized in social intervention. The authors are part of the project From Residential Spaces to Safe Housing. Also, they are doing research in the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence through the Theory and Practice of Feminist Self-Defense project, among others national and international studies on vulnerable populations and community intervention.

Raluca Budian, Ignasi Martin, ES: Sub-letting and Trapped: On the Lived Experience of Women Sharing Accommodations

Our research aims to provide a critical examination of how housing insecurity and processes of home unmaking can intensify existing structural vulnerabilities. This builds and adds to recent work that sees vulnerability as a structural condition rather than some sort of inherent fragility. To explore these issues, we adopt a social-symbolic perspective (Lawrence and Phillips, 2019), to examine the lived experience of women within the homes they inhabit along three dimensions, namely, the discursive, material, and relational dimensions. To empirically study this, we draw on our analysis of 50 life-stories of women sub-letting rooms in the Barcelona Province, in Spain. Like in many other countries globally, the number of people living in shared accommodation is on the rise in Spain. While sharing may be seen as cool and emancipatory when chosen, those who end up sub-letting and sharing accommodation because they have no other option, have far more negative experiences. Often, they feel their capacity to shape their lives has been taken from them. They feel trapped in a place that is experienced not as a site of refuge or sanctuary, but as a place of insecurity and fear.

This study offers a human and intimate perspective on a phenomenon that, although often invisible, defines the realities of thousands of women facing economic and social vulnerability. In a world where affordable housing remains an ever-growing challenge, many women are forced to share spaces through sub-letting arrangements.

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These experiences not only impact their access to a dignified home but also highlight complex dynamics: gender inequality, job insecurity, and the tension between personal autonomy and economic dependency. Therefore, this research serves as an invitation to rethink the role of social housing, not merely as shelter, but as a space for dignity, safety, and empowerment.

Raluca Cosmina Budian is Associate Director and Researcher at the Decent Housing Observatory Postdoctoral Researcher at the Esade Institute for Social Innovation. Her research focuses on social anthropology, housing policies, homelessness, and vulnerability. She has conducted ethnographic studies on migrant and homeless populations, analyzing the barriers to accessing housing and the impact of administrative and social conditions on their trajectories. Her research also includes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and marginalized communities, the situation of Roma populations, and participatory methodologies in international cooperation. Her expertise includes qualitative research methodologies (life histories, ethnographic interviews, NVivo analysis) and applied social research, with a particular interest in how structural inequalities affect access to housing and urban inclusionAssociate Director and Researcher at the Decent Housing Observatory Postdoctoral Researcher at the Esade Institute for Social Innovation.

Ignasi Martí Lanuza is Professor in the Department of Social Sciences, Director of the Institute for Social Innovation and Director of the Decent Housing Observatory at Esade. He has extensive interdisciplinary experience, including, for example, publications in organization studies sociology, gender studies and applied ethics on how individuals with limited resources collective mobilized to fight exclusion, with a recent focus on housing precariousness. His expertise lies in qualitative projects, ranging from in-depth qualitative case (in contexts like rural Bangladesh and India), and ethnographic studies (in villas in Argentina and in neighborhoods in the Barcelona province). Beyond this, he has also worked with and advised policy makers (at regional and municipal level) and Third Sector Organizations.

Seminar 6: Clusters and Groups of People Experiencing Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: **Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

Paula Mayock, Pathie Maphosa, IE: The Changing Landscape of Youth Homelessness: An Analysis of Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) Data, 2023, in Ireland

Youth homelessness is a growing problem in countries across Europe and one strongly associated with young people's exclusion from housing markets. Understanding the profile and characteristics of young people who experience homelessness is clearly important for the development policies, strategies and interventions that target youth who have vulnerabilities and who may require specific supports to ensure a speedy exit from homelessness. This paper analyses data from the Pathways, Accommodation and Support System (PASS), which is an administrative database operated by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE). PASS is used across all thirty-one local authorities in Ireland and by state-funded homelessness services to facilitate the monitoring and measurement of the homeless population in each region using key national performance indicators. Based on an analysis of PASS data, we present a profile of youth, aged 18-24 years, who accessed emergency homelessness accommodation in the Dublin region in 2023, focusing on gender, citizenship, household type, new entries to the homeless service system and reasons for homelessness. The analysis reveals greater diversity than previously recognized in the characteristics of young people accessing emergency accommodation (EA), particularly in relation to gender, citizenship and the profile of youth accessing EA as singles versus as a family unit. Notably, young women are strongly represented in the total youth homeless population, although gender disparities are evident among different cohorts of young people. Migrant youth account for a significant proportion of the total number experiencing homelessness, with youth with Irish citizenship only marginally outnumbering those holding EU(EEA) and non-EU citizenship. We compare this profile of young people experiencing homelessness in Ireland with available data in

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Belgium and Denmark, and ask: To what extent is the landscape of youth homelessness shifting? We conclude by considering implications for policy and service responses to youth homelessness.

Dr. Paula Mayock is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin. Her research focuses primarily on the lives and experiences of marginalised youth and adult populations, covering areas such as homelessness, drug use and drug problems. Paula is the author of numerous articles, book chapters and research reports and is an Associate Editor to the international journal Addiction.

Pathie Maphosa is the Head of Research at the Dublin Region Homeless Executive. Her main work focus is working with data on homeless service use in the Dublin region. Pathie's previous research work includes Homelessness and the Housing Needs Assessment reports for Dublin; and research on new families entering homelessness in the Dublin region, 2020-2023.

Gloria Puchol-Ros, Juan Mauel Rodilla, Sol Balsells-Mejía, ES: Identifying Subgroups in the Homeless Population: A Cluster Analysis of Individuals in Transitional Housing in Valencia

This study explores individual differences among homeless individuals (N = 451) who received support from a transitional housing service in Valencia, Spain, between 2018 and 2023. Using a multi-dimensional approach, a cluster analysis using k-modes identified seven distinct subgroups within the sample: (1) young individuals with an irregular administrative status and no support networks; (2) individuals lacking support networks; (3) individuals with chronic physical conditions; (4) individuals struggling with addictions and without support networks; (5) individuals with an irregular administrative status but with support networks; (6) individuals facing both physical conditions and addictions; and (7) individuals without major risk factors.

To better understand these groups, the study examines differences in housing access rates following their stay in the transitional housing program, identifying key challenges in securing stable housing. Results indicate that an irregular administrative status represents the most significant barrier to housing, while addictions considerably increase the likelihood of returning to homelessness. The presence of these subgroups highlights the necessity of designing targeted interventions that address specific obstacles to housing and employment, alongside tailored social and health programs. Additionally, as 94% of the participants were men due to the non-mixed nature of the housing services analyzed, the findings are not fully representative of the broader homeless population in Valencia. Given that homeless women experience distinct challenges and life trajectories, future research should integrate a gender perspective to gain deeper insights into their needs.

Gloria Puchol-Ros holds a degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Development Cooperation from the Polytechnic University of Valencia. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Sciences at the University of Valencia and is also the Research Department Coordinator at Sant Joan de Déu Valencia (Spain). In recent years, her research has primarily focused on evaluating the effectiveness of interventions for homeless individuals through longitudinal studies. She has explored this complex issue through various theoretical frameworks, including the capability approach and emerging theories on homelessness. Her work aims to find innovative ways to address homelessness and inform evidence-based practices.

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