# 19th European Research Conference
## 18th and 19th September, 2025
## Venue: Leeuwenbergh church and Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

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## 19th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

| 11h30 – 12h50 | SEMINAR SESSION 3 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars |
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**Seminar 13: Measurement Methods II (Room: XX) -** Chair: **Koen Hermans, BE**

**Oona Kenny, IE: Attempting to Count Hidden Homelessness in the Dublin Region; A Methodological Account**

Ireland collects and reports data on people experiencing homelessness (PEH) in categories 1-3 of Feantsa's ETHOS Light framework. Since 2014, the Irish Government have published monthly and quarterly statistics on the number and profile of people in state funded homeless accommodation (ETHOS 2 & 3) based on the Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS), and a point in time count of rough sleepers in the Dublin region has taken place twice yearly since 2007 (ETHOS 1). There is currently no systematic approach to counting the number of PEH in ETHOS Light categories 4, 5 or 6 i.e. those in institutions, unconventional accommodation or staying with family and friends. Previous research has attempted to enumerate those in ETHOS Light categories 4-6 by relying on proxy variables from administrative data such as the number of households qualified for social housing who are in overcrowded, unsuitable and unfit accommodation or data for those in hospitals and prisons recorded as having 'no fixed abode'. However this information is not comprehensive, fully accurate or reliable.

In 2024, the Dublin region participated in the EU Homelessness Count project coordinated by KU Leuven, which aims to develop a common method for counting homelessness in the EU. While it was mandatory as part of this project to include a count of PEH in ETHOS Light categories 1-3, Dublin along with some other cities, included an experimental attempt to also count those in ETHOS Light categories 4-6. The methodology for this was based on the European Service Based Survey and while this was successfully implemented in a sample of services within and beyond the homeless sector in Dublin, it was unable to provide sufficient data for analysis. The main reasons for this were challenges due to relying on informed consent, overburdened staff and lack of resources in services and time needed to gain ethical approval.



*Oona Kenny* is a Research Analyst at the Housing Agency where her work focuses on social housing and homelessness with specific experience in Housing First, homeless migrants and homelessness policy. She is currently on secondment to Focus Ireland where she leads the EU Homelessness counts for Cork and Dublin.

**Teresa Consoli, Fiorenza Beluzzi, Elisabetta Sciotto, Alessandro Venezia, Caterina Cortese, IT: Experiencing Street Count in Italy**

The project of the EHC gave the possibility to focus on the value, the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology of a street count in cities where the process was already experienced and well-structured but also in cities where a street count has never been realised before. This is precisely the case of Italy, the country participated in the project through the University of Catania as research partner in strong collaboration with the FioPSD and involved the city of Milan and Catania.

The two cities have rather different experiences on homelessness but also on welfare service provision for PEH as well as involvement of the voluntary sector and cooperation with welfare institutions. The city of Milan encountered its fifth count (RacCONTAMI) realised by the De Benedetti Foundation (Bocconi University) while the city of Catania has never counted the PEH hosted in the services and living in the street.

The results were extremely interesting for both cities concerning the process of organizing the street count (the coverage of the administrative area, the involvement of the administration, the building of new maps of the city, the role of the voluntary sector) but also on the experience of the methodology used (teams, volunteers, contacts with PEH, exchanges among different actors).

Finally, we will try to focus on pros and cons of the street count in such different cities, opening the debate about the

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effects of counting PEH at local and national level and profiling integrated strategies for combatting homelessness in Italy.

*Teresa Consoli* is Full Professor in Sociology of Law at the University of Catania, Dept. of Education. She headed a University Research Centre on Social and Public Policies (http://www.lpss.unict.it) and elected in the Executive Committee of the European Sociological Association (www.europeansociology.org). She is member of the scientific Committee of the Italian federation of services for homeless people (Fio.PSD) and monitored the first implementation of Housing first in Italy, she edited with A. Meo, Homelessness in Italia, FrancoAngeli 2020 and published "Homelessness in Italy. Old private stories and New Public opportunities", in Routledge Handbook of Global Perspectives on Homelessness, Law and Policy by Bevan C.(ed.) 2024.

*Alessandro Venezia*, Cooperativa Sociale Mosaico is a sociologist and coordinator of the Street Unit service provided by the municipality of Catania since 2019, under the administration of the Mosaico Social Cooperative. Dr. Venezia has dedicated himself to combating extreme poverty and severe adult marginalization and various services dedicated to this issue since 2014. He also collaborates with local Third Sector services and entities in the study of the issues of interest and develops skills in working directly with the people who benefit from the interventions. Since 2024, he has participated in the European Homelessness Count EHC research project, in collaboration with the Municipality of Catania, the University of Catania and Fio.PSD.

*Elisabetta Sciotto* holds Degrees in Law (University of Florence) and Sociology (University of Catania). She also holds a PhD in Political Science (University of Catania) with a research on collaboration between public administration and third sector in co-design of social services.
She currently collaborates with the Regional Department for Family and Social Policies of the Sicilian Region for implementation of policies to combat poverty and with LaPoss - Research Centre of the University of Catania on Public Policies and Services to People.
Since 2024, she has been involved in the "European Homelessness Count (EHC)" project as a member of the local research team and street count coordination.

*Fiorenza Beluzzi* holds degrees in Sociology (University of Catania) and Architecture (Polytechnic University of Milan). Thanks to her interdisciplinary background, since 2024 she has been involved in the European research project European Homelessness Count (EHC), in collaboration with the Municipality of Catania, Fio.PSD, and third-sector cooperatives. Within the project, she has played a bridging role between local institutions and the academic world, contributing to the methodological design of the fieldwork and to the analysis of collected data. Beyond the EHC project, her research interests include social research methodology and the social impacts of generative artificial intelligence

## Seminar 14: Health and Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: Nóra Teller, HU

**Michela Tinelli and Joanne Coombes, UK: Evaluating the Economic Impact of Intermediate Care for People Experiencing Homelessness: Lessons from Implementation in England**
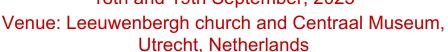
Background
Individuals experiencing homelessness often face complex health and social care challenges requiring coordinated, multidisciplinary support. Out-of-hospital care (OOHC) models, such as intermediate care services, aim to address these needs. However, evidence on their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness in real-world settings remains limited. This study evaluates the implementation of England's Out-of-Hospital Care Models (OOHCM) programme, funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (2021–2023). The programme tested housing-led intermediate care models to support individuals experiencing homelessness.
Methods
A mixed-methods evaluation was conducted using a before-and-after design across 17 test sites that implemented

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service delivery. Quantitative data sources included national audits, monitoring forms, Hospital Episode Statistics, and self-reported questionnaires on outcomes, preferences, and resource use (n=907). Service delivery implementation costs were calculated using government audit data, while NHS costs were derived from hospital statistics where available. Impacts on public budgets in health, social care, mental health, drug misuse, housing, and criminal justice were assessed primarily through self-reported service utilisation due to limited local authority data. Qualitative case studies contextualised findings and addressed gaps in quantitative data. Peer researchers with lived experience of homelessness contributed to recruitment, data collection, and analysis. A cost-consequence analysis framework was employed, supported by infographics and dashboards for visualisation.

Results and Comments

The OOHCM programme showed positive trends in patient experience, safety, clinical outcomes, and economic impacts. For instance, step-down care reduced A&E visits by 56% within one year. Economic insights provided actionable evidence for practitioners and commissioners where available. Challenges included poor-quality data, lack of standardisation, variations in service models, disconnect and poor sharing of information, and limited integration of peer researchers into evaluation processes. Future research should explore longitudinal designs, alternative data sources, real-time analytics, and participatory methods to strengthen evidence on OOHC effectiveness and cost-effectiveness for this vulnerable population.

*Dr Michela Tinelli, a health and care economist at LSE, has been working to improve coordination between services that help individuals who are homeless rebuild their lives. Joanne Coombes, who has personal experience of homelessness, joined the research team and became the first full-time peer researcher at King's College London.*
*Their collaboration has been crucial in developing more effective research methodologies. Coombes's lived experience allows Dr Tinelli to connect with individuals who are homeless in ways that academic researchers often cannot, providing invaluable insights and data collection opportunities.*

**Martin Simon, CZ: Health Equity Failure We Allow: Evaluation Study of Joint Social Work and Healthcare Provision**

*Background*
Homelessness as an extreme form of poverty perpetuates and exacerbates health inequalities. People experiencing homelessness face a mortality rate 10 times higher than that of the general population, with an average age of death at 45. There is a significant disconnect between the mainstream healthcare system and the specific health needs of people experiencing homelessness, leading to substantial human and economic costs.

*Objective*
The objective of this evaluation study is to assess the impact of an intervention in nurse-led healthcare outreach services to people experiencing homelessness on their utilization of healthcare services.

*Design*
This study is a part of a research program aimed at assuring health equity of most vulnerable members of a society. Detailed understanding of barriers to care is a necessary precondition for improvements in healthcare use.

*Data*
The study analyzes data on hospitalization and emergency department visits by people experiencing homelessness across three cities in Czechia from 2014 to 2021.

*Methods*
A quantitative difference-in-differences approach is complemented by insights from field studies in these three cities.

*Results*
The intervention in people experiencing homelessness outreach led to a reduction in both hospital admissions and the emergency visits by people experiencing homelessness, alleviating pressure on health service capacity and reducing associated healthcare costs. Enhanced primary nurse-led healthcare outreach, along with cross-sectoral integration and activation, has lowered the barriers to accessing essential healthcare services.

*Conclusion*
A pivotal policy outcome of this study is the establishment of an insurance provision that allows medical doctors to claim additional costs incurred in treating people experiencing homelessness from a public insurance system.

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*Martin Šimon is a geographer with research interests in population mobilities and inequalities. His research includes projects on demographic change, homelessness, elections, crime and social exclusion. Martin Šimon is a senior researcher at the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences and researcher of Urban and Regional Laboratory at Charles University. (Authors: Martin Šimon, Barbora Latečková, Oto Potluka)*

**Fernando Fajardo-Bullón, Igor Esnaola and Paul Lambert, ES/UK: Situation of Homeless People in Spain. Analysing the Evolution Between 2012 and 2022 Through the Spanish Survey on homeless people**

In 2022, a total of 28,552 homeless individuals received assistance in Spain, with an average of 86.6 homeless people per 100,000 inhabitants. The latest Spanish Homeless Survey (2022) reports a 24.5% increase in the number of homeless individuals receiving support in accommodation and catering care centres, compared to the previous survey conducted in 2012.This study aims to analyse changes in the health conditions, addictions, and social support of the Spanish homeless population surveyed in 2012 and 2022, alongside other general socio-demographic variables. Data will be collected from 3,600 respondents in 2022 (75.2% male; mean age: 42.8 years; SD = 14.99) and 3,433 respondents in 2012 (78.2% male; mean age: 41.3 years; SD = 13.86) in both Spanish Homeless Survey. Health status will be measured through self-rated health (SRH), a measure commonly used in European and Spanish surveys, addictions will be measured through use of alcohol, tobacco, gambling and other substance use, and perceived social support will be measured through contact and support with friends, family and perceived help from social services. Using multinomial logistic regression models, this study will not only compare the situation in 2012 and 2022 but also explore the relationships between these variables and their impact on the health of homeless individuals. This analysis will allow us to know the evolution of these conditions, and which factors have a greater weight on the health of Spanish homeless people. Through the results we will be able to suggest to the Spanish public social services and social sector entities which are those conditions of homeless people that most affect their health and how these conditions have changed in recent years in Spain. We hope that this study can contribute to the debate and evolution on health and social policies in Spain and Europe.

*Fernando Fajardo-Bullón is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Extremadura (Spain). He was representative of Spain in the European Action CA15218 - Measuring homelessness in Europe and a current member of the observatory of the social reality of the NGO Caritas Mérida-Badajoz. He has been part of the experts committee in collaborations with the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030 and has published several publications on homelessness in high impact journals with colleagues from different countries such as Belgium, United Kingdom, Sweden or Finland. His field of study is physical and mental well-being, addictions and stressful events experienced by homeless people along their vital life.*
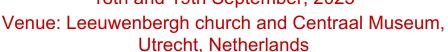
*Igor Esnaola is a full psychology professor at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). I have supervised six doctoral theses and I have participated in nineteen research projects in total. Likewise I have participated in two European projects (COST actions): one entitled "Measuring homelessness in Europe" and the other one "Researcher Mental Health". In the field of management, I have been editor (2008-2012), deputy editor (2012-2013) and director (2013-continued) of Revista de Psicodidáctica. Finally, I am the director of the department of Developmental and Educational Psychology since 2020.*

*Paul Lambert is a Professor of Sociology in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Stirling, where he publishes research on social stratification and inequality and on social research methodology. Within his department he is research group lead of the Social Surveys and Social Statistics research group and programme director of the MSc Applied Social Research and MSc Social Statistics and Social Research.*

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**Seminar 15: Housing Programs II (Room: X) -** Chair: **Nicholas Pleace, UK**

**Lorraine Guénée, Ysé Bedo, Julio Davalos, FR: An Elephant in the Room, Study of a Public-Private Partnership Between Samusocial de Paris and its Welfare Hotel Suppliers**

We would like to present a sociological study on the use of hotels as welfare facilities (Hérouard, 2008; Le Mener, 2025). The study focuses on the relationship between a public institution – the regional service responsible for booking, quality control, and the development of welfare accommodation in hotels (Delta, Samusocial de Paris) – and its suppliers, the welfare hotel landlords.

How can we characterize the growth of the emergency hotel industry in the Paris area, where it accounts for nearly half of emergency accommodation? Alongside the spatial configuration, we examine the formalization of the relationship between the contractors of public policy (Alberti, 2020). The relationship is described as a public-private partnership, once artisanal, but now increasingly industrialized (Neuville, 1996). This policy creates a connection between a "social" body and commercial entities. How do both sides share responsibility for this state mandate? How can trust be fostered between the parties, and what is concealed beneath the formalization of these contracts? An overnight stay in such a facility differs from standard hotel accommodation and extends beyond mere housing, potentially involving additional support for those housed. What constitutes a fair price for a hotel night under these conditions?

Our contribution reports on the first phase of the study (2023-2024), which focused on the administrative perspective. This included statistical analysis of administrative databases, interviews with Delta's employees, and observations of work practices (e.g., negotiations for public contracts). The second phase of the study (2025-2026) will focus on the perspective of the suppliers. It aims to produce a typology of these diverse suppliers and investigate their motivations and networks.

This study is part of a broader body of work that explores the role of organizers and profit-makers in providing accommodation for disadvantaged populations (Desmond, 2016).



*Lorraine Guénée is a study manager at the Observatoire of the Samusocial de Paris, a service founded in the 1990s with expertise on homelessness studies. In this position, she previously worked on the socio-economic effects of the Covid-19 crisis and students going to food aid.*



*Co-speaker: **Julio Ricardo Davalos** is a research assistant at the Observatoire du Samusocial de Paris. He Previously worked on drug use and hostility towards COVID-19 vaccination in the Centre d'étude des mouvements sociaux (CEMS, EHESS-Inserm).*

**Renée de Vet, NL: Temporary Rapid Rehousing Initiatives, as Part of a Housing-Led Approach**

Many European countries, including the Netherlands, aim to end homelessness through a housing-led approach. Whenever possible, homelessness should be prevented, but when it cannot be avoided, rapid rehousing is key. However, suitable and permanent housing is often hard to find for people who are (about to become) homeless.

In response to this problem, initiatives have been developed in the Netherlands to temporarily house those with an urgent need. A number of these initiatives make use of hosted schemes. Host schemes aim to provide a temporary rapid rehousing option, by matching people who need a safe space to stay with members of the public with a spare room.

As part of a larger project on the shift to a housing-led approach in the Netherlands, we are conducting a study into temporary rapid rehousing initiatives. The goal is to generate knowledge about 1) the outcomes and working mechanisms of these initiatives, 2) the process of transition and challenges that these initiatives face, and 3) action frameworks that will help to strengthen and scale up these initiatives. During the first phase of the project, we will assess and describe which temporary rapid rehousing initiatives have been developed in the Netherlands. In the

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second phase, we will conduct an in-depth empirical study into several of these initiatives.

During this presentation, we will describe phase 1 in which we used a review of the (grey) literature and show which temporary rapid rehousing initiatives have been developed in the Netherlands. Also, we will discuss how these initiatives fit into a housing-led approach and what scientific evidence is available for their effectiveness. Lastly, we will describe the initiatives that have been selected for our empirical study and explain how phase 2 of the study will be conducted.

*Renée de Vet, PhD,* is a senior researcher in a research group for inclusive, person-centered care for vulnerable citizens, at the department of Primary and Community Care of the Radboud university medical center. Renée has over 15 years of experience in conducting research on social and health care services for people in vulnerable situations, including people who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. Her PhD dissertation focused on transitional care for people leaving shelters in order to prevent recurrent homelessness.

## Seminar 16: Migration and Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE

**Dion Kramer, Annie Berendsen, Jan de Vries, NL: Mobilising the Rights of EU Citizens Experiencing Homelessness: Obstacles and Dynamics of Social Change in the Netherlands**

A substantial part of the people sleeping rough in many European cities are nationals from other EU Member States. This presentation will combine the findings of various research projects to explore the case of homeless EU citizens in the Netherlands and the mobilization of their rights to access homelessness support services. Until recently, Dutch municipalities systematically denied EU citizens access to overnight shelters and general homelessness services on equal footing as Dutch citizens by marking them as so-called niet-rechthebbenden ("non-rightholders"). This has most probably led to a denial of rights to EU citizens entitled to shelter as permanent residents, (former) workers, or otherwise legally residing EU citizens. The presentation will:

1) Offer a (brief) overview of the rights EU citizens enjoy when experiencing homelessness in another Member State. This discussion relies on legal research into the right to residence, right to equal treatment and protection against expulsion under EU law.

2) Explore the context and motivations that led a broad coalition of actors in the Netherlands to join efforts and consider various avenues to legally mobilize the rights of EU citizens experiencing homelessness, including strategic litigation. This part draws on participatory research and elite interviewing.

3) Present the results of a research project conducted by De Regenboog Groep which sought to map the backgrounds and conditions of EU citizens experiencing homelessness in Amsterdam and examine how many should be entitled to homelessness support in accordance with the right to equal treatment under EU law and national legislation. This research analyzed the situation of 176 homeless EU citizens, by interviewing social workers on a randomized selection of their caseloads.

The presentation will conclude by offering reflections on the various pathways to generate social change for homeless EU citizens by means of legal mobilisation and reflect on the social and political consequences of recognizing their rights for (local) homelessness support and their limits.

*Dion Kramer* works as Assistant Professor of EU law at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He teaches courses and conducts research on the law and politics of European integration, with a specific focus on EU free movement and the welfare state. In 2024, he received a Veni grant by the Dutch Research Council to research the rights of homeless EU citizens and explain how local governments in the Netherlands and other EU Member States reorganise their homelessness support programmes in response to the growing numbers of homeless EU citizens.

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**Annie Berendsen** works as a research coordinator for De Regenboog Groep, an organization in Amsterdam that helps people who are homeless, have psychiatric problems, addictions, or live in poverty. In her role she connects research to practice, using her background of interdisciplinary research to bring together different domains. Annie's recent research focuses on homeless EU citizens in Amsterdam, shedding light on their rights and the conditions in which these people reside in the city.

**Jan de Vries** is co-director of Straat Consulaat, an advocacy and support organisation on homelessness in The Hague. Jan has worked, for 25 years, in the field of human rights and advocacy in various positions. He has practical experience and theoretical understanding of advocacy and human rights, having developed and implemented, trained and advised on, advocacy strategies and human rights. For 8 years now he has been working on the right to housing and homelessness in The Netherlands. Besides being co-director of Straat Consulaat he is a board member of Straatalliantie, an advocacy and support organisation on homelessness in Amsterdam.

**Miroslava Hlincikova, Martina Wilsch, SK: Housing as a Critical Precondition for Stability: Ukrainian Refugees in Slovakia**

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine has displaced over 120,000 Ukrainians, primarily women, children, and older adults, seeking temporary protection in Slovakia. Housing has emerged as a critical challenge, with initial state responses including ad-hoc solutions and a housing subsidy for property owners renting to refugees. However, these measures have not fully addressed the marginalisation of refugees or their vulnerability due to the temporary nature of their legal status. The housing allowance remains uncertain and subject to continuous change.

Despite Slovakia's Housing Policy until 2030 recognising migrants and refugees as disadvantaged groups, Ukrainian refugees are excluded from public rental housing. This exclusion, combined with an unaffordable private market, forces many into precarious living conditions, affecting social integration, community ties, and personal agency. Slovakia lacks a long-term vision for refugee housing and has no systemic approach to preventing housing loss, leaving many at risk of homelessness.

Using frameworks from the anthropology of home, epistemic injustice (Medina, 2018), and the ethnography of deservingness (Tarkiainen, 2023; Streinzer, Tošić, 2022), this paper examines how displaced individuals navigate social, economic, and political landscapes to secure housing. Based on ongoing ethnographic research conducted from February 2024 to May 2025 in Bratislava, it explores the impact of housing precarity and legal temporariness on Ukrainian refugees' life trajectories.

The authors argue that the Slovak state rigidly defines vulnerability, basing housing policies on restrictive eligibility rather than data on at-risk groups. The exclusion of individual circumstances in housing allowance regulations exacerbates insecurity and reinforces the sense of liminality for refugees. This paper highlights the need for a more flexible and inclusive approach to refugee housing to prevent further social marginalisation.

**Mgr. Miroslava Hlinčíková, PhD.** is a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, where she earned her PhD in 2013. Her research focuses on social exclusion, integration, and human rights, particularly in relation to disadvantaged groups, including migrants, minorities, and women. She has been part of numerous research teams exploring diversity, inequality, and urban inclusion issues. Beyond academia, she collaborates as an analyst with various NGOs and actively contributes to the local initiative Kubik in Trnava, where she co-organizes socio-cultural events to foster community engagement and inclusion.

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*Martina Wilsch, PhD,* is an anthropologist working as a senior researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In her research, she focuses on transnational family practices, transnational care, migration, care, gender, and migrant integration, and more recently, on the care and social reproduction in displaced Ukrainian families, alongside exploring the role of cultural practices in incorporation processes in displacement. She has academic research experience and applied research for the non-governmental sector, public institutions, and national and international organisations.

**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

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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 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.*

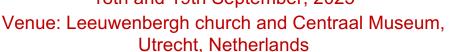## Seminar 18: Criminalisation of Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: Freek Spinnewijn, BE

### Stefan van Tongeren, NL: From Street to Sanction – The Criminalisation of Homelessness in the Netherlands

The rise in the cost of living, growing welfare inequality, and an escalating affordable housing crisis have contributed to increasing levels of homelessness in many (Western) countries. While homelessness is widely recognised as a social welfare issue, it is increasingly treated as a public order problem. Homeless individuals are often perceived as more likely to engage in criminal activities, cause public nuisance, or disrupt the urban environment. Moreover, visible homelessness is frequently seen as detrimental to a city's public image. As a result, central and local authorities are increasingly adopting laws and regulations that criminalise homelessness by prohibiting life-sustaining behaviours that homeless individuals cannot avoid. These measures range from vagrancy laws to bans on sleeping, eating, and urinating in public spaces, as well as restrictions on temporary shelters and begging.

This presentation examines the punitive and other public order responses to homelessness by local authorities in the Netherlands. It assesses how these responses relate to the prohibition of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Using the UN Special Rapporteur's framework on laws that criminalise homelessness, this study presents a systematic quantitative analysis of local regulations in 45 Dutch municipalities, revealing the extent to which life-sustaining activities in public spaces are penalised in the Netherlands. The analysis is furthermore complemented by a qualitative, doctrinal legal assessment that contextualises the findings and offers a critical evaluation of the local Dutch policies from a human rights perspective.

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*Dr. Stefan van Tongeren is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. His research focuses on the right to (access to) housing, social reintegration, and public order law. He obtained his PhD with a study on the housing of ex-offenders in local communities, exploring the balance between their rights and interests and those of their (future) neighbours. Currently, he is working on a project examining the criminalisation of homelessness in the Netherlands. In his research, Van Tongeren integrates doctrinal legal research with empirical-legal methods.*

**Jan Weckwerth, DE: Disentangling Urban Strategies to Dispel, Remove and Repress People Experiencing Homelessness in the Context of Commodification and Re-Regulation of Public Space**

Hegemonic neoliberalism has been widely acknowledged as a major driver of the housing crisis in Europe. The deregulation and commodification of the housing market, alongside the withdrawal of the state as a housing provider, have led to a substantial shortage of affordable housing. However, neoliberalism manifests not only in a retreat of state institutions, but also in an intensified regulatory grip on individuals who do not conform to market rationalities. This is particularly evident in the restructuring of urban public spaces: For decades, inner-city areas have been increasingly designed to maintain a 'clean' and 'undisturbed' environment for middle-class consumption and entertainment.

This process disproportionately affects social groups who rely on public space beyond consumption – especially people experiencing street homelessness, for whom, in a "coincidence of places" (Tosi 2007), the most lucrative locations are precisely those where they are most perceived as disruptions. The study focuses on the effects of recent macro-level developments in urban policy and urban planning for rough sleepers. In addition to coercive measures driven by the blurring of illegal and undesirable behavior, more nuanced displacement mechanisms have emerged through the (re)design of public space. That includes, for example, the increasing disconnection from informal access to urban infrastructures. Additionally, the controversially debated hostile architecture is now becoming more intertwined with (seemingly individual) creative urban revitalization strategies. In reference to Wehrheim's (2002) notion of "exclusion through aestheticization", this phenomenon can be described as the aestheticization of exclusion.

The presentation seeks to theoretically connect the commodification and social control of urban public space under neoliberal conditions with their dire consequences for the everyday lives of people experiencing homelessness (and other marginalized groups). It offers a typology of – more or less coercive – measures, illustrated with photographs and interview excerpts from a research project on homelessness in German cities.

*Jan Weckwerth is a postdoctoral scholar at the Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany. He received his Ph.D. from the Alpen-Adria-University of Klagenfurt, Austria. His research interests include social inequality, in particular class and lifestyle analyses, as well as urban sociology, housing and homelessness, the sociology of professions, and the sociology of culture and film.*

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