

## Seminar 13: (ROOM TBC) Women and Homelessness (2)

Chair: **Isabel Baptista, PT**

**Renée de Vet, Mariëlle Beijersbergen, Danielle Lako & Judith Wolf, NL:** Does the Level of Social Quality Differ between Homeless Women and Men before and after Shelter Exit?



**Renée de Vet** is a researcher at Impuls, the Netherlands Center for Social Care Research, part of the Radboud university medical center. She holds a master's degree in forensic mental health science and is nearing completion of her doctoral research. Renée has 10 years of experience in conducting research on social and health care services for socially vulnerable people, including homeless people and abused women.

Little is known about women's homelessness. Homelessness among women is more often hidden and published findings are mainly focused on homeless men. To help fill this evidence gap, we assessed whether women in homeless shelters differed from men on factors that constitute the quality of their daily life. Furthermore, we tested whether differences between women and men remained or changed after shelter exit. Factors were selected based on the framework of social quality. Van der Maesen and Walker defined social quality as the extent to which people are able to participate in social relationships under conditions which enhance their well-being, capacities, and potential and enables them to shape their own circumstances and contribute to societal development. For this longitudinal analysis, we used data from a randomized controlled trial conducted in the Netherlands. As part of this trial, 183 adults, who were about to move from a homeless shelter to (supported) independent housing, were recruited and followed up for 9 months. We found that, before shelter exit, women were younger than men, lower educated and more often unemployed. They were more likely to have children in general and to have minor children staying with them. In the past year, they had been victimized more often than men. Even though men had used alcohol excessively or cannabis more often than women, women's health seemed to be worse than men's health: Women had higher service use, less satisfaction with their health and empowerment, lower self-esteem, and higher psychological distress. Changes over time on these social quality factors were similar for women and men, suggesting that a gap in social quality remains after shelter exit. Opportunities for homeless shelter organizations to improve women's social quality during and after their shelter stay will be discussed during this presentation.

**Magdalena Mostowska, Katarzyna Debska, PL:** Regulating Women's Behaviour in Crisis Accommodation in Poland

**Magdalena Mostowska** is a sociologist, lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Geography and Regional Planning at the University of Warsaw. She has completed a couple of research projects on the homelessness of Polish migrants in the EU member states. She is a member of the Women's Homelessness in Europe Network and is currently researching women's experiences of homelessness in Poland.



**Katarzyna Dębska** is a PhD student at the Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw. She prepares her PhD thesis "Class reproduction in a family. Inheritance, status change and life paths of siblings. Currently she participates in a research project "Dynamics of women's homelessness in Poland".