

14th European Research Conference Helsingborg, 20th September 2019

VENUE: Helsingborg Campus of the University of Lund, Sweden
Bios and Abstracts

Seminar 8: Room C218 - Migration and Homelessness (1)

Chair: Eoin O'Sullivan, IE

Jana Turk and Duin Ghazi, FI: Tackling Structural Factors of Migrant Housing Exclusion in Finland: Lessons Learnt from Katto-project



Duin Ghazi has an LLM in International Human Rights Law from Lund University, Sweden. She is currently working at Network of Multicultural Associations Moniheli as Manager for Katto-program. The program aims to prevent homelessness among migrants in Finland by sharing, producing and gathering information on housing related issues and providing trainings for professionals. Katto-program also advocates and campaigns in order to achieve positive changes and to inform the public and policymakers on migrant homelessness.

Jana Turk currently works as Casework Coordinator for Katto-program under Moniheli ry – a Network of Multicultural Associations. Katto-program aims to prevent homelessness among migrants in Finland by distributing information, giving one-on-one guidance and educating service providers. Jana has a background in Study of Religions and holds a BA in Oriental Studies from the University of Vienna as well as a MA in Study of Religions/Intercultural Encounters from the University of Helsinki.



Along with Y-foundation, major political parties, have set the objective to cut in half the amount of persons experiencing homelessness in Finland by 2022, and to eradicate homelessness by 2026. According to statistics, Finland seems to be on a good path to do so: over the past decade, homelessness has continuously been decreasing. However, among migrants the situation looks less promising: Migrants have been being overrepresented in the homelessness statistics: In 2018, 23,7% of homeless individuals were migrants and 39% of homeless families were migrant families, whereas only 7% of the Finnish population are migrants. Furthermore, in 2018, homelessness has increased among migrants living outside the city of Helsinki. This disproportionateness and these recent developments pose the question, whether gatekeepers to migrant housing have been taken into account when setting the aforementioned objective.

Overall, risk factors for homelessness do not differ greatly between the majority population and minorities. However, due to lack of knowledge about the Finnish social service system and language barriers, migrants might face bigger difficulties in navigating the social service system. These factors may also hinder the access to understanding and exercising one's rights, and thus, make migrants more prone to be exploited by shady actors. Yet another structural gatekeeper to equal access to the housing market is discrimination. In this paper, we explore ways to tackle these factors specific to migrant homelessness, drawing on the lessons learnt from Katto-project, a three-year project (April 2016–April 2019) aiming to prevent homelessness among migrants in Finland.

Annika Lindberg, Lisa Marie Borrelli, Martin Joormann, SE: Sleeping Rough in Sweden: An intersectional Analysis of Homelessness among Groups with Different Citizenship and Residency Statuses in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö



Annika Lindberg is a doctoral candidate at the Institute of Sociology, University of Bern. Her doctoral research focuses on deterrence and coercive state measures targeting rejected asylum seekers in Denmark and Sweden via an ethnography of migration detention and departure centres. She is co-author of the collaborative ethnography *Migrants Before the Law: Contested Migration Control in Europe* (Eule, Borrelli Lindberg and Wyss 2019) and the research report 'Stop Killing us Slowly: A research report on the motivation enhancement

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measures and the criminalisation of rejected asylum seekers in Denmark' (Suarez-Krabbe, Lindberg and Arce, 2018).

Lisa Marie Borrelli is a postdoctoral researcher at the HES-SO Valais-Wallis, Switzerland. She completed her Ph.D. at the Institute of Sociology, University of Bern. Her doctoral dissertation looked at ambivalent laws and emotions of street-level bureaucrats working on irregular migration in the Schengen Area. She conducted ethnographic fieldwork with police and migration authorities in Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Sweden and has further conducted ethnographic research Lithuania and Latvia. She has also been a visiting researcher at the Centre for Migration Law at Radboud University, Nijmegen, and visiting graduate student at the Centre for the Study of International Migration at UCLA with the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation Doc.Mobility Grant (172228).



Martin Joormann has recently completed his PhD in Sociology of Law, and Lund University published his thesis, entitled *Legitimized Refugees - A Critical Investigation of Legitimacy Claims within the Precedents of Swedish Asylum Law*, as a book (2019, Media-Tryck). Besides his PhD, Martin published the article 'Asylstaffetten – A longitudinal ethnographic study of protest walks against the detention of asylum seekers in Sweden' (2018, *Justice, Power and Resistance*). Since January 2019, he is the book review editor and responsible for the social media outreach of this journal, while continuing his work as editor (e.g. *Retfaerd – Nordic Journal of Law and Justice*) and peer reviewer (*Refugee Review* and *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*) for other publications.

Throughout Europe, we are witnessing growing homelessness among migrants holding different citizenship and residency statuses (COMPAS 2015; Edgar et al 2010; ECRE 2016). This study focuses on Sweden, where homeless persons holding precarious legal status are excluded from long-term welfare projects and instead subjected to criminalising and securitising state interventions. Examples include the criminalization of begging, which targets mobile EU citizens, and the withdrawal of access to housing and welfare benefits for rejected asylum seekers, which is used as a way of pressuring them to leave Sweden 'voluntarily'. Not only are these urgent issues for how they render the situation for already marginalised groups more precarious; homelessness and migration have long been treated as distinct fields, analytically as well as policy-wise. This calls for an intersectional analysis of the causes, dynamics, and experiences of homelessness among migrant populations, on the one hand, and of how homelessness has become a tool for states to regulate 'unwanted' migration, on the other. Therefore, this work in progress explores how legal and policy regimes variably produce homelessness among persons holding different citizenship and residency statuses in Sweden. It builds on preliminary findings from interviews with state and nonstate agencies tasked with controlling or providing support to homeless persons in Stockholm, Göteborg and Malmö. Thus, the study highlights how legal residency status stratifies rights and access to services and how such differentiations intersect with social class, gender and ethnicity.