

On Homelessness

Credit and blame

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<https://culture.pl/en/work/homeless-vehicle-krzysztof-wodiczko>



▲ Metal studs outside private flats on Southwark Bridge Road, London. Photograph: Guy Corbishley/Demotix/Corbis

The spikes installed outside Selfridges in Manchester are the latest front in the spread of 'defensive architecture'. Is such open hostility towards the destitute making all our lives uglier?

More than 100 homeless people are “living” in the terminals of Heathrow airport this winter, according to official figures - a new and shameful record. Crisis and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have warned that homelessness in London is rising

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**Making the unwanted visible,
invisible**

“Homelessness may not be only a housing problem, but it is always a housing problem; housing is necessary, although sometimes not sufficient to solve the problem of homelessness” (Dolbeare, 1996:34).

There is no place like Home

“You cannot have Housing First without housing ...first” (Juha Kaakinen)

Reasons Why

Conventions, "Life is tough"

Codes, "Those are the rules"

Technical accounts, "Let me tell you what the doctors think causes this illness"

Stories, "Jerry got mad at Joe and slugged him"

Different reasons for different receivers
depending on the relationship between them

Whenever people give each other reasons they are simultaneously negotiating, establishing, transforming, or confirming relations between themselves. (Tilly, 2006, 2008)

Credit and blame

Assign credit or blame

Blame activates sharper distinctions between a worthy us and an unworthy them

Judgements of outcome, agency, competence, and responsibility (Tilly, 2008)

Homelessness in Sweden 1993–2017

Year	1993	1999	2005	2011	2017
Total	9,900	8,440	17,834	34,000	33,269
Situation 1	-	-	3,600	4,500	5,935
Rough sleepers	1,045	350	950	280	647
Situation 2	-	-	2,000	5,600	4,899
Situation 3	-	-	6,400	13,900	15,838
Situation 4	-	-	4,700	6,800	5,726

Source: National Board of Health and Welfare 1993, 1999, 2005, 2011, 2017

nted visible,

outside sculptures in Manhattan are the kind of defensive architecture that the creature needs all on its own, right?

to someone people are "living" in the terminals of

of this winter, according to official figures, a

document record. Crisis and the Israeli favorite

to have we need it all homelessness in London are rising

Definition of homelessness

- “acute homelessness” (rooflessness);
- institution or assisted living;
- long-term living arrangements organised by the Social Services (e.g. the secondary housing market); and
- private short-term living arrangement (NBHW, 2017)

According to the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (2014) only 7.8% of the tenants with a municipal (social) contract within the secondary housing market could sign a first-hand contract during the year. In 2008, there were 11,270 municipal contracts, or social contracts given to homeless households, and in January 2019, there were approximately 26,100 municipal contracts (NBHBP 2019 Sahlin 2017).

The categories used by state agents are not merely means to make their environment legible; they are an authoritative tune to which most of the population must dance (Scott, 1998 p. 83)

**Article 31 on the Right to Housing of the
Revised European Social Charter reads:**

**With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of
the right to housing, the Parties undertake to
take measures designed:**

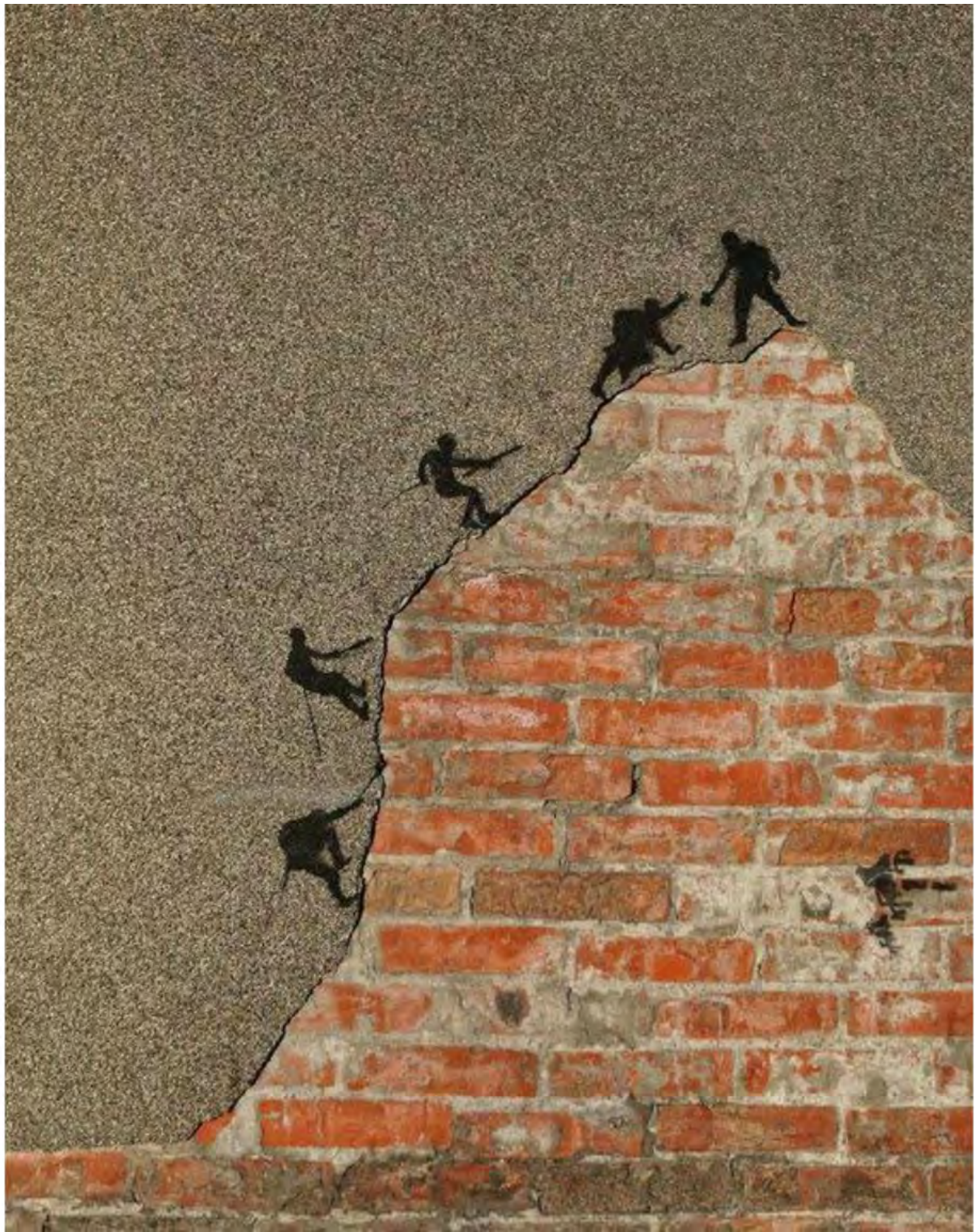
**to promote access to housing of an adequate
standard;
prevent and reduce homelessness with a view
to its gradual elimination;
make the price of housing accessible to those
without adequate resources.**



Proportion (%) of Homeless People with Migrant Background 1993–2017.

	1993	1999	2005	2011	2017
Swedish	76.7	74	74	66	57
Migrant	23.3	26	26	34	43

Source: National Board of Health and Welfare 1993, 1999, 2005, 2011, 2017





LIVING AREA

BED

TOILET

TABLE

Help give a roof to those who don't have one. CALL 115 samusocialeParis

There is a scandalous coincidence, in many countries, between empty housing and increasing homelessness (Martinez-Alier, 2019 p. xiii)



A story

The family still has establishment support, but because the municipality resigned their rental housing after 24 months (21 January), they have had to live on social assistance instead, in order to pay hostel costs of SEK 22500 a month (€ 2 097).

The father is probably depressed and tired, but wants to work and waits for a job interview that Bill arranged for him. On June 30th, they will lose their place at the hostel due to booked summer guests.

The municipality says that they are no brokers, but where should they go? It's just their bad luck that they were placed here two years ago. The available transitional housing are earmarked for others in social difficulties. And regular landlords often have a maximum of 4 people per household as a requirement, and they require several months of deposit.

We know that the municipality goes against the county administrative board's intention with the Settlement Act, but there is no control body to keep track of the municipalities.

They have four wonderful children, 2-14 years. Well integrated with Swedish social security number and permanent residence permit.

Yes, though we are not parents of these children. It is the parents themselves who need to take responsibility. And if they cannot and we see it, then we will have to support these parents. But it does not automatically mean that you have the right to assistance regarding housing, just because you have children. [...] children cannot stand without a roof over their heads for the night - that is something else.

Exactly. And there we had, among other things, this discussion; yes but how do we think? Is it possible, is it reasonable for families to have to move week by week? How do we consider the child perspective? Which also means that you have to put it back all the time that the child perspective is taken into account in such a way that you strengthen the parents, that they take responsibility for their children. And if we see that they cannot, then we have to support.

"The social services are not a housing agency"

Structurally or socially homeless

Long-term short-sightedness



Thanks for listening!

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Homeless Vehicle in New York City

<https://culture.pl/en/work/homeless-vehicle-krzysztof-wodiczko>

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