

Seminar 20: (zoom link) Homelessness in a Global Perspective

Chair: Eoin O'Sullivan, IE

Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Beth Watts and Volker Busch-Geertsema, UK/DE: What Works to End Street Homelessness in Cities Around the World? An Overarching Evaluation of the Initiative "A Place to Call Home" by the Institute of Global Homelessness

Silvia Maria Schor, Rinaldo Artes, Pedro Luiz Valls Pereira, Eduardo Rigonati, Brazil: Size and Variation of Sao Paulo City Homeless Population



Silvia Maria Schor holds a PhD in Economic Theory. She is an Assistant Professor in the Economics Department, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of São Paulo, SP, Brazil, and the coordinator of the Social Housing Research Area at the Foundation Institute of Economic Research (Fundação Instituto de Pesquisas Econômicas), University of São Paulo. She is also acting as a Coordinator of the Brazilian Network of Researchers on Homeless Population. Her main fields of interest are social housing, income distribution, poverty and homelessness-

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Eduardo Enrico Santana Rigonati graduated in economic theory. He is a researcher of the Social Housing Research Area at the Foundation Institute of Economic Research (Fundação Instituto de Pesquisas Econômicas), University of São Paulo; and is a member of the Brazilian Network of Researchers on Homeless Population. His main fields of interest are social housing, income distribution, poverty and homelessness, economics of education.

In the city of São Paulo, the increase in the size of the homeless population has been continuous since 2000. In 2000, São Paulo had 8706 people as roofless and almost 16,000 in this condition in 2015. The numbers had been obtained by the city census funded by the city council and the methodology employed allowed to compare the totals between years. So, one of the results of the census is the evaluation of the difference of total population between 2000 and 2015: at least 7.199 people had become homeless. This conclusion presupposes that during the period nobody had exited the streets or the shelters. By using information about the time that a person is in homeless condition it is possible to estimate that about 7,400 people that were counted in 2009 were not in the streets or shelters of the city in 2015. Additional evidence obtained from official records on the sheltered population in the city reinforces this hypothesis. Almost 23,000 people were registered in official night shelters of the city of São Paulo during 2015, only 5,300 used this service in 2020.

The purpose of this article is to estimate the number of people that had exited the streets between the three censuses in São Paulo city, 2000, 2009 and 2015, to correct the increase in population's rate. This exercise intends to offer evidence to discuss public policies aiming to help homeless people to leave the streets and to elaborate programs to prevent them from coming to the streets.