



14th SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

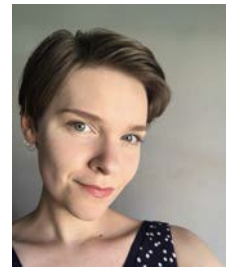
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| 13h00 – 13h30 | Registration at the venue of the Plenary (Room: AULA) |
| 13h30 – 14h15 | <p>Welcome and Introduction (Room: AULA) Opening by Kjell Larsson, President of FEANTSA Welcome by Lies Corneillie, Chancellor in Leuven City Welcome by Martin Wagener, UCLouvain – IACS-CIRTES</p> |
| 14h15 – 15h30 | <p>Plenary Session I (Room: AULA) Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE</p> <p>Koen Hermans, BE: Homelessness in Belgium: figures, profiles, dynamics and lived experience</p>  <p>Koen Hermans, Belgium is Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at the Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven. He is also project leader at LUCAS, Centre for Care Research and Consultancy. His research focuses on the care and support for vulnerable and underserved populations in society, such as homeless persons, persons with disabilities, and youngsters with complex needs. He was the coordinator of the COST Action on ‘Measuring homelessness in Europe’ (2016-2020). In Belgium, he is responsible for the development and organisation of local and regional homelessness counts.</p> <p>In recent years, building on the Scandinavian data collection strategies, we have set up local and regional counts, to not only count the number of people in a situation of homelessness, but also to analyse their profiles. The results of this census not only teach us a lot about the characteristics of homelessness in Belgium, but also shape the development of our own research agenda. In this presentation we will elaborate on the results of the census and ongoing research on specific subpopulations such as homelessness among young adults, women, persons with a migrant background, among others. We show how we combine the count with other research methods that enable us to grasp the dynamic nature of homelessness, the lived experience and the role of policies and practices of social workers to end homelessness.</p> <p>Michelle Norris, IE: Tools to Tame Financialisation of Housing</p>  <p>Michelle Norris, Ireland is Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Geary Institute for Public Policy at University College Dublin, Ireland. Her teaching and research interests focus on housing policy and urban regeneration, particularly on the provision management, financing of social housing in Europe and the regeneration of social housing estates and inner urban areas. She has over 200 publications on these topics.</p> |

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| | <p>She is a member of the advisory boards of the International Journal of Housing Policy and Housing Studies. She has strong links with policy makers in Ireland and internationally. Having served as a board member of various Irish government agencies working on provision of affordable housing for over 10 years, in 2021 she was appointed by the Minister for Housing to the commission set up to examine the long-term future of housing in Ireland. In recognition of the outstanding policy impact of her research she was awarded the Irish Research Council's research impact award in 2021.</p> <p>Extensive research on the financialisation of housing, and lively public and political debate on its negative implications for housing affordability, has translated into surprisingly modest and fragmented policy responses. This reflects the power imbalance between the winners and losers from financialisation, but also the challenges inherent in taming financialisation due to its variegated, complex, and evolving nature and the shortage of research on de-financialisation tools. To address this critical evidence gap, this paper draws on the comparative research on policy responses to financialisation in the 56 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member states. Comparing these policy responses reveals a pattern of uneven and inadequate action. Most governments have focused on controlling the scale of housing finance circuits, whereas limited action to control the number and cost of these circuits and practically no action to influence their focus has been taken. Some policy measures have reduced credit flows and thereby diminished house price growth, but their effectiveness has been undermined by countervailing policies and poor policy design, leading to inadequate targeting and implementation weaknesses.</p> |
| <p>15h20 – 15h30</p> | <p>Questions</p> |
| <p>15h30 – 16h00</p> | <p>Coffee break (Room: MTC1 00.03)</p> |
| <p>16h00 – 17h30</p> | <p>SEMINAR SESSION 1 Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars</p> <p>Seminar 1: Youth Prevention I (Room: MTC1 00.12) Chair and discussant: Nicholas Pleace, UK</p> <p>Evelien Demaerschalk, BE: Upstream Flanders</p> <p>Evelien Demaerschalk is a researcher at LUCAS, Center for Care Research and Consultancy. Her work focuses on care and support for vulnerable and underserved populations in society. Currently she is involved in the development and organisation of local and regional homelessness counts in Belgium.</p>  <p>Early detection and intervention are basic pillars for preventing and ending homelessness among young adults. One of the important cornerstones of this level of prevention is early intervention within the school context. International Upstream projects show that investing on this prevention level is successful. The cities that worked with this broad screening saw a 40% drop in homelessness among young adults and 20% reduction in school dropouts (MacKenzie, 2018). With Upstream Flanders, we want to set up a pilot project in three Flemish regions. LUCAS KU Leuven is the research partner of the project; the coordination is provided by the Flemish Government (Agency of Growing Up). In the first research phase, we will start with the development of a questionnaire measuring effective homelessness and its risk factors. For the development of the questionnaire and the underlying flagging system, we build on the work and first experiences of the Upstream projects in Wales, USA, Canada and Australia.</p> |

Together with the Flemish pilot projects, we then choose a working method that best suits the reality and wishes of the communities of schools and services. In a second research phase, we will study how tailor-made support for the community of schools and services is implemented in the different local projects. To answer this question, we firstly analyse the international Upstream projects and zoom in on both the adolescent-centred and family-centred approach. Together with the pilot projects, we look at how these international experiences can be translated to the Flemish projects. A third research phase consists of following up, monitoring, and evaluating the first 3 pilot projects. For this, we collect quantitative data during the project as well as additional file analysis and more qualitative analysis of the projects' experiences. In this presentation, we focus on the first results of the first and second phase of the project.

Amanda Buchnea, CA: Upstream Canada and the Upstream International Living Lab

Amanda Buchnea is the Manager of Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention at York University with the Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab. She has worked in the field of youth homelessness prevention research and policy advocacy since completing her Masters in Public Policy at the University of Toronto. She is a PhD Candidate at the University of Guelph in the Social Practice and Transformational Change program where she studies cross-systems change in support of housing and social justice.



The effort to address youth homelessness in Canada is increasingly driving forward the need for prevention approaches with youth well before they reach crisis, and the role of schools to connect with students. This presentation will review the successes and challenges of implementing the Upstream Project model in two Canadian municipalities, including preliminary results. It will also introduce the Upstream International Living Lab, which brings together countries adapting Upstream to their local contexts to exchange knowledge internationally.

Seminar 2: Criminalisation of Homelessness (Room: AULA)

Chair: **Masa Filipovic-Hrast, SI**

Stef Adriaenssens, Teodora Soare, BE: Cleaning up the Streets? Effects of the Criminalization of Begging with Children



Stef Adriaenssens is a sociologist teaching courses in Economic Sociology and Policy at the Faculty of Economics and Business of KU Leuven. His core research interests involve underground, informal, and poorly protected economic activities and groups. Those involved sometimes are mainstream populations, such as those evading taxes or employing black market workers. However, his core interest is in excluded and hidden activities and groups that are often hardly recognized as work(ers), such as those begging or selling sex.

Teodora Soare holds degrees in Business Administration and Advanced Economics and is currently involved in a research project documenting the lives of people who beg in Brussels, Belgium. She thereby not only studies the deservingness criteria that society at large adopts to judge people who beg, but also analyses the life chances and experiences of the group who derive an income from begging.



Historically, the treatment of vulnerable groups visibly occupying public spaces such as roofless and begging people has frequently flip-flopped between flushing out and looking after, between the usually incommensurable goals to

“clean up the streets” and relieve social exclusion. The connected discourses, however, tended to muddle. The express or implicit goal of the cleaning-up option has been to hide those experienced as a “nuisance” from view. It was concurrently often shrouded in references to tackling “real” poverty. For instance, the “diverted giving” campaigns mostly are thinly veiled attempts to chase off people begging. Conversely, some interventions seem genuine efforts to manage risks or reduce harm rather than remove the vulnerable themselves. Self-evidently, it depends on the case whether the pronounced intentions are just another excuse for the criminalisation of destitute people, or an effort to better their fate.

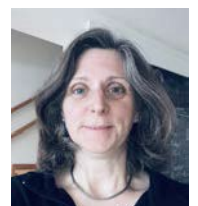
The case we present here illustrates that complicated problem. In March 2022, the city council of Brussels proclaimed a bylaw that forbids people to beg in the presence of children, something mainly occurring among beggars of Roma descent. The goals communicated were not to harass those who beg, but to prevent harm to minors and incentivise school attendance. We document the response of this group with the help of a survey that was collected among people begging in Brussels and its periphery. The questionnaire data were collected before and after the proclamation of the bylaw. We document that relatively fewer beggars who could bring children plied their trade after the regulation. One reason may be that beggars with children substitute the city for the periphery (outside of the jurisdiction of the prohibition). We test whether this is consistent with the data with a difference-in-differences estimation, and discuss the effectiveness of the regulation in light of hypothetical displacement effects.

Pia Justesen, Nóra Teller, DK/HU: Fact-Fiction: The States' Hypocritical Conception of Prevention of Homelessness through Criminalisation in Denmark and Hungary



Pia Justesen, PhD, is a human rights lawyer and specialised journalist with a background in research (the Universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and Yale University) as well as in the legal and consulting industry (Bech-Bruun Law Firm and Justadvice). Since 2021 she has been a researcher at the University of Aalborg on a project re. Dark Design and Social Exclusion in Public Spaces. Her expertise relates to human rights, equal treatment, and social justice, and she is the Danish expert in The European Equality Law Network. Recently, Pia lived and worked in the US and published the oral history book “From the Periphery - Real-Life Stories of Disability” (Chicago Review Press).

Nóra Teller, PhD, is a sociologist at the Metropolitan Research Institute in Budapest. Her research and consultancy expertise relates to issues of social housing, housing (de)segregation, housing finance, housing exclusion of Roma, homelessness, evaluation of using EU funds for social inclusion, covering CEE countries and selected old member states. She is a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness and the European Network of Housing Research, and acts as a co-editor of the European Journal of Homelessness.



The presentation will deliver a comparison between Denmark and Hungary’s regulatory frameworks of the criminalisation of homelessness and present some findings on the enforcement of the regulation.

Our findings point to two important facts: (1) the two countries’ conceptions (and actual implementation rules) share a key feature; that is, the state criminalises topologically defined living situations that are used as a proxy for (present and) future misbehaviour towards the public, and thereby claim to prevent homelessness. In the Danish case this is more obvious, because not the actual fact, but merely the “potential” to intimidate, has formed the baseline for the regulation. Thus, the “preventative” component is basically linked with an anticipated misbehaviour in the future that may or may not happen at all. The definition of the (potential) intimidation is linked with the topography of the city and public space. In the Hungarian context the proof for “effective living in the street”, which is the basis for punishment,

would be the person's actual oral statement to the policemen about the reluctance to make use of an emergency shelter or day centre in the future at the time of the police control in a public space (a reluctance to be lifted to such a service by the police). Beyond the similarities, there is a key difference, too: the anticipated behavioural component in the Hungarian context is disconnected from any regular citizen's obligations or strategies - no one could be otherwise made to use a social service, as per law all such services are voluntary.

(2) The hypocritical component of the anticipation concept lies in making reference to the preventative outcome element: enforcing the actual topological proxy makes people flee their spots and hide elsewhere, thus the reduction of the visibility of homelessness is taken as a proof for the reduction of homelessness. This is even more "legitimised" by the evidence used to assess the level of homelessness in both Denmark, where the number of migrants experiencing homelessness is estimated but not counted, and also in Hungary, where the February 3rd count street outreach services (voluntarily) count/interview their "regular" clients, and in the year of the first 2011 ban, the whole census was suspended when the legal changes were launched, and hence all figures excluded rough sleepers.

Seminar 3: Housing First and Institutional Transitions (Room: MTC1 01.15)

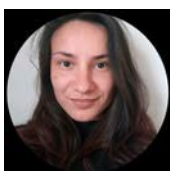
Chair: **Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE**

Ronni Greenwood, Rob Lowth, Antonia Bura, IE: Innovations in Implementation: Interagency Coordination of Housing, Health, and Case Management Services in Ireland's National Housing First Programme



Dr Ronni M. Greenwood is a Social-Community Psychologist, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at University of Limerick. Her research focuses on the effects of homeless services on clients' recovery and well-being. She was a co-investigator on the Horizon 2020-funded project, "Homelessness as Unfairness" (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/726997>). A Programme Implementation and Evaluation Consultant, she served as the PI for the National Housing First Implementation Evaluation and Principal Programme Evaluator for the Dublin Housing First Demonstration. Her introduction to Housing First was as the Assistant Director for Research on the first-ever randomised trial of Housing First at Pathways to Housing in New York City.

Rob Lowth is the National Director of Housing First. He is a former Housing Senior Executive Officer, Housing Maintenance Manager and Co-ordinator of Homeless Services at Limerick City and County Council in a Local Government career that began in 2003. He previously worked as an Engineering and Project Manager in Technology Companies based in Dublin, Galway and Limerick. Rob holds technical qualifications in Computer Systems and Programming while in 2013 he completed a BA in Management at the Institute of Public Administration.



Antonia Bura is the Research and Data Officer with HSE, National Social Inclusion Office. Antonia's remit is homeless health and improvement of access to mainstream and targeted health services for people experiencing homelessness in Ireland. Antonia holds both a BA and MA in Psychology and a diploma in predictive data analytics. Currently, she is in training for qualification as a Humanistic Integrative Psychotherapist. Antonia's previous role was as a project worker with people experiencing homelessness.

In 2018, the Government of Ireland announced a plan to implement Housing First programmes in each large city outside Dublin, supported by a philanthropic Service Reform Fund, with the aim to deliver 663 tenancies by 2021. In each region, local authorities, NGOs, and the Health Services Executive worked together to deliver housing, housing

supports, case management services, and health care needs to Housing First clients. Each programme developed procedures for determining eligibility, intake, housing procurement, and housing allocations. Each region also developed its own approach to configuring HF teams and brokering services in the community. At the same time, each HF programme was responsible for adhering to the core principles, practices, and values of HF and for supporting their clients with a high degree of fidelity to the Pathways HF model. To date, the expanded national programme is active in each of the 31 Local Authorities, 865 HF tenancies have been established, and housing retention rates average 86%, meeting or exceeding achievements in other European contexts. In this presentation, we will describe the Irish approach to interagency coordination to deliver a national Housing First programme, evaluation outcomes and plans for capturing client outcomes over time. For example, the fidelity and client outcomes obtained in the national evaluation demonstrate high levels of housing retention, model fidelity, positive client outcomes (e.g., choice in housing and services, psychiatric symptoms, problematic substance use, satisfaction with life), benchmarked against international findings. Initial findings from the Housing First Health Monitoring Tool, designed to assess Housing First participants' health outcomes over time and tailor resource requirements to their changing needs, will be discussed. Structures and governance developed to oversee, coordinate, drive, expand, develop, and monitor the national cross-Government plan to support regional and local delivery of Housing First programmes will also be explained.

Cecilia Heule, Marcus Knutagård, Arne Kristiansen, SE: RECO: Resilient Communities by Sustainable Welfare Transformation



Cecilia Heule is a teacher and researcher at the School of Social Work, Lund university. Her research interests include service user participation, gap-mending strategies, and co-production. She is international coordinator of the international network PowerUs (www.powerus.eu). She is involved in the research project RECO: Resilient Communities by Sustainable Welfare Transformation.

Arne Kristiansen, PhD, is associate professor at School of Social Work, Lund University. His research interests include homelessness, substance abuse and service user involvement. He is currently involved in two research projects: "Scanian homes: Reception, settlement or rejection – homelessness policies and strategies for refugee settlement" and "RECO - Resilient Communities by Sustainable Welfare Transformation".



Marcus Knutagård is an associate professor at the School of Social Work, Lund University. His research interests include housing policy, homelessness and the importance of place for how social work is organised – its moral geography. He is involved in several research projects on homelessness. One of them is RECO: Resilient Communities by Sustainable Welfare Transformation.

An extensive societal problem in Sweden which poses major challenges for the social services in developing sustainable and effective methods that can meet the service user's needs. The RECO project is based on practice research and has mutual learning at its core. The aim is to investigate and analyse how evidence-based methods like Housing First can be sustained within the social services and how implemented methods can become resilient towards external pressures. The research questions are:

- What factors facilitate or hinder high programme fidelity and what are the Housing First tenants' experiences of the programme?

- What conditions are beneficial when trying to work knowledge-based in the social services efforts to combat homelessness?
- What methods enable participation and involvement with service users?
- What impacts and consequences do the participation have on the involved social workers and service users?

Our ambition is to present the ongoing research project and also briefly present the new homelessness strategy in Sweden.

Seminar 4: Monitoring Tools (Room: MTC1 00.08)

Chair: **Freek Spinnewijn, BE**

Gloria Puchol, Manuel Rodilla, Mercedes Botija Yagüe, ES: Operationalizing ETHOS for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Homeless Response Programs: The LongHome Tool



Juan Manuel Rodilla is the coordinator of homeless response programs at St. John of God Valencia and a PhD candidate at the University of Valencia. Rodilla holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University, a Master's degree in Development Policies from the Polytechnic University of Valencia, and a Postgraduate degree in Development Cooperation from the University of Valencia.

Gloria Puchol coordinates the research department of SJD Valencia. Puchol has a degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Development Cooperation from the Polytechnic University of Valencia.



Mercedes Botija Yagüe has a Doctorate in Social Sciences, is a graduate in Social Work, has a Bachelor's degree in Humanities, a Master's degree in Criminology, and a Master's degree in Emotional Intelligence. Mercedes Botija leads the GESinn research team, which specialises in homelessness, and is currently hired by the City Council of Valencia for data analysis on biennial homeless counts in the city of Valencia. Botija is the academic director of the International Congress on Housing Inclusion in Valencia.

Several authors have emphasised the lack of rigorous and systematic monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of homelessness services, particularly in the European context. Improving monitoring and evaluation mechanisms allows for a better understanding of intervention processes, and in parallel, enables the characterisation of internally homogeneous subgroups and identification of entry and exit pathways to homelessness.

The European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS), created in 2005, is considered a milestone in improving European research on homelessness. However, to date, there has been limited use of the ETHOS in monitoring and evaluation of homeless response programs. To address this gap, the authors propose an operationalisation of the ETHOS for monitoring and evaluation purposes in homeless response programs. The LongHome tool utilises a longitudinal evaluation to identify the housing situation of individuals at three points in time: prior to admission in the homeless service, at the end of their stay, and two years after leaving, with the aim of assessing the long-term effect of the intervention.

The methodology is based on an understanding of homelessness of the new orthodoxy, which links changes in the ETHOS to variations in formal support, informal support, and individual capacity. This approach improves the understanding of variations in the housing situation and delves into the impact of homeless services. Moreover, the LongHome tool standardises a monitoring and evaluation methodology in homeless services, enabling it to be applied in different residential response programs and compare intervention results. The tool has been tested in two

homeless services in Spain in 2021 and 2022, and has proven to be an effective mechanism for improving the monitoring and evaluation of homelessness services' effectiveness. The information provided by the tool has also enabled further research into the impact of formal support and earned income on homelessness reduction.

Clíodhna Bairéad, IE: Single Adults Transitions Into, Through and Out of Emergency Accommodation in the Dublin Region



Dr Clíodhna Bairéad is a postdoctoral researcher from University College Dublin. Her primary area of research is social policy through secondary analysis of administrative data for homelessness and social housing in Ireland. She holds a BA in Public and Social Policy from NUI Galway as well as a Masters of Public Policy and PhD in Social Policy from University College Dublin. Her doctoral thesis was funded by the IRC in partnership with Focus Ireland and her current postdoctoral research is funded by the IRC in partnership with the Housing Agency.

In this conference presentation, the speaker will present the findings from a recent research project, which utilises statistical analysis of administrative data on single adult users of emergency accommodation (EA) for people experiencing homelessness in the Dublin region. Drawing on theories of housing transitions and the factors that shape them, the presentation will introduce a new framework for analysing transitions of entry, usage and exit from homelessness and emergency accommodation use over the life course. The data analysed covers the period 2016-2018 and is drawn from the government-managed online database, Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS). This system records demographic characteristics, nightly EA use, and case notes of each person in the system. This database is relatively unique in the international context and this presentation demonstrates the usefulness of secondary analysis of such data in the field of homeless research. The speaker will discuss how the analysis of the data utilised in this project challenges existing literature on EA use and highlights the importance of stability of service use in predicting chances of exiting homelessness. Additionally, the presentation will explore how patterns of EA entry, usage, and exit vary significantly across the life course and depending on additional experiences of contributory events. The presentation concludes by emphasising how the analysis has the potential to inform the reform of homeless services to maximise rates of exit from homelessness and how it contributes to both empirical and theoretical understandings of homelessness.

Seminar 5: Client Preferences and Service Co-creation (Room: MTC1 02.13)

Chair: **Mike Allen, IE**

John Cowman, IE: The Differences between Inpatient and Staff Housing and Support Preferences, for Individuals with Housing Need on an Irish Acute Mental Health Unit



John Cowman is the project manager (Housing Coordinator in Mental Health) in Community Healthcare Organisation 7 in the Republic of Ireland. He is also the project lead on the Creating Foundations housing support project, which he developed in partnership with the mental health services and Focus Ireland, a key provider of homeless services. John's background is as a professional social worker and he is currently a part time PhD student in the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast.

John's passion is developing tailored responses to mental health service users who are at risk of homelessness.

Introduction: One of the best indicators of satisfactory housing outcomes for people with mental health disabilities is subjective preference. There have been very few housing preference studies carried out in the Irish context.

Methods: The study explored the differences between inpatient and key nurses' preferences for housing and support. The study was granted ethical approval by the hospital ethical research committee. Over 23 months, inpatients with housing needs and their key nurses were interviewed using a survey specifically designed to elicit their preferences for housing and support.

Findings: One hundred and ten inpatients with housing needs and 40 key nurses completed the survey. Inpatient characteristics included: mean age of 39 years, predominantly male (69%), single (83%), Irish (88%), only nine (8%) were in paid employment, one third were involuntary at admission and 70% had a diagnosis of a major mental disorder. One fifth were admitted from homeless situations and four fifths from hidden homelessness.

Most inpatients would prefer to live alone (63%) in a normal independent apartment or house (78%) compared to key nurses who preferred these inpatients live with others (60%) in more supported settings (53%).

Most inpatients preferred informal supports like family and friends (n = 71, 65%), while most key nurse responses (n = 65, 59%) chose supports from the mental health services and other professional supports like housing, homeless and addiction services. Inpatients also choose professional support according to their specific needs.

Conclusion: Inpatients and staff differ in terms of preferences for housing and support. When planning to address the housing and support needs of individuals with mental health difficulties it is important to listen to service users' preferences.

Lucia Fiorillo, Livia Sassoli, Caterina Cortese, IT: Giving People a Voice: Involving Beneficiaries in the Design of Support Services



Caterina Cortese, PhD, Social Policy and Research Officer in fio.PSD (Italian Federation of Organisation working with Homeless People). She is responsible for the Research Office for studying the poverty condition of homeless people. She carries out activities related to National Surveys on Adult marginalisation, Homelessness Services, and Data collection on Housing First. She is Lecturer in Sociology at the "Federico II" University of Naples.

Lucia Fiorillo is policy and research officer at fio.PSD (Italian Federation of Organisation for homeless people). She graduated in International Relations and European Studies from the University of Roma Tre and has a Master's degree in Gender Equality Policies. She has worked as analyst and evaluator of public policies, especially in the field of social inclusion and poverty.



Participatory approaches have become increasingly important in the homelessness sector. The relevance of such approaches lies in the recognition that people have the right to have their say about the decisions that affect their lives. In particular, promoting people's involvement in the designing of services is important both to contribute to a process of empowerment of people and to help services in providing a more effective and respectful support. The first step toward the adoption of participatory approaches is the consultation of beneficiaries.

fio.PSD is involved in a European project (RETICULATE) that aims at promoting the involvement of homeless people and vulnerable households in the creation of 4 community centres in the Tuscany region (Italy). In this context, we carried out 37 face-to-face interviews with people with different characteristics, social backgrounds, and needs, in order to allow them to express their opinions, attitudes and remarks about the barriers they face in accessing social services. The data collected provides a meaningful picture of the overall criticalities that characterised the social

service system, as seen through the eyes of the people who use it every day. People interviewed were asked to identify a number of suggestions which, from their point of view, could be relevant to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of the territorial services. These bottom-up recommendations could be used to raise awareness among the relevant stakeholders and to guide the development of social services in accordance with the needs of beneficiaries.

Seminar 6: Measurement of Homelessness (Room: MTC1 00.14)

Chair: **Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

Hermund Urstad and Liv Halseth, NO: New Data Collection Methods in Norway



Liv Halseth and Hermund Urstad work as Senior Advisers in The Norwegian Housing Bank (Husbanken) who is the main agency implementing Norwegian social housing policy on the national level. Both with a particular responsibility for homelessness. Liv for implementing methods and strategies towards the municipalities and Hermund for statistics, analyzes and data collection.



The main goal of the current Norwegian national strategy “Everyone needs a safe home” (2021–2024) is to help more disadvantaged people to obtain a secure and adequate home. One of the subgoals is to eliminate homelessness, and various actions have been taken to help achieve this goal. The Housing Bank is responsible for ensuring that there are regular surveys of homelessness, and that work is done to provide better data. One task in the strategy is to develop annual data over the number of homeless in Norway.

The national survey of homelessness is carried out every 4 years and used by the Norwegian state to monitor trends in homelessness. The survey is carried out by external researchers and is similar to those performed in other Nordic countries and described in several research articles. To this date, seven surveys have been carried out (since 1996) and the next is scheduled in 2024. In addition to the survey The Housing Bank have been working with several approaches to obtain annual data and made a national estimate for 2022.

In this paper we will discuss the approaches to gain data, which includes use of indicators as shelter/temporary housing, number of homeless reported through the social services, evictions, and others. In addition is data collected from a selection of municipalities who experience problems with homelessness. Based upon these sources The Housing Bank has been able to follow the development in homelessness and have made an estimate for 2022 which shows an increase in the annual number of homeless after a longer period of significant reduction.

The latest shift in the economy regarding increased living costs, interest rates, and house rents may affect the situation for homeless people in Norway. We have seen an increase in use of temporary housing of 33 per cent in 2022. Also, the large number of refugees from Ukraine add pressure on the rental market and adequate housing. The work is still in progress, and we will discuss our experience and challenges concerning methodology and data protection.

Nana Mertens, Evelien Demaerschalk, BE: Point-in-Time Homelessness Counts in Belgium



Nana Mertens is researcher at LUCAS, Center for Care Research and Consultancy, KU Leuven. She works on the research topics of care and support for vulnerable and underserved populations in society. In recent years, she has focused on the development and organisation of local and regional homelessness counts in Belgium.

To provide local and regional governments with concrete tools in the fight against homelessness, LUCAS KU Leuven developed a methodology for a point in time count based on the ETHOS Light typology. The point in time count is a ten-month process involving intensive collaboration with local services that have (in)direct contact with homeless people. From 2020 to 2022, 11 point-in-time counts took place in cities and regions in Flanders and 7 in Wallonia. For the Walloon counts, there is a collaboration with a research team from UCLouvain. In 2023, researchers from Hogeschool Utrecht are testing the methodology in two regions in the Netherlands.

In total, the counts mapped 11,729 homeless adults and 4,394 directly involved children. On average, children make up 27% of the total number of homeless people. Further, results show that homelessness is not only a metropolitan problem. Contrary to expectations, a high number of homeless people was counted in more rural municipalities. The counts in the different regions culminate in a comprehensive database that contains profile characteristics as well as information about the homelessness situation of the persons counted. Moreover, the data allow us to identify and examine some specific groups. For example, we have analysed the data of young adults, who make up 1 out of 5 counted homeless persons, and the situation of elderly homeless people. We will continue working with this database to analyse specific groups (e.g. Housing First target group, women) and make an extrapolation for Flanders to have a better insight on homelessness in Flanders.

During this presentation, we specifically focus on the main overarching results and dive deeper into the profile characteristics of some subpopulations, such as young adults, homeless women and children.

17h30 – 19h00

Poster session (Room: AULA)

20h00

DINNER

Venue: M Museum Leuven (<https://www.mleuven.be/en>)

15th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

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| 9h00 – 9h30 | Coffee (MTC1 00.03) |
| 9h00 – 9h30 | Poster Session (Room: AULA) |
| 9h30 – 11h00 | SEMINAR SESSION 2 Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars |

Seminar 7: Youth Prevention II (Room: MTC1 01.15)

Chair and discussant: **Nóra Teller, HU**

Melanie Redman, CA: Using Social Innovation as a Means of Advancing Knowledge and Practice Regarding Youth Homelessness Prevention



Melanie Redman is the co-founder, President & CEO of A Way Home Canada, a national coalition reimagining solutions to youth homelessness through transformations in policy, planning, and practice. A Way Home Canada has inspired communities and countries around the world to adopt the A Way Home brand as a way to participate in a growing international movement for change. Melanie also leads the National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness in Canada, which is a pan-Canadian community of practice for youth homelessness service providers. Melanie is also the co-founder and Partnership and Implementation Director for the Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab, an international “Network of Centres of Excellence.”

Social innovation involves designing and testing new ways of addressing old problems. In this session we will explore the role of social innovation in inspiring change in how we respond to youth homelessness in Canada. The focus will be on the latest results from the work of Making the Shift-Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab (a partnership between the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and A Way Home Canada) focusing in particular on five areas of intervention: a) Enhancing Family and Natural Supports, b) Youth Reconnect, c) Upstream, d) Housing First for Youth, and e) Duty to Assist. This session will provide attendees with an overview of our approach to social innovation, key projects, and preliminary outcomes of our research to date. We also highlight our knowledge mobilisation strategy to identify how we are working to support commitment, uptake, and scaling of preventive interventions.

Steve Gaetz, CA: The Emerging Impact of Housing First for Youth in Canada and Europe



Dr. Stephen Gaetz is a Professor in the Faculty of Education at York University, in Toronto Canada. He is the President of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and the Homeless Hub at York University as well as co-Director of Making the Shift – Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab and the Toronto Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention. Dr. Gaetz works in collaboration with partners to conduct research and mobilise this knowledge so as to have a greater impact on solutions to homelessness, and in particular the prevention of homelessness. In 2017 Dr. Gaetz was awarded the Member of the Order of Canada.

Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) is an adaptation of Housing First designed to meet the needs of developing adolescents and young adults. While developed in Canada, HF4Y expanded more rapidly in Europe. In this session we explore some of the challenges in creating uptake for innovative approaches to homelessness, through exploring Canadian and European examples. We will also explore emerging research on Housing First for Youth. This includes updates on the Making the Shift demonstration projects in three Canadian cities. We will review 24 month outcomes generated from our Randomised Controlled Trial, looking at changes in 1) Housing stabilisation, 2) Attachment to employment and education; 3) Quality of Life; 4) Lifeskills, and 5) Resilience. We will also explore what we have learned from our Indigenous-Led HF4Y project called Endaayaang.

Seminar 8: Homelessness and Displacement (Room: MTC1 00.08)

Chair: **Mike Allen, IE**

Veera Niemi, FI: A state-led Displacement Process Revealing Secrets of Successful Rehousing after Homelessness – but too Late



Veera Niemi is a researcher and final year PhD candidate of social work in University of Turku, Finland. She works in a Finnish research consortium Fighting segregation and homelessness among the most vulnerable through housing social work (SEGRA), in cooperation with University of Tampere, University of Turku, and the Y-Foundation (2021-2023). Niemi's research focuses on analysing longitudinal housing and service pathways of the homeless through longitudinal administrative register data. Niemi is also interested in building bridges

between theory and practice in social work, and has years of work experience also in practice social work and as a university teacher.

In this mixed-methods case study we analyse a state-led displacement process in Finland. An area of affordable social rental housing was to be renovated and partly rebuilt due to urban development, and about 200 residents were displaced during 2020-2021. The case was a typical gentrification process in which the development affected the housing costs, and so the earlier residents were replaced by wealthier ones.

Our quantitative data describes the previous housing pathways of the residents and demonstrates that long-term and repeated homelessness had been common among the residents. It also shows where the residents moved after the displacement, and the mortality rate and relapses into homelessness during the following year. An interesting finding was that many of the residents with very long periods of previous homelessness had, however, been living in the area for very long continuous periods.

Our qualitative data consists of interviews of 18 displaced residents with homelessness background. Analysing the residents' own experiences, we deepen the understanding of why long-term continuous living in the area was possible (or sometimes a necessity) for them. The analysis sheds light to positive factors either related to the area or reflecting a history of homelessness, negative factors forcing people to stay, and also factors discussing the possibility of the continuity of housing during such urban renewal processes. The study contributes to theoretical discussions on state-led-displacement and gentrification, and urban development affecting housing and homelessness pathways. (Co-authors: Kirsi Juhila, Päiviikki Kuoppakangas, Jenni Mäki and Riikka Perälä).

Eva Swyngedouw, BE: Forced Nomadism. The Consequences of Evictions for the Housing Precariat in Brussels



Eva Swyngedouw is a Visiting Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and a Research Associate at the Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago. Currently, her research focuses on the prevalence and consequences of evictions for the housing precariat in Brussels.

To this day, many cities struggle with a severe lack of affordable housing, massive shortages of social housing, and rising homelessness rates. Evictions can be considered extreme cases of housing deprivation, poverty, and social exclusion. Because of their excessiveness, they can shed light on the workings of the current welfare state and its market excesses. Evictions

have also become a major problem in Brussels due to the housing crisis and the lack of affordable and quality housing. They are symptoms of a housing market in crisis, and have serious economic, social and mental consequences for those affected. In many cases, it leads to unstable housing trajectories and even homelessness. One in three people who got evicted still do not have a stable housing situation three months after the eviction. Based on 25 interviews with institutional actors working in the field of housing and 25 biographical interviews with people who were evicted, we argue, in this regard, that renters who have been evicted in the past are forced to lead nomadic lives due to an inattentive and ineffective state, a shortage of the necessary social services, and a lack of tenant rights in the legal system.

Seminar 9: Housing First and Housing Transitions (Room: MTC1 02.13)

Chair: **Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE**

Sarah Sheridan, IE: Evaluation of Focus Ireland Shielding Service



Dr Sarah Sheridan is an Independent Researcher with a particular expertise in homelessness, housing, equality, and related topics. She is also a visiting research fellow and lecturer in the School of Social Work and Social Policy in Trinity College Dublin. Previously she worked in research management roles in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and Focus Ireland. She is a Board Member of Threshold, a charity which aims to prevent homelessness and provides free, independent and confidential advice to tenants.

Research on Housing First shows that there is a small portion for whom the intervention is not successful (around 11 per cent). In these cases, tenancies are not sustained and the individual may return to a roofless or houseless living situation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dublin was regarded as a positive case study in Europe in terms of how state bodies and NGOs successfully protected the lives of the high-risk, chronic homeless cohort. Specifically, there was effective cooperation between health and homeless services to meet the needs of those who typically fall through the cracks of service support systems. One innovative service which emerged during this time was the Focus Ireland Shielding Service. This service sought to keep medically-vulnerable individuals with extensive homeless histories and substance misuse issues safe from the virus, by providing self-contained units, 24/7 tailored and flexible keyworking supports, and healthcare and drug services delivered directly to the residents in their accommodation. An evaluation of the service (Sheridan, 2021) showed that the service - which was originally set up to simply keep individuals free from infection - had in fact exceeded all expectations, including high rates of successful housing transitions (one third were permanently housed upon closure of the service), improved health outcomes and healthcare engagement, low rates of criminal justice contact and stabilised drug/alcohol use. Residents particularly

appreciated the distinct style of keyworking that was operational in the service, which was characterised as flexible, lenient and empowering. This paper argues that the challenges and service innovations during the COVID-19 pandemic can provide insight into new methods of working with the chronic homeless cohort, for whom neither traditional nor Housing First service responses might be effective. Drawing from qualitative findings collected during this evaluation, the paper will consider the value of self-contained units of high quality, partnered with intensive 24/7 keyworking, which were underpinned by Housing First principles (specifically consumer choice and client-driven approach), can successfully meet the needs of the a very high-needs, long-term homeless cohort and, for a sizeable number, lead to successful housing transitions.

Riikka Perälä, FI: Housing First in Vulnerable People's Housing Pathways: An Example of Finnish Housing First Policy



Dr. Riikka Perälä received her PhD in sociology in 2012 from the University of Helsinki. Her research interests cover the position of vulnerable citizen groups in welfare and housing policies and services. In the homelessness field, she has investigated these issues in the context of Housing First policies and participated also in the development of policies in various expert groups. Currently, she works as a post-doctoral researcher in Y-Foundation, in a large research consortium, which investigates the housing pathways of residents in displacement processes. The other members of the consortium are University of Tampere and Turku. The project is funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

The presentation examines the meaning of Housing First based housing solutions for the housing stability and housing pathways of people with a background in homelessness. The context is Finnish Housing First policies, which has been successful in reducing long-term homelessness in the 2000s. The data is based on 17 qualitative thematic interviews with residents of supportive housing units about their current housing and housing history. The data was analysed from the perspective of housing pathway theory. Key findings in terms of housing permanence include the 24/7 support and voluntary work activities linked to housing in the supportive housing units, which create security and routine in housing and living. Moving into a supportive housing unit is seen as a key juncture in the housing pathway, where the unpredictability and daily burden of homelessness is replaced by the opportunity to live a more independent life. For some, the supportive housing unit is seen as the final and permanent stage of the housing pathway. Others wish to move to scattered housing, but do not necessarily feel that this is a realistic option. The relevance of the results for the development of Housing First policies is discussed at the end of the presentation.

Seminar 10: Youth Homelessness (Room: MTC1 00.12)

Chair: **Eoin O'Sullivan, IE**

Bill Rowlands, UK: 'Impossible to Navigate' – Exploring Youth Homelessness through the Lens of Neurodiversity



Bill Rowlands is the Head of End Youth Homelessness Cymru. His research interests lie in the areas of homelessness, youth disadvantage and participatory research methods. He graduated with an MSc in Public Policy from Cardiff University in 2017 and he previously studied Politics at Cardiff University.

End Youth Homelessness Cymru is a national Welsh coalition working collaboratively towards ending youth homelessness in Wales. Over the course of our existence, we've gathered anecdotal evidence on the prevalence of homelessness amongst neurodivergent youth and the additional inaccessibility of housing and homelessness service for the said group of young people. To examine the intersection of

neurodiversity and youth homelessness further, we carried out a qualitative research exploring the lived realities of both neurodivergent young people accessing homelessness services and practitioners working within those services. This presentation will explore the main findings of our research project, including pathways into youth homelessness, barriers to accessing and providing support, as well as best practice and potential solutions to preventing youth homelessness and improving the accessibility and inclusivity of housing services for neurodivergent young people. In line with our participatory approach, the findings of the research will be explored through the voices of both young people and practitioners.

Paula Mayock, IE: Cycling the Service System: Young People's Paths Through and Out of Homelessness

Dr. Paula Mayock is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin. Her research focuses primarily on the lives and experiences of marginalised youth and adult populations, covering areas such as homelessness, drug use and drug problems. Paula is the author of numerous articles, book chapters and research reports and is an Associate Editor of the international journal Addiction.



Youth homelessness is a significant problem across Europe, with growing numbers of young people recorded as homeless in several countries. Relative to the large body of research examining risk factors for – or determinants of – youth homelessness, fewer studies have investigated the journeys embarked on by young people after they first experience homelessness. This paper examines young people's paths through and, in some cases, out of homelessness based on the findings of a biographical longitudinal study of homeless youth in Ireland. Conducted between 2013 and 2016, the research involved the collection of data at two points in time. At baseline, 40 young people aged 16–24 years and 10 of their family members were recruited (Phase 1) and, at the point of follow-up two years later (Phase 2), 74% of participants were retained in the study. Over the course of the study, low levels of exiting were recorded, with less than one quarter of the young people having achieved housing stability by Phase 2. Those who had transitioned to housing tended to report lower levels of mobility and need, had positive relationships with service providers and strong family support. The challenges encountered by a majority in their attempts to carve a route to housing were diverse and included the lack of affordable housing, their inadequate experience of navigating the private rental market and inadequate supports. Very often, young people found themselves alternating between multiple adult homelessness services, sometimes amid periods of hidden homelessness, a pattern which also negatively impacted their ability to form and maintain meaningful relationships with service professionals. With a sense of 'limbo' or stasis permeating their accounts, most expressed a lack of faith in the service systems designed to meet their needs. The implications of the study's findings for policy and service provision are discussed.

Seminar 11: Data on Rough Sleepers (Room: MTC1 00.14)

Chair: **Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

Ashwin Parulkar, Daniel C. Farrell, USA: Causes of Homelessness among the Unsheltered Population in Las Vegas, Nevada (USA)



Ashwin Parulkar is the Senior Research Specialist at HELP USA. He manages a research team that examines the processes and outcomes of HELP's transitional housing and homelessness prevention programs in context of policies and best practices relating to services for people experiencing homelessness and housing instability. He holds an M.A. in international relations and M.F.A. in creative writing from Syracuse University and a B.S. in management from Case Western Reserve University. He is pursuing a PhD in development studies at the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.

Danny Farrell, LCSW is HELP USA's Chief Operating Officer overseeing a large portfolio of homeless prevention, transitional housing, supportive housing, and domestic violence programming in multiple U.S cities, totaling about 140M U.S dollars in annual revenues. HELP USA employs 1,200 staff who serve about 10,000 households annually. Danny is a trained psychoanalyst from the New York Institute for Psychoanalytic Self Psychology, an Adjunct Professor at New York City's Hunter College School of Social Work and has published multiple papers on homelessness.



In 2020, the federal point in time count identified 66% of the 5,283 persons experiencing homelessness in Las Vegas as unsheltered. This presentation will discuss findings on a HELP USA study on the causes of homelessness among this population. It is based on a survey that HELP USA designed, then administered with the local government, to clients of a major homeless service centre called the Courtyard.

HELP USA applied a latent class analysis (LCA) to 360 completed surveys to identify causal profiles, in relation to the following indicators: primary causes of homelessness, adverse childhood experiences, institutionalisation and substance use & health problems.

The final model yielded three distinct "classes" of entering homelessness. The largest group (n=239; 66%) entered homelessness due to unemployment. They had, comparatively, lower rates of adverse childhood experiences (e.g., abuse) and health and substance problems.

The second group (n=40; 11%) had the highest likelihood of entering homelessness due to family discord, and high rates of incarceration and multiple adverse childhood experiences (e.g., being in the foster system (49.8%) and experiencing abuse (81%)).

The third group (n=81; 23%) had the highest likelihood of both entering homelessness due to health problems and the loss of housing (e.g., eviction), as well as significantly higher rates of substance use and mental health problems.

The presenters will discuss these findings in context of the – predominantly structural - drivers of homelessness in Las Vegas that studies have identified. For example, a "heavy concentration" of the city's population is "precarious[ly] employed" in the service industry; the local unemployment rate (6.0%) far outpaces the national rate (3.5%); and the city has one of the largest affordable housing deficits in the country (75% of poor families pay more than 30% of their income on rent) (Seymour and Akers, 2021; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, n.d.).

Ferran Busquets, ES: Living on the Streets in Barcelona. Analysis of a Homeless City



Ferran Busquets is director of Arrels Foundation. In 1998, he joined Arrels as a volunteer on the street team, being with people who live on the streets in Barcelona. He later joined as an employee and has managed the organisation since 2012. At the same time, he has volunteered in prisons and global south countries, offering technological support to organisations. He is part of the Board of Directors of the Catalan Social Action Entities and member of the Ethics Committee of the Social Services of Catalonia. He is a senior engineer in Computer Science and postgraduate in Social Mediation.

Almost 70% of people who live on the street in the city of Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain) do not have hope of moving into an accommodation anytime soon and four out of every ten do not have anyone to count on. The more time someone spends living on the street the worse their situation, and possibility of leaving it, becomes. Only 46% of people who live on the street say they have been attended to by social services or by a social entity in the last six months and 19% say that the last place in which they slept was an institutional resource. This is data from interviews

with 345 of the approximately 1,200 people who sleep on the streets of Barcelona every night (collected in June 2022).

In this conference, we will approach the situation of people living on the streets in Barcelona and how it has evolved in recent years. Through the annual nocturnal survey organised by Arrels Foundation since 2016, we will be able to reflect on and analyse the evolution of people's socio-demographic profile in recent years, their homelessness trajectory and expectations, the social care response they are receiving or the people they can count on. From 2016 to 2022, Arrels Foundation has received 2,082 responses from people who sleep rough in Barcelona with a survey and counting methodology that has involved more than 3,400 community volunteers, including people who experience homelessness.

Seminar 12: Structural Barriers to Tackling Homelessness (Room: AULA)

Chair: **Masa Filipovic-Hrast, SI**

Miroslava Hlinčíková, SK: Who Deserves What? The Struggles between the Rhetoric of Housing as a Right and Housing as a Merit in the Context of Housing Policy in Slovakia



Miroslava Hlinčíková, PhD. works as a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the SAS. She has been a member of various research teams and has cooperated as an analyst with NGOs. Currently, she works for Amnesty International on the research Right to Housing in Slovakia. She is the author and co-author of several monographs and studies on minority issues in urban environments. In addition to her work as a researcher, she has been a member of the municipal Housing Committee in Trnava, Slovakia and is active in initiating the discussion about the Housing First model.

In Slovakia, housing is becoming less affordable for more people with diverse incomes and socio-economic statuses. The rental sector is underdeveloped and the state housing stock with reduced rent comprises only 1.6% of the leases. In this context, rental public housing is considered to be something temporary, unstable, and uncertain. My presentation is based on the analysis of the municipal housing policies and policies for ending homelessness in all of the major regional cities in Slovakia and the results of my ethnographic research in one of them. I will look at how constraints and barriers in the public housing policies of selected Slovak cities affect the affordability and stability of public housing for residents in the context of the right to housing. The research project looks at vulnerable groups (homeless people, low-income families and individuals) and their possible access to rental housing. I assume, in Slovakia, the housing policies diminish the state's role in housing, do not consider housing as their responsibility towards the residents and don't recognise housing as a right. To better understand the mindset, context and reasoning behind the local housing policies, I will look at how the rhetoric about rental housing is framed. In this system, anyone (fulfilling the basic conditions) can apply for municipal housing, as long as he/she works "hard enough" and proves responsibility and deservingness. I would like to deconstruct the category of deservingness present in the discourse about housing, and look closely at its content and how it is understood by different actors (politicians, officers, social workers). This idea is based on the moral premise that it would be unfair to support someone "who doesn't try hard enough" and reflects the background behind the implemented staircase system of ending homelessness in Slovakia.

Timo Weishaupt, Christian Hinrichs and Jan Weckwerth, DE: Theorising homelessness: An urban sociological perspective on the interplay of individual, institutional and structural contexts



Professor Timo Weishaupt holds a Chair in Sociology with a focus on Social Policy at the University of Göttingen, Germany. He received his award-winning Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2008. Since his doctoral studies, he has conducted research at the work-welfare nexus. In the fall 2020, he started working on a project, funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG) which seeks to illuminate individual, structural and institutional factors that cause (or prolong) homelessness and housing exclusion in three German cities.

Christian Hinrichs, Germany, is a sociologist and research assistant at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. He is doing his doctorate on the dynamics of biographical trajectories of homeless EU citizens from Eastern European countries in the context of simultaneously closing national welfare regimes. His research interests include the field of urban, migration and racism studies.



Jan Weckwerth is a postdoctoral scholar at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany. His research interests include social inequality, in particular class and lifestyle analyses, as well as urban sociology, the sociology of professions, and the sociology of culture and film.

Rough sleeping and homelessness are amongst the most severe manifestations of poverty, marginalization, and social exclusion, which could, in principle, be prevented in well-developed welfare states such as Germany. Nevertheless, the number of people sleeping rough or experiencing homeless has increased in recent years, which has further aggravated the situation across most of Europe. While there are several explanations for why and when homelessness occurs, these approaches typically prioritize individual factors (e.g., “sin or sick talks”) or structural causes (“system talks”) or both (“new orthodoxy” or “pathways”). What’s missing though is a comprehensive attempt that theorizes the interplay of individual and structural factors, while also taking account how and when the welfare state (un)successfully intervenes.

We thus apply a distinctly praxeological approach with a critical focus on and systematic theorizing of the agency of homeless persons as well as the patterns of actions “on the ground”. Based on evidence collected in three medium-sized university towns in Germany, we reveal not only the intended as well as unintended mechanisms of (partial) exclusion from welfare-state services at the municipal level. We also systematically take into account individual resources, habitual dispositions and biographical experiences, and the role of the local (public and private) housing market – as well as the interactions between all of these factors.

Our theoretical model is solidly empirically grounded: We conducted more than four dozen narrative and semi-structured interviews with local experts as well as persons experiencing homelessness in three cities. These data were supplemented with media reports, official documents and participant observations. The interviews were evaluated systematically by conducting a qualitative content analysis, which informed our theoretical approach.

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| 11h00 – 11h30 | Coffee break (Room: MTC1 00.03) |
| 11h00 – 11h30 | Poster Session (Room: AULA) |
| 11h30 – 13h00 | SEMINAR SESSION 3 Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars |

Seminar 13: Impact of Data on Policy Design I (Room: MTC1 00.14)

Chairs: **Matthias Drilling, Zsolt Temesvary, Jörg Dittmann, CH**

Jan de Vries, NL: Impact on policy: advocacy by organisations representing the interests of people experiencing homelessness



Jan de Vries has worked, for almost 20 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 7 years now he has been working on the right to housing and homelessness in The Netherlands. He is a board member of Bureau Straatjurist (paralegal support for homeless persons in Amsterdam) and a steering group member of the Straatalliantie (cooperation between organisations in Amsterdam). He currently provides advice on advocacy and advocacy strategies to civil society organisations. In the past few years he did research on advocacy on homelessness in The Netherlands.

Structural positive impact on policies and legislation for people experiencing (risk of) homelessness can be achieved through effective advocacy by organisations representing the interests of people experiencing (risk of) homelessness. This was the motivation for undertaking research in 2020-2021 on advocacy by civil society organisations on homelessness in The Netherlands. Applying a case study method, literature review and 29 interviews, 5 main barriers for effective advocacy by civil society organisations working on homelessness were identified: barriers within organisations; limited role of rights holders; structural lack of cooperation on advocacy; finances and financial relationship with municipalities; co-optation by the State through the “Poldermodel”.

During the research a private foundation working on youth homelessness showed interest in the results of the research as they were changing their funding strategy focusing more on advocacy. They proceeded by funding part of the research. Besides writing recommendations for civil society organisations, the research also included recommendations explicitly for funders of advocacy initiatives (State and private foundations). Following the research, I was asked, as an advocate, to support several organisations to increase their capacity to undertake advocacy.

The research proved relevant in the Dutch civil society and political context on homelessness. It contributed to, or accelerated, positive changes in the field of advocacy of organisations representing the interests of people experiencing (risk of) homelessness. The presentation will focus on developments since the research was published highlighting the impact of these positive changes on policies at municipal and national level. While there are positive developments, serious challenges remain. These will also be highlighted during the presentation, as well as their impact on the capacity to undertake effective advocacy on (risk) of homelessness.

Dennis Culhane, USA: Sustaining Commitments to Innovation and Implementation



Dennis Culhane is the Dana and Andrew Stone Professor of Social Policy at the School of Social Policy and Practice at The University of Pennsylvania. Culhane is a nationally recognised social science researcher with primary expertise in the field of homelessness. From July 2009 – June 2018 he served as Director of Research at the National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a leader in the integration of administrative data for research and directs Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP), an initiative that promotes the development of integrated data systems by state and local governments for policy analysis and systems reform.

His homelessness work has positioned him as an early innovator in the use of administrative data for research and policy analysis, particularly for populations and program impacts that are difficult to assess and track. Culhane's work has resulted in federal legislation requiring all cities and states to develop administrative data systems for tracking homeless services in order to receive HUD funding. His work has also been instrumental in a national shift in how cities address chronic homelessness and family homelessness. Culhane's current research utilises linked administrative data to better understand and respond to the emerging crisis of ageing homelessness, and was featured in the New York Times Magazine article, "Elderly and Homeless: America's Next Housing Crisis."

When engaging in planning and evaluation research projects with public officials it is important to consider the constraints of public officials. Commissioned projects tend to get the most attention and traction, as the projects were generated at the behest of officials. Planning projects that are funded by foundations or initiated outside of the official channels are much more challenging to get implemented. Often, policy reforms or pilot projects require the commitment and redirection of existing public funds which is a major barrier to implementation. Foundations are useful for funding projects initially, but unless they are adopted by public officials they tend not to be sustained. Officials often have to sustain funding commitments for NGOs, whether or not they are effective. New projects therefore must rely upon the incremental increase in public funds for which there is significant competition. In this presentation, I will discuss several projects in a single jurisdiction and some of the challenges associated with implementation.

Response by **Freek Spinnewijn, BE**

Seminar 14: The Policy Context of Housing First (Room: MTC1 02.13)

Chair: **Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE**

Elisabetta Leni, FI: Homelessness Deinstitutionalization Policy in Finland: Housing First and Perspectives from the Ground



Elisabetta Leni is a researcher at the Y-Foundation, Finland. After working several years in the non-profit sector in Italy, she obtained a PhD in Economics at the University of Essex, UK. The current focus of her research is on homelessness and social housing.

Deinstitutionalisation (DI) describes the replacement of institutional care with community-based services. DI has become a central policy objective for the EU, but homeless people have rarely been considered among its target groups. However, people living in shelters, hostels, and temporary accommodations are often exposed to an institutional culture characterised by a lack of rights, rigid routines, strict rules, and few opportunities to participate in society. Despite being intended for short stays, shelters, hostels, and temporary accommodations often become places where people live for years or even permanently,

reproducing the negative consequences of long-term institutional care. A community-based response to homelessness involves a) promoting rapid access to permanent housing; b) introducing housing support with the primary goal of preventing the recurrence of homelessness and promoting social inclusion; and c) strengthening mainstream services, particularly substance abuse, mental health, and elderly care services, to meet the complex needs of people who have experienced homelessness. In Finland, the DI of homelessness has been pursued through national programmes based on the Housing First principle. The first of these programmes was launched in 2008 and supported the conversion of shelters into permanent housing for the homeless, who were provided with housing support to live independently. The year 2008 is considered a turning point, as the homeless service system began the transition from a staircase-based system to one based on Housing First. This research aims to describe the homelessness DI policy that has taken place in Finland since 2008 through a review of historical documents and interviews with service workers. The interviews investigate how the ethical, legal, and socio-economic perspectives that motivated the transition to the “new” system have unfolded and how their meaning has shaped in relation to the housing solutions that characterise the Finnish Housing First system (i.e., scattered housing and supported housing units).

Maarten Davelaar and Dorieke Wewerinke, NL: The Final Breakthrough? Experimenting with Housing First as System Approach in the Netherlands



Maarten Davelaar is a researcher at the Research Centre for Social Innovation, HU University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht. His focus includes governance issues in housing, homelessness and community development. He is involved in research on the contribution of (collaborative) housing concepts to social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups in society.



Dorieke Wewerinke, researcher at the Research Centre for Social Innovation, HU University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht. She is an expert on Housing First, co-founder of the national Housing First course for practitioners and policy makers and is currently leading the first Ethos-light point-in-time research in the Netherlands.

Over the last couple of years (2021–2023), the Utrecht agglomeration has experimented with providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness. In this large pilot project 16 municipalities (in highly urbanised as well as rural areas) and numerous homeless organisations, care organisations and social housing associations participated. Through it, more than 200 people have found a self-sustained, independent home, directed directly from street or shelter to permanent housing. The Housing First model is already applied in many cities throughout the Netherlands, but until now mostly in projects with a limited scale and target group (mainly aimed at people with a long history of homelessness and facing a multitude of problems). In this new project, however, an attempt was made to apply Housing First to a broader group. It also aimed at preventing inflows into shelters and other forms of temporary or emergency accommodation in a bid to replace the still dominant staircase model. This makes it the first large-scale experiment in the Netherlands to apply Housing First as a foundation for the fight against homelessness: Housing First as a system approach. Utrecht University of Applied Sciences has mapped out the strengths and weaknesses of the new approach and formulated lessons for further improvement through action research with former homeless persons, professionals from the housing, homeless and care sectors and policy makers (building on the results from in depth-interviews by the University of Amsterdam focusing on individual beneficiaries of the approach). These lessons might contribute to the implementation of the new ‘National Homelessness Action Plan: First a Home’ that runs from 2023 till 2030 and aims at a ‘paradigm shift’ from providing shelter to housing people. The National Plan sets the ambition to significantly and structurally reduce homelessness in the Netherlands, in line with the Lisbon Declaration to end homelessness by 2030.

Seminar 15: Service Components of Housing First (Room: MTC1 01.15)

Chair: **Mike Allen, IE**

Sara Lannin, Ivana Keenan, John Coonan, Cimara Witte, Elizabeth Peña, Gráinne Johnston, IE: Housing First and Peer Support Specialists: An Insight into Organisational Toolkit Development



John Coonan is an experienced peer support specialist and researcher with the Peter McVerry Trust. He holds a BSocSc (Hons) in Sociology, Social Policy and Social Justice and an MSc in Public Policy, both from University College Dublin. His personal experience with homelessness, combined with an academic background, allows him to provide insightful and practical support to participants, as well as contribute to various research projects.

Grainne Johnston is the Peer Support Project Coordinator with the Housing First National Office in Ireland. She has worked with the Housing Agency since 2017 within the Regulation Office, Local Authority Services and the Affordable Housing Unit. She previously worked within the Social Housing Sector in Northern Ireland for over 12 years and is a Chartered Surveyor (RICS). Grainne has qualified with a BA (Hons) Degree in Economics and Finance and a Diploma in Construction Studies.

Within Housing First (HF), Peer Support Specialists (PSS) are employees whose job descriptions recognise their lived personal experiences as beneficial in understanding and motivating clients. Subsequently, the Irish HF National Office set out to assist organisations to integrate and deliver PSS services, by producing an organisational PSS toolkit. As a HF provider in Ireland, the Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) undertook a comprehensive investigation into service users' and existing staff's experiences with PSSs.

This study aimed to provide insight into PSS programme delivery and outcomes within HF in regions managed by PMVT in Ireland. Between December-January 2023, 35 individuals were contacted in relation to PSS services; 8 HF participants and 27 stakeholders. The HF participants' satisfaction and the impact of PSSs on their lives was facilitated through a survey. While focus group consultations with stakeholders explored themes such as recruitment strategies, supervision, training, and impact of the PSS role in HF.

All HF participants agreed that their PSS helps them establish and achieve goals. Most HF participants said PSSs help them make healthier life choices, manage stress and mental health in their daily lives and reduce their risk-taking behaviours. All stakeholders highlighted the importance of PSSs on the lives of HF participants and HF services. PSSs were seen as pillars of support for HF participants, where the amalgamation of emotional and practical supports enhanced HF participants empowerment, recovery and social integration. Equally, knowledge drawn from PSSs greatly benefited HF support teams and served to bridge identified gaps in HF service provision.

The study highlights that peer-led ongoing support programmes could play a crucial role in transforming the homeless sector and ensuring the highest quality of person-centred care. These findings have important implications for the design and implementation of HF PSS toolkits, as well as for policymakers seeking to address homelessness and housing exclusion in Europe and beyond.

Krista Kosonen, FI: Housing First, but What Next? How about Work?



Krista Kosonen works as a researcher in Y-Foundation in Finland. Her current research focuses on projects that aim to prevent homelessness by providing work for tenants and facilitating housing transition. Krista received her Doctor of Arts degree in Design in 2018 from Aalto University. Her main expertise is in narrative identity, visualisation, and visual research methods.

Housing First has shown that homelessness can be reduced significantly by providing a home first, without expecting changes in one's lifestyle. However, in many cases a home alone does not meet the needs of people who have experienced long-term homelessness. Having a home does not automatically increase wellbeing and the sense of belongingness, or make life more meaningful, even when adequate support is available.

Employment can be one way to break the cycle of homelessness. Work has a significant meaning that reaches far beyond income. It ties us to a community, creates structure for the day and provides an opportunity to use one's skills and learn new things. The work we do influences also on the way we see ourselves and what we identify with, and in this sense, work forms a part of our identity.

The presentation introduces an ongoing research Work for tenants that investigates the effectiveness of Y-Foundation's employment program Uuras. The program – established in 2018 – provides low threshold gig work and employment coordination services to all Y-Foundation's tenants free of charge.

The research has a narrative approach and uses visual methods. It focuses on unemployed, 18-55 year-old tenants that have contact with Uuras. The aim of the research is to find out the impact of Uuras on the participants' employment, wellbeing, and housing. The research produces in-depth knowledge of participants' work paths and factors that facilitate or complicate employment and dwelling.

The presentation gives an overview of this narrative study, presents a life situation map as a visual data generation tool, and discusses the data gathered so far. The data collection started in February 2023 and will continue until June 2026. The participants will be followed for 3 years or until they have been employed for one year.

Seminar 16: Measuring Perceptions (Room: MTC1 00.12)

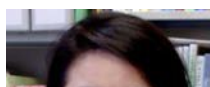
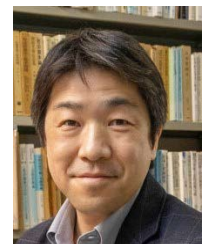
Chair: Eoin O'Sullivan, IE

Hiroshi Goto, Soshiro Yamada, Yusuke Kakita, Kanako Nakano, Dennis Culhane, JP: Japanese Public Perceptions of Homelessness



Hiroshi Goto, Japan is a professor at Rikkyo University in the college of community and human services. He started his career as a social worker for a homeless support non-profit organisation (San-Yu-Kai) in Japan. He is currently interested in both local-level and global-level research on the homelessness. The former is an analysis of case records of homeless self-reliance support centres (Transitional housing) in Japan, and the latter is a comparative study of public assistance in the US and Japan.

Soshiro Yamada, Japan is a professor at Nihon Fukushi University in the department of social welfare. He is looking at public assistance for homeless people in Japan. He is also interested in the life condition of people who were transferred from homelessness to permanent housing using public assistance.



Kanako Nakano, Japan is an associate professor at Otani University in the faculty of sociology. She started her career as a social worker at an

emergency hospital and shelter for homeless people. The research fields are social work theory, supporting homeless people (especially, assistance to the homeless with intellectual disabilities), and social work at shelters in Japan.

Yusuke Kakita, Japan is a professor at Osaka Metropolitan University in the school of human life and ecology. He is researching poverty, homelessness and social policy. The fields of his research are streets in urban areas, temporary accommodation for homeless people, NPOs delivering support, local and central government.



Dennis Culhane, USA is a professor of Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a social science researcher with primary expertise in the area of homelessness and assisted housing policy. Most recently, Culhane's research has focused on the ageing of the adult homeless population in the US.

This study deals with public perceptions of homelessness in Japan. The purpose of this research is to clarify the characteristics of Japanese public perception, attitude, and practices toward homelessness by comparing the study results with that of similar surveys conducted in other countries. This study considered the "not in my backyard" (Nimby) syndrome as a representation of the difficulties involved in assisting the homeless to examine what kind of people are likely (or not likely) to adopt a Nimby mindset. To achieve this purpose, from March 11–14, 2022, we surveyed 4,500 monitors (male and female/aged 20–69 years/assigned to census demographics in 5-year increments) from all over Japan that were registered with an Internet research company. First, the findings of this study were compared with similar surveys to identify the characteristics of Japan. Next, Binomial logistic regression analysis was conducted by considering the presence or absence of a Nimby mindset as the dependent variable with attitude, knowledge of homelessness, and practices as independent variables.

The analysis revealed that the percentage of positive responses regarding attitudes toward the homeless was lower in Japan in comparison with other countries. In addition, there was a high percentage of "DK/R" (don't know/refused) responses. These results suggest Japanese citizens' "indifference" toward the homeless and that they are less likely to provide support to the homeless, either individually or through organisations. Furthermore, the findings indicated that there was no correlation between the Nimby mindset and knowledge and that participants were less likely to have a Nimby mindset if they or someone close to them had experienced a housing crisis or were involved in supporting the homeless. These results suggest that imparting knowledge alone is not sufficient to increase support for homelessness assistance and that providing simulated experiences of homelessness and setting up opportunities for direct interaction with homeless people are more effective measures.

Tom George and Jim Rogers, UK: Perceptions of Participants and Stakeholders of a 'Sleep Out' Event Held to Raise Money for, and Awareness, of Homelessness Charity Work



Mr Thomas George (Research Assistant) and Dr Jim Rogers (Senior Lecturer) in the School of Health and Social Care, College of Social Science at the University of Lincoln, UK, have been working with vulnerable adults in the field of homelessness and rough sleeping and have been involved in numerous research projects and service evaluations of homeless services/charities across England.



Fundraising events have become a dominant platform and flagship activity for charities in raising money and awareness to deliver services and support for vulnerable population groups. In the UK the large housing and homelessness charities employ fundraising teams and rely on donations and legacies for over half of their income. One type of charity fundraising event unique in its approach is the 'sleepout' events where participants spend a night in a sleeping bag or constructed cardboard box shelter seeking to raise awareness of homelessness and money for homelessness charities. Such events have become increasingly popular, particularly being conducted throughout most westernised countries (UK, US, Canada, Australia).

This paper presents evidence from what we believe is the first study to explore the perceptions of participants and other stakeholders regarding these events. We took part in one sleep out event on a winter night in the East of England. We interviewed participants on the night and encouraged them to keep audio diaries. We also interviewed a range of staff from housing and homelessness services after the event. Participants included those with lived experience of sleeping rough.

Whilst most participants had a favourable view of the events, there was a degree of ambivalence about the activity of sleeping out for a night as the vehicle for this. Many recognised that a single safely organised night outdoors does not replicate the experience of being forced to sleep rough. Because of this some staff in support services expressed a very strong and visceral dislike of these events and thought them misleading and distasteful.

Recognising that these events are unlikely to stop, a strong recommendation was made that much more thought and attention is given to education and awareness raising during the events, to ensure that participants understand more of the issues behind homelessness.

Seminar 17: Homeless Women (Room: AULA)

Chair: Nóra Teller, HU

Boróka Fehér and Lea Lengyel, HU: Second Generation Homelessness - Stories of Homeless Women and their Families



Boróka Fehér has worked with homeless people in Hungary since 1999. She is a policy officer of the Policy Department of the Budapest Methodological Centre of Social Policy (BMSZKI), the homeless service provider of the City of Budapest. She is a member of the February 3rd research team, carrying out the only annual survey among homeless people in Hungary. Her field of special interest is finding data in order to support the situation and services available for homeless women, empowering and participative ways of working. She is a member of FEANTSA's Women's Cluster. She holds a PhD in Social Work and Social Policy.



Lea Lengyel studied Intercultural Psychology and Pedagogy first. She holds a PhD in Sociology, her thesis was entitled "Homeless women - Life stories and gender identity". She has been working with homeless people, focusing on women since 2014 in night shelters, as an outreach worker, and is now a key worker in a hostel. She is a lecturer at the University of ELTE as well as other programs in higher education.

We shall introduce our research about second and third generations of homeless women. According to an internal survey, every third homeless woman has at least one adult child who is homeless themselves. We will discuss the stories of 20 homeless women and their parents and/or children as well as siblings who have become homeless at least once during their lives. We want to explore the pathways into (and hopefully out of) homelessness, and what could (should) have taken place to prevent whole families falling through the social net. We focus on their housing path, but also their lives together: did they live together as a family or were children separated from their mother/parents as growing up? As the individual (maybe a couple) is at the centre of support, information about family members might not be taken into consideration throughout the process, while data suggests that for most families

their ties are important, and the problems of their family members influence their daily and long-term strategies. We argue that in order to support multigenerational families more effectively, the whole family has to be in focus. Data derives from the documentation of social work at one (or several) of BMSZKI's services (entry interviews, care plan, case documentation) that have been taken separately by each family member. (BMSZKI is a large service provider organisation in Budapest, with a variety of services for homeless people at 22 various locations.) The authors are working for BMSZKI, Ms Lengyel is a support worker as well as a researcher, Ms Fehér is a policy officer, both with robust research experience about women's homelessness.

Josepha Moriau, Noémie Emmanuel, Martin Wagener, BE: Trajectories of Homeless Women in Relation through a Gender Perspective on Social Work



Martin Wagener is Assistant Professor in sociology at CIRTES (Centre for interdisciplinary research on Work, State and Society) at the UCLouvain. Noémie Emmanuel and Josepha Moriau are PhD students at UCLouvain. They have worked together in multiple projects regarding Homelessness.

This paper combines a quantitative and qualitative approach to the trajectories of homeless women and social work practices. The counts in over 200 municipalities in urban and rural areas show a specific gendered pattern of homeless women situations in Belgium. Regarding interventions, the methods of support that integrate the gender issue are multiplying, as evidenced by the opening of long term shelters and day care centres in particular for women. We will therefore first look at the overall situation of homelessness in Belgium, and then look at the gender specificities of the trajectories of women experiencing homelessness. At least, on the basis of the gender specificities, the different modes of intervention, social work and support will be analysed in perspective.

Seminar 18: Health and Homelessness (Room: MTC1 00.08)

Chair: **Masa Filipovic-Hrast, SI**

Tobias Schiffler, Alejandro Gil-Salmerón, Ascensión Doñate-Martínez, Tamara Alhambra-Borrás, Miguel Rico Varadé, Jaime Barrio Cortes, Matina Kouvari, Pania Karnaki, Maria Moudatsou, Ioanna Tabaki, Igor Grabovac, ES/AT/GR/UK: Improving Cancer Prevention and Early Detection among People Experiencing Homelessness in Europe: Co-designing the Health Navigator Model



Tobias Schiffler is a nursing practitioner with several years of clinical experience in mental health, working with transitional age youth at a clinic in Vienna (Austria). In 2021 he joined the Medical University of Vienna as a PhD student in Public Health. Tobias' research focuses on the health and well-being of people experiencing homelessness and other underserved populations, with a particular interest in mental health aspects.

Introduction: Homelessness is associated with increased cancer-related morbidity and mortality. This can be attributed to difficulties in accessing cancer screening and prevention services. Patient Navigation and Patient Empowerment interventions have been shown to improve access to health care for vulnerable populations. This study utilised a co-design approach to develop the Health Navigator Model (HNM) for Europe, combining elements of both interventions in a person-centred approach to reduce inequalities by eliminating barriers to access and improving engagement with healthcare services.

Methods: A qualitative research approach was followed, with data collected through focus groups between December 2021 and January 2022 across four European countries (Austria, Greece, Spain, and the United Kingdom). Seven focus groups with an overall sample of 56 participants – comprising 41 professional stakeholders and 15 people experiencing homelessness (PEH) – were conducted. Focus groups were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and then thematically analysed.

Results: The results showed that professionals with a background in health and social care who understand the local user population are best suited to be assigned the role of 'Health Navigators'. Health Navigators should be embedded in settings familiar and accessible to PEH. Their primary role should be (1) identifying users' health needs and barriers (e.g., seeking solutions regarding barriers to care), (2) promoting cancer awareness and self-management (e.g., encouraging user involvement in health-related decisions), (3) facilitating access to healthcare services and cancer screening (e.g., coordinating and supporting attendance of appointments), and (4) providing practical assistance (e.g., assisting with the completion of paperwork).

Conclusion: The HNM is embedded at points of entry to homelessness services offering integrated care to guide PEH on using healthcare resources, improve their access to care, and enhance their general and cancer-specific health outcomes. The HNM is currently being pilot- implemented and evaluated in four European countries under the EU Horizon 2020-funded project CANCERLESS (GA 965351).



Renate Karpenko, DE: The Medical Care of Homeless Women: What Factors Contribute to Longer Hospital Stays?

Renate Karpenko is a research associate and PhD student at the Institute of Medical Sociology and Rehabilitation Science of the Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin. She has been working since 2020 on the project "GIG – Health of homeless people in Berlin", analysing a health centre in Berlin Mitte and since 2022 in the follow up project "GIG II", investigating another health centre in Berlin Lichtenberg. She is an associate of the research network on homelessness and health at the Charité. Her focus lies on somatic health, addictions and homeless women. Further, she works as a physician at a psychosomatic clinic.

Background: Although the number of homeless people, including the proportion of women, in Germany is increasing, research on health and health care structures of this group is limited. Despite the fact that these people often face precarious living conditions and various barriers to health care, the data in this area, especially on women, is insufficient.

Objective: Describing the sociodemographic characteristics and medical situation of homeless women visiting an outpatient health centre in Berlin Mitte; Identifying risk factors for increased morbidity and extended length of stay.

Method: Retrospective secondary data analysis of patient files of the health centre for the homeless of the Jenny De la Torre Foundation in Berlin Mitte and the hospital discharge letters within the files. The analysis of hospitalisation durations will be performed descriptively and inductively according to sociodemographic and medical factors. Regression models will be used to calculate associations between patient characteristics and hospitalisation durations.

Results: As part of the study "GIG - Health of homeless people in Berlin" 3,338 patient files, 21.6% of which (n=716) were women, were digitised. The most frequent reasons for treatment among women were skin diseases (16.2%), respiratory diseases (15.7%) and injuries (14.6%). Analysing hospital discharge letters of women they showed an extended length of stay and were more likely to receive a recommendation for further treatment. Additional findings on patient characteristics associated with longer length of stay will be presented at the conference.

Conclusion: Homeless women remain severely underrepresented in health services research. They differ in their morbidity from men, and their care should address their specific care needs.

(Co-authors: Lech, S., Schenk, L. and Schindel, D.)

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 13h00 – 14h00 | Lunch break (Room: MTC1 00.03) |
| 13h00 – 14h00 | Poster Session (Room: AULA) |
| 14h00 – 15h30 | SEMINAR SESSION 4 Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars |

Seminar 19: Impact of Data on Policy Design II (Room: MTC1 00.14)

Chair: **Matthias Drilling, Zsolt Temesvary, Jörg Dittmann, CH**

Koen Hermans, Nana Mertens, BE: Impact Evaluation of the First Regional Point in Time Homelessness Counts in Belgium

(for Koen Herman's bio, please see first panel)

Since 2020 research teams of LUCAS KU Leuven, University of Liege and UC Louvain intensively collaborated with local services and administrations to organise regional point in time counts on homelessness. Each year at least two regions in Flanders and in Wallonia participated. In 2022, after the second wave of these point in time counts, the research teams set up an impact evaluation to gather information on the impact of the counts and to identify the lessons learned after two succeeding years of organising local and regional point in time counts on homelessness. All regions who organised a point in time count in 2020 or 2021 contributed to this impact evaluation. First, the local public administrations and a selection of non-governmental services were asked to fill in an online survey (64 participants). Second, the local coordinators from each region were invited to participate in a focus group to discuss and deepen the results from the online survey (10 participants).

Results show mixed outcomes in the different regions. Firstly, to organise a count, it is important to include a wide variety of services and pre-existing collaborations between services. In cities and regions with stronger cooperation between public and non-public services, the organisation of the count went more efficiently. More services were reached and these services were more motivated to collect the data. In other words, a dense network of services contributes to the quality of the data. Secondly, participants pointed out that the count initiated and broadened the debate on homelessness. By identifying the number of homeless people and their profile characteristics, the population of homeless people becomes more visible on a regional level. The count provided objective figures on homelessness. These figures verified the 'subjective impressions' of the participants. Thirdly, the need for a long-term approach on homelessness was confirmed. The participants suggested that prevention of homelessness and housing-oriented solutions are essential. In other words, the counts also contribute to increasing the awareness that a switch from a crisis-oriented paradigm to a more structured housing-led approach is needed.

Rob Anderson, UK: A Framework for Ending Rough Sleeping in England



Rob oversees the Centre for Homelessness Impact's work to support those working in homelessness across the UK to embed the use of evidence in their work to end homelessness faster. Rob joined CHI from HM Treasury, the UK's finance ministry, where he led spending national policy on homelessness, rough sleeping and private rented housing, and has worked in the non-profit sector tackling poverty and housing insecurity in London.

Rob holds an Msc in Inequalities and Social Science from the London School of Economics, where he specialised in the role of housing in social disadvantage in the UK.

The rough sleeping framework is the first of its kind in the United Kingdom (UK) to bring together local and central government and the non-profit sector to trailblaze a data-led approach to tracking progress towards ending rough sleeping at the local and national level in England.

The framework aligns national and local government for the first time towards a single measurable goal - that rough sleeping is prevented wherever possible, or is otherwise rare, brief and non-recurring everywhere in England. It also introduces a robust indicator set to allow progress towards this goal to be tracked at the local to national level.

The framework was collaboratively created by a group of 'early adopter' local authority areas from across England, including London and Greater Manchester, and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and convened by the Centre for Homelessness Impact. The framework has been adopted as the heart of the government's national Ending Rough Sleeping For Good Strategy and rolled out to all local areas in England in May 2023.

This innovative project is a significant step forward from the annual 'point in time' count which is currently the only comparable data across all areas in England. It should simplify and harmonise data collection and reporting and give practitioners and policymakers a common language and set of data, enabling us to learn faster and understand what working, where, and why. The framework links to the European Commission's goal to end homelessness in Europe by 2030 as it is the first time in the UK that a nationwide data-led definition of ending rough sleeping has been developed and introduced. It is an impactful example of evidence-led policy-making and collaboration between local government, non-profit organisations and national government.

Reactions by **Nicholas Pleace, UK**

Seminar 20: Housing First in Cities (Room: MTC1 00.08)

Chair: **Mike Allen, IE**

Lisete Cordeiro and Sílvia Almeida, PT: The Impact of Housing First in a Small City in Portugal



Lisete Cordeiro is Co-founder and Executive Director of InPulsar; Sociologist with experience in designing, planning, monitoring, and evaluating social projects; Project Manager of a Housing First Project (Morada Certa | Leiria Housing First).

Sílvia Almeida is a Psychologist with a Master's degree in Educational Psychology, Development and Counseling from the University of Coimbra.

Working as a community psychologist at InPulsar since 2021.



The present communication reflects the experience and the impact of implementing a Housing First initiative in a Portuguese small city. The project Morada Certa (right address) | Leiria Housing First was established in 2019, in the city of Leiria, and is financed by three different funds: Leiria City Council, Ministry of Social Welfare and a private company (Lusiaves Group).

The project has been implemented by InPulsar, a non-profit organisation, founded in 2012 that contributes to the inclusion of people in high social vulnerable situations, like migrants, Roma people, people that experienced situations of homelessness, refugees and children (www.inpulsar.pt). The goal of this project is to provide housing and support to homeless people with mental health problems and drug usage dependencies.

The presentation consists of three main topics: 1) Describing the distinct phases and stages of the project development. The pilot of this project began with three houses financed by Leiria City Council. The positive results of the project led to an increase in the number of people integrated in the project, totaling 15 individuals and demonstrated the effectiveness and efficiency of this model; 2) Analysing the outcome data of the residents; 3) Presenting the project's impact in the community and the community's perspectives.

Morada Certa | Leiria Housing First demonstrated that it is possible to implement this model in a small city, being sustainable with a combination of public and private funds. This project also promoted public discussion about homelessness topics and contributed to create the local homelessness units (NPISA), also, being recognised as a good initiative of social innovation by the national homelessness strategy.

Nadyah Abdel Salam, FR: Housing First, an Institutional Innovation by Withdrawal



Nadyah ABDEL SALAM works on social housing policies in France as an urban planner and sociologist. Her sociology thesis focuses on Housing First as an institutional innovation process, under the supervision of Gérald Gaglio (University of Côte d'Azur - GREDEG). This doctoral research was conducted in partnership with the GIE La Ville Autrement, the Metropole of Lyon and the national association for research and technology (ANRT).

Housing First presents itself as an alternative way to end homelessness in Western societies.

Its promoters denounce an ineffective but dominant model of caring for homeless people in temporary accommodation in order to prepare them for independent housing. They seek to reorient the system of support for homeless people so that they can live directly in stable housing, with support that is tailored to their choices and needs.

However, the withdrawal from accommodation does not take the form of a clean break. The article analyses the process of dissemination and institutionalisation of Housing First in the Lyon metropolitan area, in relation to the strategy driven at national level and the networks promoting Housing First internationally. It explores the possibility of a bifurcation and the dependence on the pathway that leads to the extension of accommodation despite the desire to reduce it. To understand the transformations at work in social housing policies in France, the analytical framework combines contributions from the sociology of public action and the sociology of innovation.

The paper is based on a four-year ethnographic survey (2017-2020) among the actors involved in putting Housing First on the agenda and deploying it in the Lyon metropolis, in relation to the actors and institutions active at national and supranational level. The methodology combines observational participation, longitudinal monitoring of experimental projects, fifty semi-directive qualitative interviews, documentary analysis and a quantification of the forms of homelessness and institutional responses in this territory.

Seminar 21: Migration and Homelessness (Room: AULA)

Chair: **Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

Dion Kramer, NL: Homelessness and EU Citizenship in a Borderless Europe



Dion Kramer is assistant professor of EU Law at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. After studying international relations and law in Cambridge and Amsterdam, he obtained his PhD (cum laude) at the Vrije Universiteit with a dissertation on EU citizenship, national welfare and the European Court of Justice. His research now focuses on the law and politics of EU free movement more broadly, including the platform economy, posted workers and homelessness. In the academic year of 2022/2023, he founded the EU Citizen Rights Corner at the Vrije Universiteit, a law clinic where master students give advice to NGO's about the social rights of EU citizens.

While the free movement of persons, one of the flagships of European integration, is supposed to improve the living and working conditions and social advancement of EU citizens, the reality is quite different for many. Research shows

that in many European cities a structural and significant part of the homeless population consists of EU citizens from other Member States. This presentation will focus on the institutionalised discrimination of EU citizens in the Netherlands as a starting point. Unless EU citizens can prove permanent residence status, Dutch municipalities consider them as *niet-rechthebbenden*, which roughly translates to ‘non-rightsholders’ or ‘those without rights’, and refuse access to regular homelessness services. This practice – and accompanying discourse of EU citizens as ‘not-entitled’ migrants – raises very serious legal, empirical, and normative questions about EU citizenship itself.

This presentation will mainly focus on addressing the fundamental legal questions by extensively researching the relevant (case) law: what rights do people experiencing homelessness derive from their status as EU citizens in other Member States? Under what conditions should EU Member States offer homelessness support to EU citizens and can homeless EU citizens be expelled? However, before answering these legal questions on the basis of, the presentation will also contextualise the social reality of homelessness among EU citizens and situate the phenomenon within the European integration project. After answering the legal questions, the presentation will draw on empirical data collected by means of interviews, participatory (action) research and a law clinic in order to discuss the factors explaining why the institutionalised discrimination of EU citizens can persist in Member States. These include a *de facto* absence of administrative law, the (relative) weakness of legal mobilisation and the outsourcing of decision-making and service provision.

Sophie Samyn, BE: Wandering the city: Local Practices of Bordering and Sanctuary with Homeless Migrants



Sophie Samyn studied media and theatre studies at the Ghent University (Belgium) during which she specialised in Nigerian film making practices by migrants in Europe. As a result of her interest in migration, she worked for a number of years with migrants in Italy and Belgium. After an advanced Masters in Conflict and Development, with final research on the trafficking of Nigerian women to Europe, she conducted a research project with Sarah Adeyinka on the wellbeing of African women working in prostitution in Brussels. She is currently a PhD candidate in the TRAHOME research project, under the supervision of Prof. Koen Hermans, Prof. Martin Wagener and Prof. Griet Roets on the pathways of hidden

homelessness in Belgium.

The article examines the relation between the Western-European welfare state and its so called ‘denizens’, namely homeless people without legal residence. These are both EU and non-EU migrants who have limited access to formal social rights because of their (lack of) residence status. Drawing on the concepts of bordering and sanctuary, we examine the nature and logics of social work aimed at these people in the city of Ghent, Belgium. In the absence of national or regional legislation, but faced with this humanitarian reality, local governments develop specific policies and practices to ‘support’ homeless illegalised migrants, alongside non-state actors. The social workers and volunteers involved are the ideal witnesses of the tensions which arise between these policies and the lives of people concerned. The main research question is how do formal and informal social work practices (un)successfully achieve social justice in the margins of citizenship? The study is based on an extensive ethnography in the city of Ghent, in Belgium, during the period 2020 to 2023. Participant observations were made, walking alongside outreach social workers and volunteering in civil society initiatives which are in contact with homeless people without legal residency. This was complemented by more formal interviews with social workers and policy makers.

Seminar 22: Pooling of Data on Homelessness (Room: MTC1 00.16)

Chair: **Nóra Teller, HU**

Amandine Lebugle and Alice Mercier, FR: The French Homeless Helpline the day after the Night of Solidarity in Paris (France)



Amandine Lebugle, France, is a demographer. She has been working at Samusocial of Paris since 2019. She completed research on fertility decline in rural Iran (2000-2008), violence against women in France (2010-2018), homeless people using the metro in Paris as shelter (2019), post-secondary students attending food banks in the greater Paris region (2021-2022) and users of the 24/7 Homeless helpline (since 2019).

Alice Mercier, France, graduated in Demography from Panthéon Sorbonne University in 2020. She has been working at samusocial since 2021. She conducted different research on homeless families living in hostels, and users of the 24/7 Homeless helpline.



Since 2018, every year a street count, titled 'Nuit de la solidarité' (NdIS) aimed at counting and describing people without an accommodation, has been carried out in Paris (France). Despite variations in the number of people counted each year, the profile of the people met remains the same: the vast majority were single men. Among respondents, few called the 115 emergency number, which is a 24/7 Homeless helpline; around 10% contacted the helpline the same day (around sixty people) and 66% said they never did. However, the 115 team picks up over 1,000 calls a day. In fact, 115 users seem to be quite different from people surveyed on the street. Why such a large gap in numbers? Are 115 callers investigated during the NdIS? Where do they sleep ?

Data: To answer these questions, the Samusocial of Paris organised a survey the day after the NdIS among 115 users to find out if they had been questioned and if not, to understand why. Each caller was therefore asked to answer a short questionnaire to specify, for example, his place of refuge the previous night. The survey was combined with the '100 % pick-up day', a new operation initiated in order to allow as many people as possible to talk to a helpline worker. Thanks to the support of the 115 team by around thirty volunteers, we collected 635 questionnaires.

Results: Few people calling the 115 helpline were surveyed during the NdIS. Their place of refuge mainly explains this result. Finally, this survey clearly highlights the benefits of using a variety of data to approach an overview of the number of homeless people and to have better knowledge of their characteristics.

Natasa Krivokapic, Goran Ceranic, Rade Sarovic, Predrag Zivkovic, Milica Rajkovic, Montenegro: Recognising Homelessness in Montenegro



Natasa Krivokapic is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, Montenegro. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the MEHO COST action. Goran Ceranic is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Nikšić, Montenegro. He was a member of the Steering Committee of the MEHO COST action. Rade Sarović is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, Montenegro. Predrag Zivkovic is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, Montenegro. Milica Rajkovic is a Master of Sociology. During her schooling, she was an active participant in several projects.

This paper aims to present some basic results of the first scientific research on homelessness in Montenegro, such as the scope, structure, forms, and causes of this social problem. During socialism, the phenomenon of homelessness was not recognized because there were almost no people "without a roof over their heads". Also, the period of post-socialist transition does not record a significant number of visible homeless people. The problem of homelessness is poorly recognised in institutions dealing with social work. One of the assumptions that could explain the small number of registered homeless people is the traditionally strong connection between family members and

the solidarity of the immediate and wider community towards persons who find themselves in a situation that could be called homelessness. Taking into account such social circumstances, the research was primarily based on determining the situation using the first three categories from the FEANTSA typology of homelessness. The specifics of the social and political-economic context of Montenegro shows the need to develop a specific methodology in measuring homelessness.

Seminar 23: Barriers to Services for the Homeless (Room: MTC1 02.13)

Chair: **Kjell Larsson, SE**

Tove Samzelius, SE: Precarity and Vulnerability among Homeless Single-Parent Families in Sweden: A Critical Perspective on Policy and Practice



Tove Samzelius is a Senior Lecturer in social work at the University of Malmö. Her critical work on family homelessness and poverty in Sweden has received national attention and she is often invited to comment on these topics in the public arena. Prior to entering academia, Tove worked in civil society organisations in the UK and Sweden. She has many years of experience of advocacy, research, management, and the design of services for and with diverse families facing poverty and hardship.

Within the confines of the receding Swedish welfare state, family homelessness and poverty are on the rise among one-parent families, in particular those headed by a single migrant mother. This development follows a trend that is noticeable across advanced welfare states, where female-headed households are facing an increased risk of being locked into vicious circles of low-paid work, inadequate income protection schemes, and poor housing options.

Drawing on the findings from a PhD research project that traced the experiences of precariously housed single migrant mothers in greater Stockholm over time, this paper offers a critical perspective on current restrictive policies and practices that seek to impose “discipline” on mothers in poverty. It suggests that the intersection of weak safety net programmes for homeless families and disciplining measures imposed through the social assistance scheme, risk exacerbating precarity and vulnerability rather than offer support or solutions. As a result, it is argued that there is an urgent need to reassess and re-imagine social work practice with vulnerable and precariously housed families in Sweden from both an ethical and political perspective.

Laure-lise Robben, Rik Peeters, Arjan Widlak, & Koen Hermans, BE/NL: Burdens on the Gateway to the State: The Construction of Administrative Burdens in the Registration of People Experiencing Homelessness in Belgium and the Netherlands



Laure-lise Robben is a Phd student, researching homelessness trajectories and non-take-up of social rights (TRAHOME-project) at LUCAS, KU Leuven, Belgium.

Koen Hermans is an Associate Professor Social Work at the Centre for Sociological Research of the University of Leuven, and project leader at LUCAS, Centre for Care Research & Consultancy, in Belgium. Rik Peeters is Professor of public administration at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City. Arjan Widlak is director and researcher at the Kafkabriga Foundation in the Netherlands.

Population registries are the gateway to the state. Being recognised as a resident or citizen is often a precondition for access to public services, benefits, and rights. Despite clear formal rules and procedures, people eligible for registration may still face administrative burdens in obtaining access. In this article, we study the case of the municipal

registration of people who experience homelessness in Belgium and the Netherlands – a group that typically suffers from administrative vulnerability. Using data from 61 interviews with social workers and civil servants, we find that burdens are constructed at the municipal level to inhibit homeless people's access to registration. Conflicting goals and ambiguity in the governance of registration systems and costly local welfare services push municipal policy makers and street-level bureaucrats towards strategic behaviour. By analysing these discretionary administrative practices as an institutional problem we contribute to a broader understanding of the construction of administrative burdens.

Seminar 24: Creating Transition Options (Room: MTC1 00.07)

Chair: Eoin O'Sullivan, IE

Naomi Thulien, CA: Impact of Portable Rent Subsidies and Mentorship on Socioeconomic Inclusion for Youth Exiting Homelessness in Canada: A Mixed Method Pilot Randomised Controlled Trial



Dr. Naomi Thulien is a nurse practitioner and researcher committed to working with the community – including young people with lived expertise – to tackle the social and structural inequities that cause and perpetuate youth homelessness. Dr. Thulien is based in Toronto, Canada, where she is a scientist at MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, a hospital-based research institute focused on health equity. In 2021, Dr. Thulien and her husband created Breakwater Foundation – a non-profit organisation that provides rent subsidies, education bursaries, and primary health care to young women who have experienced homelessness.

Do youth exiting homelessness with two years of portable rent subsidies and adult mentorship experience more socioeconomic inclusion relative to youth who receive only two years of portable rent subsidies? That was the overarching question we set out to answer in this 2.5-year mixed method pilot study conducted in Ontario, Canada.

We began enrolling participants in March 2019 and followed them until March 2022. All participants (n = 24) received portable rent subsidies (subsidy not tied to a specific location) for two years. Participants were randomly assigned adult mentors (n = 13) who had been recruited and screened by community partners. We met with participants every six months to conduct quantitative (n = 24) and qualitative (n = 12) interviews over a 2.5-year period.

Quantitative objectives examined whether proxy indicators of socioeconomic inclusion signalled improvement in the intervention group (rent subsidies + mentorship) compared to the control group (rent subsidies only). Qualitative objectives evolved from a primary focus on exploring how study mentorship was working as a facilitator of socioeconomic inclusion, to focusing on how participants – regardless of group assignment – navigated the hazy, liminal space between socioeconomic exclusion and inclusion.

Quantitative analysis revealed no significant improvements in proxy indicators of socioeconomic inclusion in the intervention group relative to the control group. Qualitative analysis exposed the tremendous inner strength and momentum needed to navigate the liminal space between socioeconomic exclusion and inclusion. Overall, we found that the experience of socioeconomic inclusion was more strongly associated with factors such as informal mentorship (naturally occurring “coach-like” mentorship) and identity capital (sense of purpose, control, self-efficacy, and self-esteem), rather than formal study mentorship. We discuss implications for practice and future research.

Erin Dej, Carrie Sanders, CA: Mid-size cities, NIMBYism, and the Search for Solutions to Homelessness in Canada



Dr. Erin Dej is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology at Wilfrid Laurier University. She brings over 10 years of research and advocacy experience on homelessness, having been led by the lived experts she works with. She previously held a Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. She studies and advocates against the social exclusion of unhoused people, including the criminalisation of homelessness. She is the co-principal investigator on the *From NIMBY to Neighbour project*. She is the author of *A Complex Exile: Homelessness and Social Exclusion in Canada*, with UBC Press.

Dr. Carrie Sanders is Director of the Centre for Research on Security Practices (CRSP) and Professor of Criminology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Carrie is the co-principal investigator on the *From NIMBY to Neighbour project*. Recently she has been conducting research with various cities to explore perceptions of homelessness, crime, community safety and community resilience. Her research has been published in high impact, international journals such as: *Gender & Society*; *British Journal of Criminology*; and *Policing & Society* and has received national funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Councils of Canada.

This presentation offers initial insights from our research project, *From NIMBY to Neighbour: Brokering a Dialogue about Homelessness Among People Experiencing Homelessness, Law Enforcement, and the Community*, which explores community perceptions of, and responses to, homelessness in three midsize Ontario cities. While homelessness has always been present across different types of communities, its visibility and the subsequent pressure for mid-sized cities to act quickly has come up against their ability to adapt to the changing needs of the community and to respond in a way that leads to long-term stability and equity for everyone. At the core of these contentions is NIMBYism, which is deeply rooted in the idea that people who are homeless ought to be removed from public spaces. Mid-sized cities are especially fraught with these debates their access to resources and funding are not consistent with major urban centres, yet the visibility of homelessness has become more prevalent.

In this presentation we discuss the preliminary findings from this research, which consists of 86 interviews with people with lived experience of homelessness, service providers, community members, business owners, and first responders. Specifically, we consider how public space is used, managed, and experienced by people who are homeless, and how community complaints drive these experiences. Instances of dehumanisation, judgement, criminalisation, and in some cases violence, make clear that there is a “dark side” to communities generally perceived to be small, tight-knit, and amicable. The presentation also includes a participatory-action based art project designed and led by the Lived Expert Advisory Group.

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| 15h30 – 16h00 | Coffee break (Room: MTC1 00.03) |
| 16h00 – 17h30 | Plenary Session II (Room: AULA) Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE |

16h00 – 16h30

Magdalena Mostowska, PL: Homelessness and Migration: Parallels of Research, Political Discourses and Individual Experiences (TBC)



Magdalena Mostowska, Poland is a sociologist, lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Warsaw. She has completed several research projects on migrants, as well as women's homelessness in Poland, the EU, and the US. She is co-chair of the European Network for Housing Research Working Group on Welfare Policy, Homelessness and Social Exclusion (WELPHASE).

Migration and homelessness research share similarities but they also offer distinct perspectives on vulnerable populations. The concepts of a "migrant" and a "homeless person" are constantly socially (re)produced and are shaping the popular imaginary and political discourses. In this paper, I discuss the examples of Polish migration to the EU and the Ukrainian war-time migration to Poland to highlight the different constructions based on research perspectives. For instance, when the most vulnerable migrant workers were experiencing homelessness in a foreign country, their migration status further constrained their choices, limiting them to rough sleeping. On the other hand, for Polish women fleeing domestic violence across international borders, their housing situation in both their home country and abroad was taken for granted. More recently, Ukrainian war refugees accommodated in temporary shelters were not considered to be experiencing homelessness. The individual stories however often reveal the intricate intersections of migration and homelessness experiences. The paper concludes with reflections on the lessons we can draw from the intersection of these perspectives and the voices of people experiencing the loss of home.

16h30 – 17h00

Juha Kaakinen, FI: Home: Uncomfortable Questions and Some Answers



Juha Kaakinen, Finland, is an experienced and passionate developer of innovative housing solutions to homeless people and social housing. After 9 years as the CEO of Y-Foundation, Juha Kaakinen retired last year. Before Y-Foundation, he worked in public administration of the City of Helsinki and as the CEO of Social Development Ltd, a company devoted to developing social and health services for cities and municipalities. He has also worked as a programme leader of a national programme to end long-term homelessness, and as a researcher and a consultant. He is internationally known as an advocate of Housing First policy. He is a Master of Arts from the University of Helsinki. Starting from 1.4.2023, Juha Kaakinen has been invited as a Professor of Practice in the faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Tampere.

Is Housing First delivering what it promises? Housing First approach continues to gain popularity with strong scientific evidence. At the same time homelessness is decreasing only in a few countries implementing Housing First. Based on my report Home commissioned by the Ministry of Environment I'll examine what else is needed to induce a systemic change in homelessness policy including a possible upgrading of Housing First.


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| 17h00 – 17h30 | Questions & Closing of the conference |
| 17h30 | Drinks reception |

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Thursday, 17h30 – 19h00


Friday, all breaks

Room: Aula

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| <p>Klara Lehner, AT:</p>  <p>Klara Lehner completed her undergraduate degree in Economics and Social Sciences as well as her master's degree in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU). She wrote her master's thesis on the impact of COVID-19 on homeless women in Vienna under the mentorship of ao.Univ.Prof.Dr. August Österle. Klara also works as a journalist in the economics department of the Austria Press Agency (APA).</p> | <p>Women, Homelessness, COVID-19: An Empirical Study on the Situation of Homeless Women in Vienna</p> <p>This thesis examines the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the situation of homeless women in Vienna. The (negative) socio-economic effects of the pandemic and the associated measures were distributed unevenly among the population. On the one hand, women were disproportionately affected by negative impacts, while on the other hand, homeless people are among the most affected groups of people. Homeless women have accordingly proved to be a particularly vulnerable group during the pandemic. At the same time, female experiences of homelessness in general are comparatively less visible and subsequently less researched than their male counterparts. This paper thus aims to reduce this discrepancy.</p> <p>Through interviews with experts working with homeless women in Vienna, the paper analysed not only how the pandemic affected homeless women in Vienna in general, but also, how support services for homeless women in Vienna were affected, whether certain gaps in the service system existed before the pandemic, and how the pandemic affected gaps that may exist already.</p> <p>The paper further states that the pandemic exacerbated both female poverty situations and the risk of becoming homeless. This is on the one hand due to the unequal distribution of negative socio-economic impacts on women and on the other hand due to the increased cases of gender-based violence. It further shows that the current assistance system in Vienna exhibited shortcomings already before the pandemic, concerning mainly the care of homeless women with multiple, overlapping problem situations such as experiences of violence, mental illness, and/or migration background. Finally, the analysis shows that the pandemic did not directly lead to the emergence of new gaps, but rather acted as a burning glass for already existing deficits.</p> |
| <p>Naïké Garny, BE:</p> | <p>What Does the Reception of Homeless, Migrant Women Mean from an Intersectional Perspective? The Case of The Sisters' House</p> |

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|  <p>Naïké is a PhD candidate at the Center for Sociological Research (CeSO) of KU Leuven. Her research focuses on the nexus between gender, migration, and homelessness. In particular, she seeks to observe migrant women's forms of resistance within the context of reception. Previously, she did a MA in applied communication (IHECS) and a MA of specialisation in Gender Studies. Alongside, from 2020 to early 2023, she worked as a social worker and coordinator of a reception facility in Brussels, the Sisters' House, providing accommodation, information, and accompaniment for migrant women facing homelessness.</p> | <p>This presentation is aimed at addressing an intersectional perspective on the reception of homeless, migrant women. It is based on an ongoing PhD research that studies the Sisters' House (SH), a grassroots accommodation facility in Brussels that emerged from volunteers' willingness to create a structure that tailors to the specific needs of migrant women and offers a "safe space" where women can break the cycle of violence and trauma, characteristic of their migration journeys. Working in partnership with different actors of the homelessness and migration sectors, this facility considers a person-centred and needs-based approach.</p> <p>Drawing on qualitative data collection, this presentation will, first, provide a description of the SH and its innovative operationalisation of reception. Second, it will outline a reflection on the question of approaching the reception of homeless, migrant women from an intersectional perspective. In particular, it will draw on concepts of "safe space" – stemming from Black Feminist scholars (e.g., Hill Collins, 2000), and entailing a non-mix place enabling feelings of safety by building trust, confidentiality, and strong commitments to one another, where migrant women's voices are heard, and their needs attended to (Lewis et al, 2015) – and the concept of "housing first" (FEANTSA, 2022) – considering shelter is a prerequisite to break the cycle of gender-based violence, migration, and homelessness. This approach also considers a holistic response to basic and intersectional needs taking into account the utility of eliminating the silos of services in order to allow integrated, gender-sensitive support.</p> <p>Finally, this will be put in perspective within the Belgian context, where migration and asylum are Federal matters, whereas homelessness is regionalised – which further has implications on the everyday experiences of reception by migrant women.</p> |
| <p>Mattia Mansueto, BE:</p>  <p>He obtained his master's degree in Innovation and research for social work at the University of Bolzano and his bachelor's degree in social work at the University of Torino. He completed a pre and post-graduation traineeship DCU (Ireland), experiences two semesters abroad in Tübingen and one semester in Ghent (Belgium),</p> | <p>Housing First for Youth as an Opportunity for Social Justice among Young People</p> <p>This abstract presents an ongoing research project that focuses on the Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) model, which aims to tackle youth homelessness by comparing its implementation in various European countries. This service model has gradually spread in Europe and is based on the idea of immediate access for young people to stable and affordable housing without preconditions.</p> <p>Study methodology: The study used qualitative research methods, including semi-structured interviews (n=23) and graphical mind maps, to analyse the social impact of HF4Y projects and the role of social workers in client-centred support.</p> <p>Findings: The study found that the HF4Y model has adapted well to the diverse contexts of European countries but also diverged due to differences in welfare state models, forms of professional practice, and resources. A coordinated system of access to services across different sectors, including housing, mental health, and youth homelessness, as well as other relevant partners, is</p> |

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| <p>and did a two-month internship in Berlin. His research project in MSC-Program ASTRA focuses on Sustainable housing solutions for social inclusion of young people in precariousness. The aim is to link the eco-social approach to current SW practices with homelessness and to analyse sustainable solutions to housing exclusion in Europe.</p> | <p>essential. The study highlights the importance of social workers collaborating with other experts and advocating for homelessness and systematic change, becoming change-makers by developing solutions through eco-social work and using their knowledge to have a preventive impact. The Housing First for Youth model offers a useful framework for addressing youth homelessness, with social workers playing a crucial role in assisting young people in realising their aspirations for the future. However, a coordinated system of access to resources and creating policies that prioritise providing young people with rapid access to permanent and affordable housing and assistance is required to effectively combat adolescent homelessness. Conclusions: The study's findings shed light on the societal impact of HF4Y initiatives and can guide future interventions and laws intended to combat youth homelessness. This research provides valuable insights for academics, practitioners, and policymakers alike who are working to address the critical issue of youth homelessness in Europe.</p> |
| <p>Marie Cecile Kotyk, CA:</p>  <p>Marie (Cecile) Kotyk is an Urban Planner with 15 years of progressive experience in the public and non-profit sectors. She specialises in designing and managing community development projects to address housing shortages and end homelessness. Her passion for social justice and racial equity led her to pursue her doctoral studies in the Doctor of Design program at the University of Calgary's School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture. Her research aims to address anti-Black systemic racism and advance Black inclusion in the housing and homelessness sector. She is currently the</p> | <p>Seeing in Colour: A Framework to Address Anti-Black Racism in Housing and Homelessness</p> <p>Canadian housing delivery remains Eurocentric in its policies, practices, and service delivery. Black Canadians' current experiences with housing precarity and social inequities are deeply rooted in Canada's colonial historical legacy of legalised slavery, dispossession, racial segregation, racism, and discriminatory practices toward Black Canadians. Unfortunately, Canadian research is scarce on Black Canadians' housing experiences. However, the limited research demonstrates that Black Canadians are negatively overrepresented in cross-sectional data with lower health status, educational levels, and socio-economic status, thus impacting their ability to access and maintain housing. Furthermore, the one-size-fits-all approach and pervasiveness of anti-Black systemic racism have continued to negate targeted interventions, leading to an overrepresentation of Black Canadians experiencing homelessness and in core housing needs. My doctoral research project is to develop a framework to address anti-Black racism in the housing and homelessness sector. It creates an opportunity to introduce colour to how we practise, facilitate a paradigm shift, and raise awareness of how colonial policies and practices have extensively affected Black Canadians' housing security. My presentation will raise awareness of the long-standing historical and contemporary role systemic anti-Black racism plays in creating housing hardships and homelessness among Black Canadians. It will also share the unique stories of Black Canadians with lived/living experiences of housing instability, homelessness, and racism to raise awareness of the intersections between race and housing. Finally, the results of semi-structured interviews with Black key informants who are experts in addressing anti-Black systemic</p> |

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| <p>founder and principal consultant at Kotyk Consulting.</p> | <p>racism will be highlighted to identify guiding principles to address anti-Black racism in housing and homelessness.</p> |
| <p>Shauna Perez, CA:</p>  <p>Shauna Perez is a master's student in the Social Justice and Mental Health Research Lab at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. She has several years of experience supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and housing precarity. Her current research interest focuses on the experience of moral distress and its impact on the health and well-being of service providers who provide support to persons experiencing homelessness.</p> | <p>When I Can't Help, I Suffer: Moral Distress in Service Providers Working with Individuals Experiencing Homelessness</p> <p>Although moral distress is widely recognised in health care, little attention has been given to the understanding of moral distress in service providers working with persons experiencing homelessness. Methodology: To identify the range and nature of studies on this topic, we conducted a scoping review using Arksey & O'Malley's (2005) framework, informed by PRISMA ScR guidelines (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005; Tricco et al., 2018). We searched nine databases: EMBASE, Medline, APA PsycInfo, AMED, CINAHL, Social Work Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, Nursing and Allied Health Database, and Social Service Abstracts. Two independent raters performed the title and abstract screening and full-text review. Included studies were subjected to a narrative synthesis. Findings: After duplicates were removed a total of 1837 titles and abstracts were screened, of which 32 articles were eligible for the review. We generated four distinct themes: 1) helping is part of our moral identity, it's who we are, 2) we are doing the best we can, but there are so many barriers, 3) Working with persons experiencing homelessness is emotionally demanding work and 4) it's more than we can take, we are not okay. These findings demonstrate that service providers are experiencing repeated occurrences of moral distress due to numerous barriers that constrain the service provider's ability to help persons experiencing homelessness. For some, the repeated experiences of moral distress, led to burnout, mental health decline and trauma, illustrating the high cost of caring for individuals employed in the homeless sector. Reducing structural, organisational and systemic constraints that interfere with the service provider's ability to help persons experiencing homelessness is critical to preserving the health and well-being of service providers working in the field of homelessness.</p> |
| <p>Vera Kovács, Kata Ámon, HU:</p>  <p>Vera Kovacs (1985) is a social policy analyst, housing expert, founder and Co-Chair of From</p> | <p>Supporting Homeless Women in Budapest: State-Funded Services and the Housing First Approach of From Street to Homes Association</p> <p>From Streets to Homes Association launched a community support group for women clients. The pilot was launched in 2022, supported by the World Habitat Innovation Fund. Vera Kovacs was responsible for the pilot. The pilot was monitored by Kata Ámon researcher who conducted her research and</p> |

Streets to Homes Association. She had published a book and various articles and publications of different genres on homelessness and social housing agencies.



Katalin Amon (1987) a PhD student at Central European University. Her research areas

are the change of housing policy, the impact of social movements on public policy, and the analysis of housing policy from a feminist perspective.

Both presenters are former members of City for All Homeless advocacy group

study between December 2022 and March 2023. The presentation will cover the findings of the research and the outcomes of the women's group.

Women's homelessness has gained more attention in the past years from state-funded shelters, NGOs and civil groups in Budapest than ever before. While the state-funded shelter system was developed in a gender blind manner, social workers, researchers and activists started to argue for social services that take into account homeless women's vulnerability to gender-based violence, their unique needs, and the complex traumas they have encountered not only outside, but also within the social care system. The paper explores how homeless women are supported by the state, and since this support is almost exclusively offered in the shelter system, the first section focuses on shelters. Its aim is to map out how the intersections of housing exclusion and gender-based exclusion lead to women's homelessness and vulnerability to trauma and abuse, and prevent them from leaving the shelter system as well as abusive relationships. Then, the first section presents services within the shelter system that focus on the unique needs of homeless women.

The second and the third sections concentrate on how the Housing First approach, if combined with an understanding of women's unique needs and problems, offers an alternative to the reproduction of housing exclusion and gender-based exclusion. It focuses on the programmes of From Street to Homes Association, the only NGO in Hungary whose main focus is the implementation of the Housing First approach in Hungary. The third section analyses the positive impact as well as the challenges of creating a support group for women. The paper is based on the scarcely available statistical data about the shelter system, secondary literature, and ten semi-structured interviews conducted with social workers, experts from feminist NGOs, and women from the Housing First programmes.

Franca Viganò, IT:



Franca Viganò holds a Bachelor's degree in History, Anthropology and Religion

and a Master's degree in Ethnoanthropological Disciplines from La Sapienza University of Rome. She continued her studies with a second-level master's degree in Public Policy and Social Change at Collegio Carlo Alberto in Turin. There she had the opportunity to work as an intern

The Italian Approach to Health and Homelessness. Perspectives on Policies and Services during the Pandemic

The aim of this research is to analyse the reaction of Italian services for people experiencing homelessness to the spread of the pandemic and how this phenomenon affects healthcare and social policies. The study is divided in two main conceptual frameworks: one related to the macro level analysis of institutional contexts and policies, while the other focuses on the micro level analysis that observes which resources were activated and how policies are implemented within services during the years of the pandemic.

The focuses are divided between two Regions (Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna) and two cities (Milan and Bologna) of each, to compare them since they are characterised by different regional and local governance models (Kazepov, Barberis, 2013). For the macro framework I am analysing policies concerning topics like housing, healthcare, and social services[1]. I am using the 'What's the Problem Represented to be?' (WPR) methodology elaborated by Bacchi (2009) as a guide to understand the processes of policy making while analysing the different representations of a given 'problem'. This discourse is combined with concepts like 'Poverty of Ambition' elaborated by

within the research group of the Fundamental Rights Laboratory. After completing her studies, she worked as a researcher for CCM (now Amref-CCM Foundation) on a research project related to the project: "Right to Health: a network in Turin to support the weakest" (with World Friends). She is currently enrolled in the second year of the PhD program in "Human Rights, Society and Multilevel Governance" at the University of Padua.

Parsell. For the micro framework, I am conducting semi structured interviews with public and private services that provide for basic needs, healthcare and housing solutions. The interviews are directed towards services' workers and institutions' representatives involved in the implementation of interventions and planning processes.

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[1] Including (but not limited to, depending on the analysis' development): Local Area Plans (Piano di Zona) which are elaborated and implemented within the framework of different policies and funds like Regional Guidelines for Social Planning in Local Area Plans, the Regional Healthcare Plan, the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (PNRR), the National Plan for Services, FEAD and ESF related to regional development in Italy. I am taking in consideration the related law framework like the one concerning Local Areas and Regional Plans (e.g. Law n. 328/2000, Lombardy Regional Law n. 23/2015, Emilia Romagna Regional Law n. 14/2015).

Karolina Gajda, PL:



Karolina Gajda, Poland, is first year PHD student of Sociology at Jagiellonian University in Cracow,

Poland. She is an early career researcher, strongly bound with homelessness problem by

The Importance of Place Attachment in (Not) Getting out of Homelessness

Literature review and experience gained throughout sixteen years of working as a streetworker with homeless people lie at the basis of this reflection on the effectiveness of the proposed assistance solution, including housing solutions, which often do not bring the intended effect - getting out of homelessness. This is the reason for searching for new factors that make possible understanding the dynamics of entering the next stages of homelessness and (not) getting out of it.

Although the relationship between homelessness and space seems obvious, it is not always an obvious subject of research. Homelessness is defined by the loss of "domestic" and the occupation of "non-domestic" spaces. Space sometimes is domesticated, life goes on there, housing practices are reproduced by both human and non-human actors. Based on these findings,

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| <p>professional career: sixteen years she worked as a social worker using streetworking methods.</p> | <p>the assumptions of research were formulated. The aim is to determine the relationship between place attachment and entering next phases of homelessness and (not) getting out of it, taking into consideration following factors: sense of having reproductive and parental rights, care, idea of home. Research serves to determine significant relationships, and have application potential, as it aims to determine what is conducive to the spatial relocation of homeless people.</p> <p>In the first stage the socio-spatial context of homelessness will be shown and place attachment conceptualised. On the basis of the preliminary diagnosis, the established circumstances determining homeless people place attachment will be presented.</p> <p>The second part will be devoted to assumed connections between the sense of having reproductive and parental rights by homeless women and place attachment. The considerations will be set in the broader context of housing problems in Poland, including hidden homelessness and the decreasing fertility rate.</p> <p>In the last part will be presented the goals and methodological assumptions of the planned research.</p> |
| <p>Sarah McNeill, UK:</p>  <p>Sarah McNeill is a final year PhD student, based within the Centre for Public Health at Queen's University Belfast (QUB). She is now part of an inclusion health research group at QUB and has published articles relating to people experiencing homelessness and also interactions between LGB patients and healthcare staff. Her current research focuses on access to healthcare for women experiencing homelessness.</p> | <p>Barriers and facilitators to health care access for women experiencing homelessness in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Background: People experiencing homelessness have poorer health than the general population. Therefore, they are more likely to struggle with accessing healthcare, described in the Inverse Care Law. To date, there has been no peer reviewed research published from Northern Ireland on the topic of homelessness and health. Data published in reports from charities and other organisations shows a rise in the number of women experiencing homelessness in Northern Ireland. This research asks about the nature of access to healthcare for women experiencing homelessness in Northern Ireland and how it can be improved.</p> <p>Methods: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with women experiencing homelessness, hostel staff, and healthcare staff spanning across Northern Ireland. Following the interviews, a stakeholder workshop was hosted to gather views from stakeholders in policy, planning, and healthcare education. Data were analysed following Reflexive Thematic Analysis.</p> <p>Results: There were 19 participants interviewed. All participants were female. Healthcare and hostel staff experience ranged from 1 year to over 30 years and included staff from each of the Health Trusts around Northern Ireland. The interviews were followed by a stakeholder workshop with 13 participants representing various groups and organisations. Preliminary themes constructed during Reflexive Thematic Analysis include health and social care complexities, awareness of services and needs, relationships, system design and connectedness.</p> |

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| | <p>Conclusions:</p> <p>Preliminary conclusions confirm both supply and demand side barriers for access to healthcare for women experiencing homelessness in Northern Ireland, also included are recommendations for practice in Northern Ireland to improve this access journey. There is a need for increased awareness of services for and needs of WEH, through improving service navigation and providing training for health and hostel staff. Alongside this, is the need for improved connectedness between services, both with referral and data sharing.</p> |
| <p>Verena Löffler, DE:</p>  <p>Verena Löffler works as a Research Associate at the Center for Interdisciplinary Economics at the University of Münster. As a PhD candidate in Economics, she is interested in social policy issues related to basic income, homelessness, and care work.</p> | <p>Basic income and homelessness: improving the situation of the least advantaged?</p> <p>Basic income allegedly improves the situation of those who are worst-off in a given society. However, the scholarly debate mostly concentrates on the policy's effects on society as a whole, while taking it for granted that the marginalized will benefit from a basic income introduction. This article explores how a basic income could affect homeless people in Germany. To this end, I discuss the justifications of a basic income from the real-libertarian, the social-liberal, and the republican perspective, identifying homeless people in Germany as least advantaged in terms of opportunity, self-respect, and power. Holding the concept of basic income accountable to its ends, I present different scenarios on how a basic income introduction would affect homeless people in the case of Germany. The discussion emphasizes the relevance of the basic income amount considering its effectiveness in preventing and exiting homelessness. Moreover, a basic income in Germany faces severe administrative obstacles to improve the situation of homeless individuals in terms of income and depending on whether it is residence-based or citizenship-based. Besides, the stigma relieving effect of basic income and its promotion of autonomy could improve self-respect of most homeless individuals, while homeless minors and illegal foreigners would remain particularly vulnerable despite basic income. This research contributes to the literature in two ways. First, it enriches the discussion on basic income by providing detailed information on the policy's possible effects considering a specific marginalized group. Second, it connects the debates on basic income and homelessness, enriching the discussion on design options considering the modern welfare state.</p> |

Early registration requested from July 1st, 2023.

DEADLINE for registration:

September 3rd, 2023.