19th European Research Conference
18th and 19th September, 2025
Venue: Leeuwenbergh church and Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

18th SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

Morning hours	Site visits organized by HU
12h00 – 13h00	Registration at the venue Leeuwenbergh church
13h00 – 13h30	**Welcome and Introduction (Room: Aula of Leeuwenbergh church)** **Opening by Jules van Dam, President of FEANTSA** **Welcome by Dennis de Vries, alderman of Utrecht**
13h30 – 15h00	**Plenary Session I (Room: Aula of Leeuwenbergh church) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE** **Dorieke Wewerinke, NL: The Impact of ETHOS Counts in the Netherlands** *Dorieke Wewerinke, NL is a senior researcher at Research Group 'Housing and Welfare' of Utrecht University of Applied Sciences. Her research focuses on prevention of and solutions for homelessness, with specific expertise on Housing First, the ETHOS-definition, social integration and destigmatization. She leads the ETHOS counts of homelessness in the Netherlands.* **Lia van Doorn, NL: Ending Homelessness in the Netherlands?** *Lia van Doorn, NL is a professor and chair of the Research Group 'Housing and Welfare' of Utrecht University of Applied Sciences in Utrecht. She has over 30 years of experience in research focusing on homelessness. She conducted a PhD at University Utrecht on a longitudinal study of a cohort of homeless people in Utrecht (1993-2000).*
15h00 – 15h15	**Questions**
15h15 – 16h00	**Coffee break & walk to the seminar venues.** **Please note that Seminars x, x and x are in Leuwenbergh church, whereas Seminars x, x and x will take place in Centraal Museum. Both venues will offer coffee.** **PLEASE GET YOUR COFFEE AT THE PLACE WHERE YOUR SESSION WILL BE.**
16h00 – 17h30	**SEMINAR SESSION 1 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars**

Seminar 1: Women and Homelessness I (Room: X) - Chair: **Nicholas Pleace, UK**

Ana María Munizaga Acuña, Chile: Between Two Cities: A Comparative Study of the Living Conditions and Survival Strategies of Women experiencing homelessness in Santiago (Chile) and Barcelona (Spain) and the Public Policy Responses in Both Contexts

The presentation at the 19th European Research Conference is based on a study examining the living conditions of women experiencing homelessness in Santiago (Chile) and Barcelona (Spain). The study has two main objectives: first, to understand the survival strategies of these women, and second, to conduct a comparative review of the public policies targeting this population in both cities.
The theoretical framework of the study is grounded in the human rights approach, which recognizes women experiencing homelessness as full rights holders, emphasizing the importance of ensuring their dignity, security, and access to fundamental rights. The gender perspective is also incorporated to identify the specific issues affecting women, distinguishing them from other homeless groups. Additionally, theories of inequality will be applied to understand how social, economic, and political structures perpetuate their marginalization.

The analysis is approached from an intersectional perspective, identifying similarities and differences between women experiencing homelessness in both urban contexts and how the interaction of various factors contributes to their vulnerability. A comparative analysis of the policies and programs implemented in each city is also conducted, assessing advancements, best practices, and key lessons to improve public interventions.

The methodology includes semi-structured interviews with professionals working directly with this population and a comprehensive document review to contextualize the existing policies and strategies in both contexts.

This study is relevant for its integrated analysis, which deepens the understanding of the reality faced by women experiencing homelessness and their specific needs, offering a comprehensive view of the progress and challenges in public care for this population.

Ana María Munizaga Acuña holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, a Diploma in Poverty Reduction Strategies from Universidad de Chile, and a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Her expertise includes poverty, public policy, urban development, and homelessness. She presented research on the reconceptualization of homelessness using a radial categories methodology at the Second World Homelessness Conference, organized by the International Journal of Homelessness and the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness. She is also a senior consultant and researcher in social studies at the national level.

Cristina Lidon Moyano, Emiliano Navarro, Ignasi Oliveras, Isabel Morales, Ignacio Macpherson, Sonia Paz-Cantos, Pere Castellví, Consuelo León-Llorente, ES: Homelessness and Mental Health in Barcelona: A Gender Perspective Study

Background: In Spain, there has been little research on homelessness from a gender perspective. Therefore, the main objective of this project is to analyze the differentiated vulnerability of women living on the streets in Barcelona in terms of substance use and mental health.

Methods: A quantitative longitudinal study including a convenience sample of the homeless population in Barcelona (Spain), with preliminary data from 102 women and 215 men. Recruitment is taking place in shelters and reception centers. Structured surveys collect information using validated scales (anxiety and depression data are gathered using the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item scale (GAD-7) and the Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9)), as well as self-reported information to measure the study variables. Finally, the prevalence of primary variables, such as mental health disorders, will be calculated. All analyses will adjust for gender perspective.
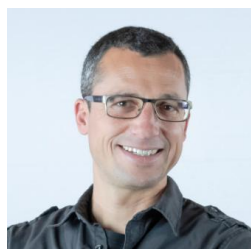
Results: Preliminary results show significant differences between men and women in homelessness regarding mental health. In terms of self-reported diagnoses, women generally show higher prevalence, with the most common being anxiety (38.2%), depression (36.3%), and post-traumatic stress (11.8%). Among men, the most frequently reported diagnoses are depression (16.3%), anxiety (13%), and addictions (6%). On the other hand, among those who did not report a depression diagnosis, 66.7% of women and 57.9% of men might show signs of depression according to the PHQ-9. Similarly, among those who did not report an anxiety diagnosis, 72.6% of women and 55% of men might show signs of anxiety according to the GAD-7.

Conclusions: The results of this project will increase the recognition and scientific evidence of the secondary effects of homelessness. We will be able to work on resources and social strategies tailored to the specific characteristics and needs of women living on the streets.

Keywords: Mental health, homelessness, gender

Dr. Cristina Lidón-Moyano is an adjunct professor at the International University of Catalonia, specializing in Epidemiology, Public Health, and Statistics. She holds a Ph.D. in Health Sciences, Epidemiology, and Public Health from the International University of Catalonia, with postdoctoral research at the University of California, Merced. With over 10 years of experience in epidemiology and public health, her research focuses on addiction, mental health, tobacco control, and screen exposure in children. She leads several doctoral theses and is currently studying the vulnerability of homeless women in terms of addiction and mental health.

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Pere Castelvi *holds a PhD in Psychology and a Master's degree in Public Health and Psychopathology. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC) and a researcher specialized in Mental Health Epidemiology, particularly in the promotion of emotional well-being and the prevention of suicide in population-based studies.*

Isabel Morales *holds a PhD in Humanities and is a professor in the Department of Humanities at UIC. Her area of specialization is Anthropology. In particular, she conducts research on critical readings of naturalism as a framework for understanding the human condition. Her research also focuses on the constitution and nature of habits, explored from both scientific and philosophical perspectives.*

Sonia de Paz Cantos *is a biologist, epidemiologist, and specialist in healthcare management. She is currently a doctoral researcher at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, focusing on the use of screens in the pediatric population. She is passionate about understanding how early interactions with screens can shape developmental trajectories in early childhood.*

Dr. Ignasi Oliveras *(ORCID: 0000-0002-3082-0355) holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. (Autonomous University of Barcelona) in Neuroscience, specializing in animal models of neurodevelopmental disorders. His research has delved into comprehensive investigations of behavioral, pharmacological, and genetic factors related to schizophrenia. Currently, he's working at the International University of Catalonia on a project investigating gender differences in individuals experiencing homelessness. The main objective of this project is to analyze the differentiated vulnerability of women experiencing homelessness in Barcelona in terms of health, mental health, addictions, and the use of healthcare and social resources.*

Emiliano Navarro *MSc, is a doctoral student at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, and he is passionate about how statistical analyses can guide decision-making in health.*

Consuelo de León *holds a PhD in Business Administration from UPC and is currently the Associate Academic Director of the Campus de la Experiencia at UIC. Her main research focuses on the development of public-private social policies related to the labor market, gender, vulnerable groups, and the social inclusion of adults.*

Ignacio Macpherson holds a PhD in Biology and Master's in Bioethics. He is a professor in the Faculty of Humanities at the International University of Catalonia (UIC) and a researcher in the field of patient vulnerability.

Seminar 2: Housing First I (Room: X) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE

Elisabetta Leni, FI: Examining Housing Trajectories and Service Use Patterns Among Homeless Individuals in Finland: The Impact of Housing First Interventions

This study analyzes the housing histories and service use patterns of approximately 1,000 homeless individuals in Finland, focusing on the impact of Housing First interventions. The analysis uses a dataset constructed by linking multiple administrative registers covering the period 2016-2021. The dataset includes individual-level information on primary and secondary healthcare, social security, social services, as well as residential history, demographics, household composition, and mental health diagnoses.

The primary objective is to examine housing trajectories and the use of social and health services before and after Housing First placement, taking into account individual risk factors and specific support needs. To assess the impact of Housing First, we compare two groups of individuals who experienced homelessness in 2018-2019: a target group consisting of those who immediately received Housing First support, and a comparison group consisting of individuals who remained homeless for over a year before being placed in housing. Using a quasi-experimental design, we estimate changes in service use by comparing the two years prior to Housing First placement (or waiting list placement) and the two years after placement. In addition, we apply sequence analysis to examine housing trajectories over the four-year period and identify common pathways into and out of homelessness. This will help uncover key factors that influence both the onset of homelessness and successful transitions to stable housing. Preliminary findings will highlight shifts in housing trajectories and changes in service use, particularly in emergency care, hospitalizations, and social services following Housing First placement. These findings contribute to the understanding of how Housing First influences service use and offer potential avenues for improving the homelessness response system. This study also serves as a foundation for future cost-offset evaluations.

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.

Sarah Johnsen, UK: Gaining and Preserving Pioneer Status: Key Lessons from the Housing First Pathfinder Programme in Scotland

Scotland has been heralded as an international pioneer in Housing First implementation given the level of political commitment the approach has commanded and pace at which the intervention has scaled up in recent years. This status was catalysed by a major three-year 'Pathfinder' programme which scaled up Housing First provision in five areas (Aberdeen/shire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Stirling) and housed 579 people experiencing homelessness with so-called 'complex needs' (e.g., co-occurring problematic substance use and/or mental health problems). The Pathfinder served as a litmus test regarding the opportunities and challenges associated with scaling up Housing First at pace.

This paper distils nine key lessons emerging from an independent evaluation of the Pathfinder which comprised interviews and focus groups involving more than 200 participants over the programme's duration, as well as analysis of monitoring data, and project-level financial returns. These lessons illuminate the Pathfinder's achievements and limitations, together with factors facilitating and inhibiting Housing First mobilisation and mainstreaming at local and national scales. These will inform future delivery as Housing First increasingly becomes the default response for

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individuals with complex needs as per recent Scottish Government policy directives. At least some, if not all, are likely to resonate in other countries aiming to embed and/or expand Housing First provision.

*Professor **Sarah Johnsen** is Director of the Centre for Homelessness and Inclusion Health at the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. She has been involved in research on homelessness and related forms of 'street culture' (e.g. begging and street drinking) for more than 20 years. Much of Sarah's most recent work has focused on the experiences of and policy responses for people experiencing homelessness who are concomitantly affected by substance use, poor mental health, and/or other associated forms of disadvantage.*

Seminar 3: Housing Programs I (Room: X) - Chair: **Maša Filipovič Hrast, SI**

Maarten Davelaar, Aly Gruppen, Dieke van Ewijk, NL: Supporting the Individual and the Community: Connecting People with Experience in Homelessness and Their Neighbours in Mixed Housing Projects

Mixed housing projects in the Netherlands are home to both socially excluded citizens and 'regular' tenants. Currently, approximately 90 of those projects provide independent living for former homeless people. Mixed housing, occasionally also called community living, refers to social housing projects (apartment buildings or small neighbourhoods) with mostly 30 to 150 residents. Other common characteristics are self-contained apartments, close cooperation between housing organisations and homeless services, the proximity of individual and community support, communal spaces and a focus on fostering friendly interactions (being good neighbours) between the tenants. This fast-growing field in the Netherlands can be labelled as a Housing First, or in some cases housing-led, approach combined with a community component. Recently (2021-2024) we conducted action and evaluative research on seven housing projects in the Utrecht agglomeration with on average 30% of all residents previously experiencing homelessness. This research, involving residents, practitioners, managers and policy makers, confirmed the outcomes of earlier research: most projects succeed in creating a supportive living environment, thus contributing to the social inclusion of former homeless persons. Yet, the new findings also underline the continuing challenges that homeless care providers and their staff face in trying to unlock for their clients the potential benefits of living in social mix housing projects. In order to strengthen a sense of community in these heterogeneous housing communities, individual support workers must encourage neighbourly contact. Beside this, they must help residents tackle misunderstandings, tensions and differences in expectations, address (self)stigma and help the broader community discover its assets. Many support workers struggle with the new tasks, roles and required skills that come with the shift from individual guidance to supporting the individual in the community. For homelessness services it also requires new ways of funding, accountability and cooperation with housing and community development professionals and organisations.

***Maarten Davelaar** is a senior-researcher at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, research group Housing and Wellbeing. His focus includes housing, homelessness, community development and homemaking. He writes a dissertation on mixed housing at the University of Amsterdam.*

***Aly Gruppen** is a Social Work lecturer and senior-researcher on Housing and Wellbeing at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. She is an expert on the role of practitioners in mixed housing projects.*

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Dieke van Ewijk is researcher at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht and holds a MSc in Urbanism (Delft University of Technology) and a MSW in Community Development. Her fields of interest include the impact of the built environment on social interaction, community building and innovative housing concepts.

Henrique Joaquim, Pedro Martins, Fábio Simão, PT: Evaluating the Impact of "Shared Apartments" as an innovative Housing Response for Homelessness People in Portugal

This study assesses the impact of the "Shared Apartments" housing response within the framework of Portugal's National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People (ENIPSSA). This is a Housing-based intervention, for 2 to 5 people, with psychosocial support through a person-centered approach.

This project conducted with data from the Algarve region refers to the period between 2021-2025, involving a total of 388 homeless individuals, of whom 224 are part of the treatment group. The analysis measures the program's effectiveness in promoting social reintegration and long-term autonomy.
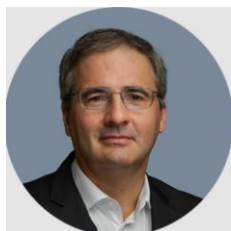
The evaluation employs a quasi-experimental design, using Propensity Score Matching and duration methods, to compare outcomes between participants who accessed "Shared Apartments" and eligible individuals who did not due to limited "Shared Apartments" availability. The key impact indicators analyzed include the probability of overcoming homelessness, the sustainability of housing retention after six months and after one year, and improvements in employment and income levels. Furthermore, the study examines secondary the impact of indicators such as mental health addictive behaviors and social integration, which are critical factors for a successful and lasting reintegration. Preliminary findings appear to indicate a positive, counterfactual effect of the intervention on exits from homelessness and maintaining stable housing. In this context, "Shared Apartments" may offer a more cost-effective solution that fosters social interaction and peer support, albeit with potential challenges related to privacy and compatibility among residents.

These preliminary findings may underscore the importance of sustained social support, personalized intervention plans, and cross-sector collaboration to enhance program scalability and long-term success. The insights gained and the evaluation methodology provide a foundation for replicating and adapting the "Shared Apartments" model and its evaluation across different regions of Portugal and perhaps internationally, contributing to evidence-based policy development in the field of homelessness trough a housing-led approach. Continued data collection and follow-up will refine these findings, supporting continuous improvement and strategic decision-making.

Henrique Joaquim – Social Worker, Social Work PhD (Universidade Católica Portuguesa), National Coordinator of the National Strategy for Homeless People, Portugal - training in Impact Assessment of Public Policies – Un. Nova SBE; and training at the "Insead Social Entrepreneurship Programme" (INSEAD) – Instituto de Empreendedorismo Social.

Pedro Martins is full Professor at Nova School of Business and Economics. Director, Economics for Policy Knowledge Center. PhD in economics from the University of Warwick (2005). Lecturer and Professor at Queen Mary University of London (2004-21). Secretary of State for Employment in the Government of Portugal (2011-13): responsible for reforms in employment protection legislation, active labour market policies, the public employment service, and tripartite dialogue. Member of the group of experts advising the Government of Greece and the European Commission on labour market reforms (2016). Current research: collective bargaining, training, and employment services. Scientific Director, Economics for Policy Knowledge Center, Nova SBE (https://economicsforpolicy.novasbe.pt/) and Co-Director, Executive Leadership in Public Administration.

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Fábio Simão – *Lawyer, Executive Director of MAPS the NGO responsible for implementing this intervention, Portugal.*

Seminar 4: Policy Design (Room: X) - Chair: **Mike Allen, IE**

Marta B. Borges, Ines Amaro, Alexandra Camilo, PT: The Social Risk Assessment Scale: A Tool for Identifying and Responding to Social Emergencies

This paper presents the Social Risk Assessment Scale, developed by the Portuguese National Emergency Hotline (LNES), as an essential tool for professionals to assess the level of risk in social emergency situations. In the context of social intervention and crisis management, this action-research project examines the theoretical basis, methodology and practical application of the scale in assessing vulnerability and guiding immediate response strategies.

Using a structured scoring process, the scale categorizes levels of risk based on factors such as individual, housing, socio-family, institutional and economic contexts. This research examines the challenges of implementing the scale and the benefits of standardised risk assessment in ensuring effective social protection interventions.

By integrating real-time risk classification into emergency response systems, this study highlights the role of the scale in informing decision-making processes and informing public policies aimed at reducing social vulnerability. The findings underscore the importance of evidence-based tools in strengthening crisis intervention frameworks and improving the coordination of social services.

Marta Borges - *Social Worker, Master in Communication Sciences, Organisations and New Technologies, Doctoral Candidate in Social Work at ISCTE, IUL, member of the Board of the Association of Social Workers and member of the Portuguese Society of Psychosomatics. She has experience in the field of addictive behaviours and dependencies since 1999, working in the areas of treatment, deterrence and harm reduction. Coordinator of the DICAD/ARSLVT Regional Harm Reduction Team between 2012 and 2020. Currently coordinator of the ISS,IP Social Emergency Centre with responsibility for the National Social Emergency Line. Research interests: social work, harm reduction and trauma.*

Research Team from the Portuguese Social Security Institute(ISS,IP):
Maria Inês Amaro - *Social Worker, Director of the Social Development Department*
Alexandra Camilo - Psychologist, Social Emergency Unit;
Ana Moreira - Psychologist, Social Emergency Unit - Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Renata Matos – Social Worker, Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Maria Gonçalves - Social Worker, Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Irene Capinha - Social Worker, Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Teresa Guerreiro - Social Worker, Portuguese National Emergency Hotline;
Dulce Lamas - Psychologist, Social Emergency Unit - Portuguese National Emergency Hotline

Michelle Binfield, Luke Arundel, Guillermo Rodriguez-Guzman and Graeme Gardner, UK: The UK's Test & Learn & Systems-Wide programme: Using evidence to accelerate an end to homelessness

We know that homelessness is a systemic issue, with both individual and structural factors. Individual factors include relationship breakdown, trauma, mental ill health, and substance use, while structural factors, experiences of poverty, financial insecurity linked to unemployment and the operation of the benefits system, housing supply and affordability, asylum and migration, and the impact of time spent in public institutions such as prison or the care system.

Despite recognition of the interrelated nature of these challenges, it is often difficult to address them at a systemic level, which requires a multi-faceted approach, involving collaboration between central, regional and local government, homelessness charities, landlords, and a wide range of other stakeholders. In many cases, we also lack evidence on the impact of many of our actions, including the potential for some interventions to be less effective than we anticipate or even cause harm. This limits our ability to focus limited resources where they matter the most.

Investments in understanding what works - particularly using scientific methods like randomised controlled trials - revolutionised the types of care people receive and the outcomes they experience. Systems-sensitive approaches offer a valuable complement, helping to identify opportunities for systems-wide change.

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In this presentation, we will introduce and share reflections on the Test & Learn & Systems-wide evaluation programme, the first of its kind in homelessness. The programme to, commissioned by the UK government and delivered by a consortium led by the Centre for Homelessness Impact, is setting up new services and robustly evaluating them using randomised controlled trials (T&L); and employing a wide range of methods to identify opportunities for systems-wide change (SW).

Michelle Binfield oversees the delivery of the Test and Learn and Systems-Wide Evaluation programme, and on our implementation work with local areas to support insights from evidence being put into practice. She has been involved in homelessness and rough sleeping for over 30 years as a provider, a commissioner, and a strategic lead. She has worked in central government, local government, and regional government.

Luke Arundel is Evidence and Data Lead at the Centre, where he leads multiple research projects including several of the Test & Learn evaluations. His focus is on impact evaluation, having worked on multiple randomised controlled trials and quasi-experimental designs in homelessness and higher education.

Seminar 5: Women and Homelessness II (Room: X) - Chair: Nóra Teller, HU

García-Cid Alba, Itziar Gandarias, Paula Torres, ES: From Residential Spaces to Safe Housing: An Analysis of Low-Threshold Accommodation Models for Women in Situations of Social Exclusion

Access to housing is a universal right and a crucial element in ensuring dignity and autonomy. However, for women in situations of social exclusion—particularly those affected by homelessness, gender-based violence, addiction, and mental health issues—traditional residential care models often impose restrictive conditions, limiting privacy and autonomy while reinforcing stigma. This research examines the implementation of low-threshold accommodation services for women promoted by the Inclusion Service of the Bizkaia Provincial Council. Specifically, it analyzes the experiences of four entities in the city of Bilbao (Spain) that have carried out a one-year pilot program.

Using a qualitative approach, the data was collected through semi-structured interviews with women residing in these accommodations, as well as focus groups with professionals from the social sector. This methodological design ensures a comprehensive understanding of how low-threshold housing services address women's needs and perceptions of safety and protection.

The study seeks to identify key differentiating elements between low-threshold housing models and conventional residential care. Furthermore, it examines women's perceptions of safe and protective spaces, emphasizing the importance of housing as a starting point—rather than a final objective—in their recovery process. This approach challenges patriarchal frameworks that dictate residential integration through high-intensity intervention models, advocating instead for flexible, community-based solutions that foster empowerment, harm reduction, and security.

By addressing structural barriers to safe housing access, this research contributes to a broader reflection on the adequacy of existing residential services and the need for alternative models tailored to women's diverse needs. The findings will inform policymakers and social service providers on improving accommodation programs, ultimately promoting autonomy and long-term social inclusion for women in vulnerable situations.

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Itziar Gandarias and *Alba García-Cid (photo)*, PhD in Social Psychology, are both Associate Professors at the University of Deusto. They specialize in homelessness, gender, and social exclusion, doing research on hidden homelessness, gendered violence, and feminist perspectives in social intervention.

Paula Torres is a research technician at the team, specialized in social intervention.
The authors are part of the project From Residential Spaces to Safe Housing. Also, they are doing research in the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence through the Theory and Practice of Feminist Self-Defense project, among others national and international studies on vulnerable populations and community intervention.
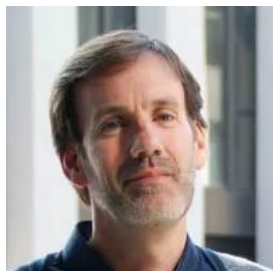
Raluca Budian, Ignasi Martin, ES: Sub-letting and Trapped: On the Lived Experience of Women Sharing Accommodations

Our research aims to provide a critical examination of how housing insecurity and processes of home unmaking can intensify existing structural vulnerabilities. This builds and adds to recent work that sees vulnerability as a structural condition rather than some sort of inherent fragility. To explore these issues, we adopt a social-symbolic perspective (Lawrence and Phillips, 2019), to examine the lived experience of women within the homes they inhabit along three dimensions, namely, the discursive, material, and relational dimensions. To empirically study this, we draw on our analysis of 50 life-stories of women sub-letting rooms in the Barcelona Province, in Spain. Like in many other countries globally, the number of people living in shared accommodation is on the rise in Spain. While sharing may be seen as cool and emancipatory when chosen, those who end up sub-letting and sharing accommodation because they have no other option, have far more negative experiences. Often, they feel their capacity to shape their lives has been taken from them. They feel trapped in a place that is experienced not as a site of refuge or sanctuary, but as a place of insecurity and fear.

This study offers a human and intimate perspective on a phenomenon that, although often invisible, defines the realities of thousands of women facing economic and social vulnerability. In a world where affordable housing remains an ever-growing challenge, many women are forced to share spaces through sub-letting arrangements. These experiences not only impact their access to a dignified home but also highlight complex dynamics: gender inequality, job insecurity, and the tension between personal autonomy and economic dependency. Therefore, this research serves as an invitation to rethink the role of social housing, not merely as shelter, but as a space for dignity, safety, and empowerment.

Raluca Cosmina Budian is Associate Director and Researcher at the Decent Housing Observatory Postdoctoral Researcher at the Esade Institute for Social Innovation. Her research focuses on social anthropology, housing policies, homelessness, and vulnerability. She has conducted ethnographic studies on migrant and homeless populations, analyzing the barriers to accessing housing and the impact of administrative and social conditions on their trajectories. Her research also includes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and marginalized communities, the situation of Roma populations, and participatory methodologies in international cooperation. Her expertise includes qualitative research methodologies (life histories, ethnographic interviews, NVivo analysis) and applied social research, with a particular interest in how structural inequalities affect access to housing and urban inclusionAssociate Director and Researcher at the Decent Housing Observatory Postdoctoral Researcher at the Esade Institute for Social Innovation.

Ignasi Martí Lanuza is Professor in the Department of Social Sciences, Director of the Institute for Social Innovation and Director of the Decent Housing Observatory at Esade. He has extensive interdisciplinary experience, including, for example, publications in organization studies sociology, gender studies and applied ethics on how individuals with limited resources collective mobilized to fight exclusion, with a recent focus on housing precariousness. His expertise lies in qualitative projects, ranging from in-depth qualitative case (in contexts like rural Bangladesh and India), and ethnographic studies (in villas in Argentina and in neighborhoods in the Barcelona province). Beyond this, he has also worked with and advised policy makers (at regional and municipal level) and Third Sector Organizations.

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European Observatory on Homelessness

HU UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

Seminar 6: Clusters and Groups of People Experiencing Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: **Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

Paula Mayock, Pathie Maphosa, IE: The Changing Landscape of Youth Homelessness: An Analysis of Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) Data, 2023, in Ireland

Youth homelessness is a growing problem in countries across Europe and one strongly associated with young people's exclusion from housing markets. Understanding the profile and characteristics of young people who experience homelessness is clearly important for the development policies, strategies and interventions that target youth who have vulnerabilities and who may require specific supports to ensure a speedy exit from homelessness. This paper analyses data from the Pathways, Accommodation and Support System (PASS), which is an administrative database operated by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE). PASS is used across all thirty-one local authorities in Ireland and by state-funded homelessness services to facilitate the monitoring and measurement of the homeless population in each region using key national performance indicators. Based on an analysis of PASS data, we present a profile of youth, aged 18-24 years, who accessed emergency homelessness accommodation in the Dublin region in 2023, focusing on gender, citizenship, household type, new entries to the homeless service system and reasons for homelessness. The analysis reveals greater diversity than previously recognized in the characteristics of young people accessing emergency accommodation (EA), particularly in relation to gender, citizenship and the profile of youth accessing EA as singles versus as a family unit. Notably, young women are strongly represented in the total youth homeless population, although gender disparities are evident among different cohorts of young people. Migrant youth account for a significant proportion of the total number experiencing homelessness, with youth with Irish citizenship only marginally outnumbering those holding EU(EEA) and non-EU citizenship. We compare this profile of young people experiencing homelessness in Ireland with available data in Belgium and Denmark, and ask: To what extent is the landscape of youth homelessness shifting? We conclude by considering implications for policy and service responses to youth 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 to the international journal Addiction.*

Pathie Maphosa *is the Head of Research at the Dublin Region Homeless Executive. Her main work focus is working with data on homeless service use in the Dublin region. Pathie's previous research work includes Homelessness and the Housing Needs Assessment reports for Dublin; and research on new families entering homelessness in the Dublin region, 2020-2023.*

Gloria Puchol-Ros, Juan Mauel Rodilla, Sol Balsells-Mejía, ES: Identifying Subgroups in the Homeless Population: A Cluster Analysis of Individuals in Transitional Housing in Valencia

This study explores individual differences among homeless individuals (N = 451) who received support from a transitional housing service in Valencia, Spain, between 2018 and 2023. Using a multi-dimensional approach, a cluster analysis using k-modes identified seven distinct subgroups within the sample: (1) young individuals with an irregular administrative status and no support networks; (2) individuals lacking support networks; (3) individuals with chronic physical conditions; (4) individuals struggling with addictions and without support networks; (5) individuals with an irregular administrative status but with support networks; (6) individuals facing both physical conditions and addictions; and (7) individuals without major risk factors.
To better understand these groups, the study examines differences in housing access rates following their stay in the transitional housing program, identifying key challenges in securing stable housing. Results indicate that an irregular

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administrative status represents the most significant barrier to housing, while addictions considerably increase the likelihood of returning to homelessness. The presence of these subgroups highlights the necessity of designing targeted interventions that address specific obstacles to housing and employment, alongside tailored social and health programs. Additionally, as 94% of the participants were men due to the non-mixed nature of the housing services analyzed, the findings are not fully representative of the broader homeless population in Valencia. Given that homeless women experience distinct challenges and life trajectories, future research should integrate a gender perspective to gain deeper insights into their needs.

Gloria Puchol-Ros holds a degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Development Cooperation from the Polytechnic University of Valencia. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Sciences at the University of Valencia and is also the Research Department Coordinator at Sant Joan de Déu Valencia (Spain). In recent years, her research has primarily focused on evaluating the effectiveness of interventions for homeless individuals through longitudinal studies. She has explored this complex issue through various theoretical frameworks, including the capability approach and emerging theories on homelessness. Her work aims to find innovative ways to address homelessness and inform evidence-based practices.

Juan Manuel Rodilla-Navarro is an Industrial Engineer, holds a PhD in Social Sciences, and has a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University. He works as the Director of Social Intervention and Innovation at Sant Joan de Déu Valencia and as an associate professor at the Polytechnic University of Valencia. His research focuses on the application of monitoring and evaluation structures to improve the effectiveness of care mechanisms for vulnerable populations. He has a decade of experience coordinating development, social, and humanitarian projects in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America with organizations such as Sant Joan de Déu, Doctors Without Borders, and the United Nations.

Sol Balsells-Mejía holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physics and a Master Degree in Data Science from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. He is a statistics specialist working at Fundació de Reserca, Sant Joan de Déu.

17h30 – 18h45	**Poster session (Room: AULA of Leeuwenbergh church)** **For the poster presentations, please scroll down.**
19h00	**DINNER - Venue: Leeuwenbergh church**

19th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

9h00 – 9h30	**Coffee** **Please note that Seminars x, x and x are in Leuwenbergh church, whereas Seminars x, x and x will take place in Centraal Museum. Both venues will offer coffee.**
9h00 – 9h30	**Poster Session (Room: Aula Leeuwenbergh church)** **For bios and abstracts of the poster presenters, please scroll down.**
9h30 – 10h50	**SEMINAR SESSION 2 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars**

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Seminar 7: Measurement Methods I (Room: X) - Chair: **Nóra Teller, HU**

Volker Busch-Geertsema and Marie-Therese Haj Ahmad, DE: Aligning an EU-wide Data Collection on Homelessness with Existing National Data Collection Systems

The aim of the project "European Homelessness Counts", commissioned by the European Commission, is to develop a common methodology of data collection on homelessness in the European Union. While this is necessary in order to verify whether the measures implemented to tackle homelessness in the EU are effective, this project nevertheless faces several challenges. One of them is to align an EU-wide data collection with already existing data collection systems on a national level.

In several member states there is a well-established, even legally implemented, national data collection in place, such as in Denmark or Germany. Since 2022 all municipalities in Germany are obliged by law to report the number of PEH in shelters and any form of temporary accommodation for PEH (ETHOS Light 2 & 3) on 31st of January each year. Additionally, the national government is committed to report on PEH sleeping rough (ETHOS Light 1) and PEH in so-called 'hidden homelessness' (ETHOS Light 6) every second year. Following the German debates and struggles for such a data collection, this law is a great achievement at national level, and it can be assumed that there is no 'way back'. This raises the question of how to Europeanize data collections on homelessness, so that neither additional data collections need to be conducted in these countries nor a methodology from a specific national context is transferred to other Member States.

Based on theoretical considerations on Europeanization in the field of Social Policy, on learnings from the project "European Homelessness Counts" as well as from other processes of harmonizing data collection within the EU, we suggest developing an understanding of 'common methodology' that goes beyond implementing the same method in every Member State. Rather, we propose establishing a methodological framework that takes into account the different local/national contexts.

***Prof. Dr. Volker Busch-Geertsema** has studied social sciences at the University of Bremen and is a senior research fellow and board member at the Association for Innovative Social Research and Social Planning (GISS, Bremen, Germany). Since 2015 he is an honorary Professor at Heriot Watt University Edinburgh. He has been a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness since 1995 and since 2009 he is the Coordinator of the Observatory and member of the editorial team of the European Journal of Homelessness. He has conducted a number of extensive research projects on different aspects of homelessness in Germany, Europe and further abroad.*

***Marie-Therese Haj Ahmad** is research assistant at the Society of Innovative Social Research and Social Planning (GISS) in Bremen, Germany. Her research focuses primarily on (tackling) homelessness and the intersection of homelessness and migration. As a social worker she worked several years with people experiencing homelessness. In her ethnographic PhD research she analysed homelessness of mobile EU citizens in Germany in the light of critical migration studies.*

Evelien Demaerschalk, Nana Mertens, Koen Hermans, Nóra Teller, BE/HU: The European Homelessness Count

The "European Homelessness Count" project commissioned by the European Commission aims to develop a uniform methodology for city-level homelessness counts. During the first year of the project a modular approach to data collection was developed, and tested across 15 European cities of varying size and service density in 10 countries, allowing cities to choose from three strategies: Basic Count (headcounts and administrative data), Elaborate Count (survey-based data collection), and Comprehensive Count (extended service-based approach). This flexibility ensures local adaptation while maintaining methodological rigor and comparability. In 2025, the methodology will be tested in 35 cities in 21 member states.

In this presentation, we present the main figures from the 15 counts in 2025. The figures reveal significant variations in homelessness prevalence and characteristics across cities. Rough sleeping is highly visible in some areas, while in others, homelessness is more concealed. In the second part of the presentation we present the main lessons learned about developing and implementing a common point in time methodology.

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Evelien Demaerschalk *is a researcher at LUCAS, Center for Care Research and Consultancy. Her work focuses on the care and support for vulnerable and underserved populations in society. Currently she is involved in the development and organization of local and regional homelessness counts in Belgium and Europe.*

Nana Mertens *is a 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 organization of local and regional homelessness counts in Belgium and Europe.*

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 disability 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 organization of local and regional homelessness counts.*

Nóra Teller *(PhD, Sociology) works at the Metropolitan Research Institute. She is member of the European Observatory on Homelessness and has co-edited the European Journal of Homelessness for 16 years. She has 24 years of research and consultancy experience in social inclusion and housing inclusion measures, homelessness research, and housing desegregation in the urban and rural context.*

Seminar 8: Health and Homelessness II (Room: X) - Chair: **Freek Spinnewijn, BE**

Michelle Cornes, Joanne Coombes, UK: Ending Discharge to the Street After Hospital - What Works?

Background
In England, older people receive step-down intermediate care after a stay in hospital. This provides short-term support for up to six weeks to help people recover and regain their independence. Between 2021-2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) tested different 'housing-led' models of intermediate care for people experiencing homelessness. This programme provided £16 million funding to 17 test sites. The aim was to facilitate learning around how to mobilise and sustain specialist out-of-hospital care. In this presentation, we focus on the different models that were tested and what works from the perspective of people experiencing homelessness.
Methods
The evaluation was mixed methods. Standardised data was collected from services across the 17 test sites. Metrics included patient demographics, process outcomes (e.g., the flow of individuals in and out of care services, staff composition, workload, and more), economic outcomes concerning the NHS and broader public sector budgets and investment costs. Quality of life outcomes, housing outcomes and care experiences were captured for 907 people. Informed by the data, 3 'positive practice' sites were selected for in-depth qualitative study using appreciative inquiry. This involved 30 interviews with people experiencing homelessness and 30 stakeholders including frontline practitioners and commissioners of services.
Findings
The evaluation demonstrated the considerable benefits of providing specialist intermediate care. Step-down improved outcomes for most people and significantly reduced the numbers being discharged to the street. As compared to the larger more institutionalised models, smaller step-down houses providing homely accommodation for 5-6 'guests'

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with onsite support was the preferred model. The main implementation challenge was 'silting-up' due to the lack of move on accommodation. Sustainability was also an issue - longer-term funding was targeted at older people's intermediate care and there was a failure to address health inequalities and homelessness as part of routine transformation work to improve hospital discharge.

Michelle Cornes *is Professor of Health and Social Policy Inequalities at the University of Salford and Visiting Professorial Fellow at King's College London.*

Joanne Coombes *is a Lived Experience Peer Researcher at King's College London. Michelle and Jo have worked together on a range of homelessness research projects for over ten years. Michelle met Jo when she was discharged to the street after a three month stay in hospital and they have been working to end discharge to the street ever since.*

Jess Harris, UK: 'Mental Capacity' Assessments: Opening or Slamming the Door on Support for People Experiencing Homelessness?

People experiencing long term and repeat homelessness often experience multiple disadvantage, including mental ill health and substance use/addiction. This is associated with self-neglect and high risks of harm, alongside mistrust and at times 'refusal' of services. Cognitive impairments are also more prevalent in this population. These factors underline the complexity but necessity of understanding an individual's ability - their 'mental capacity' - to make decisions about accommodation, health treatment or social care, in order to better understand their individual support needs. In England and Wales, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides the assessment framework, with equivalents across the UK and Europe. However, reviews of homelessness deaths raise concerns about practitioner approaches to assessments. A 2023-2026 mixed-methods study is exploring assessment practice, what 'good' looks like and barriers to good practice in England. It includes evidence reviews, a national survey of practitioners, and interviews with national practice leads, practitioners and people experiencing homelessness. Lived experience advisors have contributed to all stages. The study has evidenced national concern about practitioner attitudes, and practice challenges including assessments lacking multidisciplinary input and knowledge of this population. The presumption, not assessment, of 'capacity' may be used to deny support. Other contextual pressures include resource constraints, which may influence assessments where services are not available to respond to any finding of 'incapacity'. Facets of good practice and areas where clarity is required have been identified. Emerging findings have informed the co-production of a specialist assessment tool, being piloted summer 2025. This evidence has implications for wider debates, beyond mental capacity. It is hoped that people experiencing homelessness will benefit from improved consideration of their individual circumstances, and responses which include both empowerment and also support and safeguarding.

Jess Harris *is a Research Fellow at the Health & Social Care Workforce Research Unit (HSCWRU) at King's College London, and co-leads HSCWRU's Homelessness Research Programme. The HSCWRU* [webinar series](#) *on homelessness research and practice is open to all.*

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Seminar 9: Housing Programs I (Room: X) - Chair: Maša Filipovič Hrast, SI

Ivana Siglova, CZ: Medium-term effects of the Housing first intervention for families with children in Brno, Czech Republic

In 2017-18, the Rapid Re-Housing project offered housing in urban rental apartments to 50 homeless families in Brno. The project included a counterfactual evaluation (RCT) of impacts of the intervention on housing stability, health and social inclusion of the families; results at 6 and 12 months after 'settling in' showed higher odds of housing security, lower levels of psychosocial stress, lower use of emergency health services or lower levels of children institutionalisation compared to the control group. In contrast, intervention did not show impact on financial stability in the short term, nor did it show improvements in children's school attendance or performance.

Follow-up research in 2022-2023 evaluated with the same design impacts of the same intervention after five years. The RCT protocol remained unchanged with the researchers adding more extensive administrative data collection to the survey data, which was used mainly for cost-benefit analysis. The questionnaire survey is conducted using the CAPI method. In the presentation, we want to show and compare results of both evaluations - after 12 months and after 5 years, share our experience with the development of the research instrument and data collection, the mid-term tracking of respondents and present outcomes which the evaluations had on thedevelopment of Housing First programmes in the Czech Republic.

Ivana Siglová is coordinator of Housing First programmes support in Platform for Social Housing in the Czech Republic. In 2022 – 2023 she was a researcher and coordinator of Rapid Re-Housing project evaluation after 5 years from intervention. Before that she worked for governmental Agency for Social Inclusion on evaluations of local strategic plans for social inclusion made by Czech municipalities and she was also part of the team of the ESF project aiming at employment of long term unemployed people. She studied Political Sciences at the University of Economics in Prague.

Ciara Morley, IE: Approved Housing Bodies as Landlords to People Moving Out of Homelessness

The Housing First model has positively impacted long-term homelessness in Ireland and has proven itself to be the model of choice when supporting people with long histories of homelessness and street-based sleeping. In Ireland, Housing First nominations are typically allocated a home in local authority owned/leased social housing, or in properties owned or managed by an NGO Housing First service provider. As a result of chronic housing supply issues, third-party Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) have taken on a greater role with respect to the Housing First model. Despite extensive research on the Housing First model, there is little documentation of the issues arising for third-party AHB landlords in this sector, and different legal and regulatory jurisdictions hamper the ability to make comparisons with what little international evidence does exist. The purpose of this study, therefore, is to identify the challenges and opportunities that exist for third-party AHBs in supporting tenancies for individuals in receipt of Housing First. A mixed-method approach is used, with stakeholder consultations forming the primary analysis. Seven of the largest third-party AHBs; four local authorities; and one NGO Housing First service provider made contributions to the analysis. A SCOT analysis was then used to isolate key strengths, challenges and opportunities for third-party AHBs as landlords to Housing First tenants, as well as identifying broader threats to the overall roll-out of the Housing First model in Ireland. The analysis highlighs key areas, like communication and collaberation, that need to be addressed in order to entice greater numbers of third-party AHBs to engage with the Housing First model.

Morley, Ph.D. is Founder and Director of Morley Economic Consulting Ltd., with over 15 years' experience working across the private and public sector in Ireland. Ciara has held a range of positions from Lecturer withCiara Maynooth University, TU Dublin, and currently with ICD Business School, to Researcher with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Economist with EY. Over the years, Ciara has developed a keen interest in undertaking research for organisations that support vulnerable individuals and families in Irish society, and research has focused, in particular, on the Irish housing market, affordability, and homelessness.

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Seminar 10: Family Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: **Nicholas Pleace, UK**

Susana Batle Cladera, Núria Martínez Company, Jezabel Cartoixà Garcia, ES: Families Facing Residential Exclusion: A Case Study at Es Convent Residential Center (FSJD), Mallorca

Family homelessness is a growing social issue in Spain. The difficulties in accessing housing, particularly in areas strained by tourism, gentrification, migration, and real estate speculation, undermine rights beyond just housing, affecting health, education, and employment. Despite the increase in these cases, the profiles and needs of these families remain poorly understood due to their invisibility within categories C and D of residential exclusion according to ETHOS. In particular, the voices of children and adolescents are underrepresented in scientific literature, which limits the development of policies and programs that adequately address their processes of exclusion and inclusion. This study outlines the results of a mixed-methods case study conducted at Es Convent residential center of the Sant Joan de Déu Foundation in Palma de Mallorca, a leading center in the field. Its aim is to analyze the profiles of these families and their needs to improve personalized care and encourage similar studies in other regions. To achieve this, five years of reports (2018-2022) were reviewed, semi-structured interviews were conducted with adult representatives from 12 family units (biparental, single-parent, and migrant), and a group walking interview was held with six children and adolescents.

The results reveal the housing trajectories of these families and the specific challenges faced by each profile as triggers for homelessness. They also highlight the importance of residential infrastructure and child well-being as key elements in family stability. Finally, the study identifies children's needs that often go unnoticed in support processes, impacting their bio-psycho-social health. This research underscores the urgent need to make family homelessness visible and amplify the voices of children and adolescents, preventing their reality from being interpreted solely through the lens of the adults in charge. Its findings are crucial for designing public policies and interventions that prioritize their well-being in contexts of residential exclusion.

Susana Batle Cladera is an applied social researcher specializing in the analysis of professional practice, social exclusion, and homelessness. She holds a PhD in Social Work from the University of Barcelona and has worked on the evaluation of programs such as Primer la Llar (Housing First) in Barcelona. Her work focuses on evaluating and redesigning social intervention projects to improve support for people in vulnerable situations. She has collaborated with multiple organizations on social inclusion projects. She has published research on intervention methodologies and received the Housing First Early Career Researcher Award in recognition of her work. She is a professor of social policies (Social Services) at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). Currently, she is a partner at OLMA, a consulting firm specialized in applied social research and public policy evaluation.

Núria Martínez Company is a social project technician specializing in childhood, adolescence, and the supervision of social care teams. With extensive experience in socio-educational intervention, she has worked on preventing gender-based violence, protecting children, and supporting young people in vulnerable situations. She is a member of OLMA.COOP, where she coordinates human resources and supervises teams in the social sector. She has led awareness and training projects focused on working with minors, particularly highlighting her work in gender equality and child protection spaces. Her efforts are centered on transforming care models from a rights-based and equity perspective.

Jezabel Cartoixà Garcia is a sociologist and holds a PhD in Education and Society from the University of Barcelona. She specializes in applied social research and has worked on the analysis and evaluation of residential inclusion programs such as Housing First. Currently, she is a professor and researcher at the University of Barcelona and a member of the Social Work Research Group (GRITS). Her work focuses on homelessness, public policies, and participatory methodologies. She has collaborated on European projects related to social intervention and actively participates in publications and scientific conferences. Currently, she is a partner at OLMA, a consulting firm specialized in applied social research and public policy evaluation.

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Michel Vols, NL: Evictions and Child Homelessness in the Netherlands: A Quantitative Court Case Study

Recent research by ETHOS indicates that nearly 20 percent of homeless individuals in the Netherlands are under the age of 18. This alarming statistic contrasts sharply with the country's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which mandates that the Dutch government must take all necessary measures to prevent child homelessness. This obligation extends to the judiciary, which has a vital role in preventing evictions—one of the primary causes of homelessness. In eviction cases, the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration for the judge. In 2025, the Dutch Supreme Court is expected to clarify the extent of this obligation.

This paper seeks to examine how courts address the obligation to consider the interests of children in cases where there is a risk of homelessness. It utilises a data science approach to analyse a unique quantitative database comprising over 6,000 Dutch court cases related to eviction. The paper investigates the role minors play in these court cases, whether and how their interests are assessed by the courts, whether the presence of a minor influences the court's decision, and how the risk of homelessness affects this decision. The findings will reveal that the protection against homelessness for minors varies significantly across different courts. Additionally, the paper will offer concrete recommendations for policies that courts could implement to enhance protection for minors at risk of homelessness.

Prof. Dr. Michel Vols is a professor of law at the University of Groningen, specialising in housing and legal methodology. He leads the EVICT project, funded by an ERC Starting Grant, which explores how legal systems handle evictions and their effects on vulnerable populations. His work combines legal analysis with data science to identify patterns in eviction cases. Previously, he received a VENI grant for research on tenant protection. Vols is a visiting professor at the University of Southampton. He co-chairs the Housing Law Research Network and is the editor of Studies in Housing Law.

Seminar 11: Trajectories (Room: X) - Chair: **Eoin O'Sullivan, IE**

Philipp Schnell, Judith Schnelzer, AT: Pathways of Homelessness, Housing Transitions, and the Role of Social Services for Mediating Long-Term Housing Solutions

A longstanding research tradition has worked to understand how triggers of homelessness, housing conditions, and personal life-events interact to shape individual pathways of homelessness. However, analyses of long-term pathways into, through and out of homelessness into stable housing, including the succession of different forms of housing during phases of homelessness, seem scarce. Addressing these shortcomings, we researched transitions into homelessness, pathways through phases of homelessness and possible exits into stable housing, through an ex-post qualitative research design. We conducted 20 biographical interviews with persons who have experienced homelessness during their lifetime and are currently living in Vienna. Based on five causal dimensions of homelessness, we analyzed perspectives on transitions between different forms of housing (according to Ethos Light), personal pathways of homelessness and the cooperation with social services in stabilizing housing conditions.

From our results we identified different patterns of pathways of homelessness mirrored in a succession of different forms of housing. We traced pathways of persons who experienced homelessness as transitional, episodic or chronic phenomena. The groups differed in their use of services, the interplay of causal dimensions of homelessness, and their ability to combine scarce resources, influencing transitions into permanent housing. Also, they differed in the type and extent of institutional assistance required and the combination of services necessary to enable these transitions. Finally, we drafted a typology of possible pathways of homelessness leading to permanent housing solutions based on the causal dimensions of homelessness, individual triggers of homelessness and identified pathway patterns. In sum, our work puts a new spotlight on the conception of pathways of homelessness adopting a long-term perspective that can help to improve service offers and to better understand the multidimensional issue of homelessness.

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Philipp Schnell *is a postdoctoral researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, where he is specialising on data collection methods on homelessness and precarious housing. He previously published work on lifeworlds of persons experiencing homelessness in Vienna and on novel approaches for researching the transformation of urban spaces. Currently, Philipp is working on a study on life-trajectories of persons formerly experiencing homelessness and is planning the realization of Homelessness Counts in multiple Austrian cities.*

Judith Schnelzer *is a researcher at the Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences. Their recent research interests revolve broadly around socio-spatial inequalities of urban development, housing studies, residential displacement, migration, and integration research and visual methods.*

Veera Niemi, Jarkko Rasinkangas, Aleksi Karhula, Elisabetta Leni, FI: Longitudinal Analysis of Housing Histories and Service Utilization Among the Homeless in Turku, Finland

This study presents a longitudinal quantitative analysis of the housing trajectories and utilization of social and health services among individuals experiencing homelessness in Turku, Finland. Utilizing a dataset integrating national and regional population, social, and health registers, we examine a target group of approximately 400 individuals identified as homeless in the national homelessness counts of Finland in 2022 and/or 2023. A comparison group consists of non-homeless adult social work clients.

Through sequence analysis, we trace changes in housing tenure, family composition, geographical mobility, and engagement with social and health services over the two decades preceding homelessness. Our research seeks to uncover patterns and turning points in the lives of those who experience homelessness, identifying potential explanatory factors distinguishing their trajectories from those of non-homeless individuals.

Theoretically, our work integrates two strands of homelessness research. Drawing on David Clapham's concept of housing pathways, we emphasize the need for a nuanced understanding of individual agency and constraints in housing markets, particularly among vulnerable populations. While Clapham's framework originally calls for a more constructionist approach, we extend its application to a quantitative, register-based longitudinal analysis. This approach allows us to explore homelessness as a periodic phenomenon embedded within broader housing and life histories, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of housing instability and its determinants.

Veera Niemi *is a PhD candidate of social work at the University of Turku, Finland. Her research focuses on homelessness, displacement, segregation, gentrification and social work in urban contexts.*

Aleksi Karhula *is a Senior Research Fellow at the INVEST Flagship Centre at the University of Turku. He has extensive expertise in research using register data on various forms of societal inequality, including life course disparities, residential segregation, and educational inequality.*

Jarkko Rasinkangas *is a university lecturer in social work at the University of Turku, Finland. His expertise focuses on welfare inequalities, housing and policies in an urban context, especially segregation and homelessness issues.*

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.

Seminar 12: Women and Homelessness III (Room: X) - Chair: **Lars Benjaminsen, UK**

Dóra Welker, Hyojin Seo, BE/NL: Gendered Homelessness in Europe

Women's homelessness has long been underestimated due to restrictive definitions, incomplete data collection, and entrenched gender biases in research. While previous studies have focused on 'visible' homelessness, such as rough sleeping, emerging evidence using broader definitions suggests that women's experiences of homelessness are more widespread than previously assumed. As data collection has improved, the gender gap in homelessness prevalence has continuously narrowed, as well.

This study draws on retrospective housing difficulty data from the 2023 wave of the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) to provide a more nuanced understanding of the scale, nature, and gendered dimensions of homelessness. Our findings indicate that lifetime experiences of homelessness are more widespread than conventional estimates suggest, particularly among women. While the overall prevalence of homelessness among women is similar to that of men, important differences emerge when disaggregating by ETHOS categories. Gendered pathways into and out of homelessness, as well as the role of poverty, further highlight the distinct experiences of women facing housing exclusion.

We see women's homelessness as not a matter of invisibility but rather a methodological challenge, and while we acknowledge the limitations of the EU-SILC dataset, we argue that leveraging retrospective survey data from a broad population sample can strengthen the evidence base for gender-sensitive policy interventions.

Dora Welker is a Project Officer at FEANTSA, working on the Equal House project analysing the scale and dynamics of housing inequality across European countries. She completed her PhD in Urban Studies at Heriot Watt University's Institute for Social Policy, Housing, Equalities Research (United Kingdom) with a research focus on gender-based violence and homelessness.

Hyojin Seo is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology, Tilburg University, working for the EqualHouse project. She has a PhD in Social Policy from the University of Kent, UK. Her expertise lies in gendered precariousness experiences in the labour market and the role of institutional contexts (e.g., social policy, norm) surrounding them. Methodologically, she has expertise in quantitative methods (e.g., Latent Class Analysis, Multilevel Modelling) and survey design, as well as cross-national comparison across Europe and East Asia.

Méabh Savage, Boróka Fehér, Dalma Fabian, IE/HU/BE: Exploring Homeless Women's Experiences of Safety Using Their 'Visual Voices'- An Introduction to and Preliminary Findings From Participatory Action Research in 7 European Countries

There is an absence of women's collective voices and experiences in European research on homelessness. This is because definitions, conceptualizations and methodologies used in research frequently reflect male centric norms (Bretherton 2017). This invisibilises women's voices and lived experiences and hence the possibility of collectivising their voices. Women's invisibility can negate the potentially transformative effect that research can have in producing

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more socially just policy and practice responses, in particular more gender responsive services for women. The absence of women's voices from research can prolong their experiences of homelessness and the depth of traumas they often experience (Savage 2022).

In light of the invisibility of women's collective voices, this presentation will discuss the work of a European transnational project, Women's Voices, which involves the work of the South East Technological University (Waterford, Ireland) in partnership with homeless service providers from several European countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, and Slovenia), a grassroots organization from Portugal (created by and for homeless women) and FEANTSA. Using an action research methodology, underpinned by critical feminist and participatory principles, the project aims to co-produce qualitative data on women's safety (captured as photographs and words, or visual voices), through a series of workshops facilitated at local service level (14 services), with women users and staff working there. This presentation will introduce examples of collective themes, and those emerging at local service level, relating to women's safety, co-produced by them in the workshops. The methodology used in this project can serve as a good practice example of co-production in transformative research, in particular, how to involve women who are using services in collecting data that has a direct influence on the services they (wish to) receive.

Méabh Savage works as a lecturer and researcher in the Department of Social Care and Early Childhood in the South East Technological University in Waterford. She has professional experience of working in the areas of women's homelessness and domestic abuse. Her research interests focus specifically on issues relating to care and social justice among people who experience intersectional inequalities, particularly homeless mothers/women/families, women experiencing domestic abuse and asylum seeker and refugee mothers living in direct provision. Méabh is very interested in participatory and emancipatory research methodologies which can produce transformative socially-just outcomes. Méabh holds a PhD in Equality Studies.

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, and an associate professor at the Institute of Social Work and Deaconry of Károli Gáspár University. Her field of special interest is the support and services available for homeless women, their contact with their children, empowering and participative ways of working. She is a member of FEANTSA Women. She holds a PhD in Social Work and Social Policy.

Dalma Fabian is a Policy Officer at FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless. She specialises in women's homelessness and coordinates FEANTSA WOMEN, a community of practice bringing together professionals dedicated to ending homelessness among women. She holds an MA in Human Rights Law.

10h50 – 11h30	**Coffee break and walk to your next session** **Please note that Seminars x, x and x are in Leuwenbergh church, whereas Seminars x, x and x will take place in Centraal Museum. Both venues will offer coffee.** **PLEASE GET YOUR COFFEE AT THE PLACE WHERE YOUR SESSION WILL BE.**
10h50 – 11h30	**Poster Session (Room: AULA)** **For poster presenters' bios and abstracts, please scroll down.**

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European Observatory on Homelessness

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11h30 – 12h50	SEMINAR SESSION 3 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

Seminar 13: Measurement Methods II (Room: XX) - Chair: **Koen Hermans, BE**

Oona Kenny, IE: Attempting to Count Hidden Homelessness in the Dublin Region; A Methodological Account

Ireland collects and reports data on people experiencing homelessness (PEH) in categories 1-3 of Feantsa's ETHOS Light framework. Since 2014, the Irish Government have published monthly and quarterly statistics on the number and profile of people in state funded homeless accommodation (ETHOS 2 & 3) based on the Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS), and a point in time count of rough sleepers in the Dublin region has taken place twice yearly since 2007 (ETHOS 1). There is currently no systematic approach to counting the number of PEH in ETHOS Light categories 4, 5 or 6 i.e. those in institutions, unconventional accommodation or staying with family and friends. Previous research has attempted to enumerate those in ETHOS Light categories 4-6 by relying on proxy variables from administrative data such as the number of households qualified for social housing who are in overcrowded, unsuitable and unfit accommodation or data for those in hospitals and prisons recorded as having 'no fixed abode'. However this information is not comprehensive, fully accurate or reliable.

In 2024, the Dublin region participated in the EU Homelessness Count project coordinated by KU Leuven, which aims to develop a common method for counting homelessness in the EU. While it was mandatory as part of this project to include a count of PEH in ETHOS Light categories 1-3, Dublin along with some other cities, included an experimental attempt to also count those in ETHOS Light categories 4-6. The methodology for this was based on the European Service Based Survey and while this was successfully implemented in a sample of services within and beyond the homeless sector in Dublin, it was unable to provide sufficient data for analysis. The main reasons for this were challenges due to relying on informed consent, overburdened staff and lack of resources in services and time needed to gain ethical approval.

Oona Kenny is a Research Analyst at the Housing Agency where her work focuses on social housing and homelessness with specific experience in Housing First, homeless migrants and homelessness policy. She is currently on secondment to Focus Ireland where she leads the EU Homelessness counts for Cork and Dublin.

Teresa Consoli, Fiorenza Beluzzi, Elisabetta Sciotto, Alessandro Venezia, Caterina Cortese, IT: Experiencing Street Count in Italy

The project of the EHC gave the possibility to focus on the value, the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology of a street count in cities where the process was already experienced and well-structured but also in cities where a street count has never been realised before. This is precisely the case of Italy, the country participated in the project through the University of Catania as research partner in strong collaboration with the FioPSD and involved the city of Milan and Catania.

The two cities have rather different experiences on homelessness but also on welfare service provision for PEH as well as involvement of the voluntary sector and cooperation with welfare institutions. The city of Milan encountered its fifth count (RacCONTAMI) realised by the De Benedetti Foundation (Bocconi University) while the city of Catania has never counted the PEH hosted in the services and living in the street.

The results were extremely interesting for both cities concerning the process of organizing the street count (the coverage of the administrative area, the involvement of the administration, the building of new maps of the city, the role of the voluntary sector) but also on the experience of the methodology used (teams, volunteers, contacts with PEH, exchanges among different actors).

Finally, we will try to focus on pros and cons of the street count in such different cities, opening the debate about the effects of counting PEH at local and national level and profiling integrated strategies for combatting homelessness in Italy.

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Teresa Consoli *is Full Professor in Sociology of Law at the University of Catania, Dept. of Education. She headed a University Research Centre on Social and Public Policies (http://www.lpss.unict.it) and elected in the Executive Committee of the European Sociological Association (www.europeansociology.org). She is member of the scientific Committee of the Italian federation of services for homeless people (Fio.PSD) and monitored the first implementation of Housing first in Italy, she edited with A. Meo, Homelessness in Italia, FrancoAngeli 2020 and published "Homelessness in Italy. Old private stories and New Public opportunities", in Routledge Handbook of Global Perspectives on Homelessness, Law and Policy by Bevan C.(ed.) 2024.*

Alessandro Venezia, *Cooperativa Sociale Mosaico is a sociologist and coordinator of the Street Unit service provided by the municipality of Catania since 2019, under the administration of the Mosaico Social Cooperative. Dr. Venezia has dedicated himself to combating extreme poverty and severe adult marginalization and various services dedicated to this issue since 2014. He also collaborates with local Third Sector services and entities in the study of the issues of interest and develops skills in working directly with the people who benefit from the interventions. Since 2024, he has participated in the European Homelessness Count EHC research project, in collaboration with the Municipality of Catania, the University of Catania and Fio.PSD.*

Elisabetta Sciotto *holds Degrees in Law (University of Florence) and Sociology (University of Catania). She also holds a PhD in Political Science (University of Catania) with a research on collaboration between public administration and third sector in co-design of social services.*
She currently collaborates with the Regional Department for Family and Social Policies of the Sicilian Region for implementation of policies to combat poverty and with LaPoss - Research Centre of the University of Catania on Public Policies and Services to People.
Since 2024, she has been involved in the "European Homelessness Count (EHC)" project as a member of the local research team and street count coordination.

Fiorenza Beluzzi *holds degrees in Sociology (University of Catania) and Architecture (Polytechnic University of Milan). Thanks to her interdisciplinary background, since 2024 she has been involved in the European research project European Homelessness Count (EHC), in collaboration with the Municipality of Catania, Fio.PSD, and third-sector cooperatives. Within the project, she has played a bridging role between local institutions and the academic world, contributing to the methodological design of the fieldwork and to the analysis of collected data. Beyond the EHC project, her research interests include social research methodology and the social impacts of generative artificial intelligence*

Seminar 14: Health and Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: **Nóra Teller, HU**

Michela Tinelli and Joanne Coombes, UK: Evaluating the Economic Impact of Intermediate Care for People Experiencing Homelessness: Lessons from Implementation in England

Background
Individuals experiencing homelessness often face complex health and social care challenges requiring coordinated, multidisciplinary support. Out-of-hospital care (OOHC) models, such as intermediate care services, aim to address these needs. However, evidence on their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness in real-world settings remains limited. This study evaluates the implementation of England's Out-of-Hospital Care Models (OOHCM) programme, funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (2021–2023). The programme tested housing-led intermediate care models to support individuals experiencing homelessness.
Methods
A mixed-methods evaluation was conducted using a before-and-after design across 17 test sites that implemented service delivery. Quantitative data sources included national audits, monitoring forms, Hospital Episode Statistics, and self-reported questionnaires on outcomes, preferences, and resource use (n=907). Service delivery implementation costs were calculated using government audit data, while NHS costs were derived from hospital statistics where available. Impacts on public budgets in health, social care, mental health, drug misuse, housing, and criminal justice

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were assessed primarily through self-reported service utilisation due to limited local authority data. Qualitative case studies contextualised findings and addressed gaps in quantitative data. Peer researchers with lived experience of homelessness contributed to recruitment, data collection, and analysis. A cost-consequence analysis framework was employed, supported by infographics and dashboards for visualisation.

Results and Comments

The OOHCM programme showed positive trends in patient experience, safety, clinical outcomes, and economic impacts. For instance, step-down care reduced A&E visits by 56% within one year. Economic insights provided actionable evidence for practitioners and commissioners where available. Challenges included poor-quality data, lack of standardisation, variations in service models, disconnect and poor sharing of information, and limited integration of peer researchers into evaluation processes. Future research should explore longitudinal designs, alternative data sources, real-time analytics, and participatory methods to strengthen evidence on OOHC effectiveness and cost-effectiveness for this vulnerable population.

Dr Michela Tinelli, a health and care economist at LSE, has been working to improve coordination between services that help individuals who are homeless rebuild their lives. Joanne Coombes, who has personal experience of homelessness, joined the research team and became the first full-time peer researcher at King's College London.
Their collaboration has been crucial in developing more effective research methodologies. Coombes's lived experience allows Dr Tinelli to connect with individuals who are homeless in ways that academic researchers often cannot, providing invaluable insights and data collection opportunities.

Martin Simon, CZ: Health Equity Failure We Allow: Evaluation Study of Joint Social Work and Healthcare Provision

Background

Homelessness as an extreme form of poverty perpetuates and exacerbates health inequalities. People experiencing homelessness face a mortality rate 10 times higher than that of the general population, with an average age of death at 45. There is a significant disconnect between the mainstream healthcare system and the specific health needs of people experiencing homelessness, leading to substantial human and economic costs.

Objective

The objective of this evaluation study is to assess the impact of an intervention in nurse-led healthcare outreach services to people experiencing homelessness on their utilization of healthcare services.

Design

This study is a part of a research program aimed at assuring health equity of most vulnerable members of a society. Detailed understanding of barriers to care is a necessary precondition for improvements in healthcare use.

Data

The study analyzes data on hospitalization and emergency department visits by people experiencing homelessness across three cities in Czechia from 2014 to 2021.

Methods

A quantitative difference-in-differences approach is complemented by insights from field studies in these three cities.

Results

The intervention in people experiencing homelessness outreach led to a reduction in both hospital admissions and the emergency visits by people experiencing homelessness, alleviating pressure on health service capacity and reducing associated healthcare costs. Enhanced primary nurse-led healthcare outreach, along with cross-sectoral integration and activation, has lowered the barriers to accessing essential healthcare services.

Conclusion

A pivotal policy outcome of this study is the establishment of an insurance provision that allows medical doctors to claim additional costs incurred in treating people experiencing homelessness from a public insurance system.

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Martin Šimon is a geographer with research interests in population mobilities and inequalities. His research includes projects on demographic change, homelessness, elections, crime and social exclusion. Martin Šimon is a senior researcher at the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences and researcher of Urban and Regional Laboratory at Charles University. (Authors: Martin Šimon, Barbora Latečková, Oto Potluka)

Fernando Fajardo-Bullón, Igor Esnaola and Paul Lambert, ES/UK: Situation of Homeless People in Spain. Analysing the Evolution Between 2012 and 2022 Through the Spanish Survey on homeless people

In 2022, a total of 28,552 homeless individuals received assistance in Spain, with an average of 86.6 homeless people per 100,000 inhabitants. The latest Spanish Homeless Survey (2022) reports a 24.5% increase in the number of homeless individuals receiving support in accommodation and catering care centres, compared to the previous survey conducted in 2012.This study aims to analyse changes in the health conditions, addictions, and social support of the Spanish homeless population surveyed in 2012 and 2022, alongside other general socio-demographic variables. Data will be collected from 3,600 respondents in 2022 (75.2% male; mean age: 42.8 years; SD = 14.99) and 3,433 respondents in 2012 (78.2% male; mean age: 41.3 years; SD = 13.86) in both Spanish Homeless Survey. Health status will be measured through self-rated health (SRH), a measure commonly used in European and Spanish surveys, addictions will be measured through use of alcohol, tobacco, gambling and other substance use, and perceived social support will be measured through contact and support with friends, family and perceived help from social services. Using multinomial logistic regression models, this study will not only compare the situation in 2012 and 2022 but also explore the relationships between these variables and their impact on the health of homeless individuals. This analysis will allow us to know the evolution of these conditions, and which factors have a greater weight on the health of Spanish homeless people. Through the results we will be able to suggest to the Spanish public social services and social sector entities which are those conditions of homeless people that most affect their health and how these conditions have changed in recent years in Spain. We hope that this study can contribute to the debate and evolution on health and social policies in Spain and Europe.

Fernando Fajardo-Bullón is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Extremadura (Spain). He was representative of Spain in the European Action CA15218 - Measuring homelessness in Europe and a current member of the observatory of the social reality of the NGO Caritas Mérida-Badajoz. He has been part of the experts committee in collaborations with the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030 and has published several publications on homelessness in high impact journals with colleagues from different countries such as Belgium, United Kingdom, Sweden or Finland. His field of study is physical and mental well-being, addictions and stressful events experienced by homeless people along their vital life.

Igor Esnaola is a full psychology professor at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). I have supervised six doctoral theses and I have participated in nineteen research projects in total. Likewise I have participated in two European projects (COST actions): one entitled "Measuring homelessness in Europe" and the other one "Researcher Mental Health". In the field of management, I have been editor (2008-2012), deputy editor (2012-2013) and director (2013-continued) of Revista de Psicodidáctica. Finally, I am the director of the department of Developmental and Educational Psychology since 2020.

Paul Lambert is a Professor of Sociology in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Stirling, where he publishes research on social stratification and inequality and on social research methodology. Within his department he is research group lead of the Social Surveys and Social Statistics research group and programme director of the MSc Applied Social Research and MSc Social Statistics and Social Research.

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Seminar 15: Housing Programs II (Room: X) - Chair: **Nicholas Pleace, UK**

Lorraine Guénée, Ysé Bedo, Julio Davalos, FR: An Elephant in the Room, Study of a Public-Private Partnership Between Samusocial de Paris and its Welfare Hotel Suppliers

We would like to present a sociological study on the use of hotels as welfare facilities (Hérouard, 2008; Le Mener, 2025). The study focuses on the relationship between a public institution – the regional service responsible for booking, quality control, and the development of welfare accommodation in hotels (Delta, Samusocial de Paris) – and its suppliers, the welfare hotel landlords.

How can we characterize the growth of the emergency hotel industry in the Paris area, where it accounts for nearly half of emergency accommodation? Alongside the spatial configuration, we examine the formalization of the relationship between the contractors of public policy (Alberti, 2020). The relationship is described as a public-private partnership, once artisanal, but now increasingly industrialized (Neuville, 1996). This policy creates a connection between a "social" body and commercial entities. How do both sides share responsibility for this state mandate? How can trust be fostered between the parties, and what is concealed beneath the formalization of these contracts? An overnight stay in such a facility differs from standard hotel accommodation and extends beyond mere housing, potentially involving additional support for those housed. What constitutes a fair price for a hotel night under these conditions?

Our contribution reports on the first phase of the study (2023-2024), which focused on the administrative perspective. This included statistical analysis of administrative databases, interviews with Delta's employees, and observations of work practices (e.g., negotiations for public contracts). The second phase of the study (2025-2026) will focus on the perspective of the suppliers. It aims to produce a typology of these diverse suppliers and investigate their motivations and networks.

This study is part of a broader body of work that explores the role of organizers and profit-makers in providing accommodation for disadvantaged populations (Desmond, 2016).

Lorraine Guénée is a study manager at the Observatoire of the Samusocial de Paris, a service founded in the 1990s with expertise on homelessness studies. In this position, she previously worked on the socio-economic effects of the Covid-19 crisis and students going to food aid.

Co-speaker: Julio Ricardo Davalos is a research assistant at the Observatoire du Samusocial de Paris. He Previously worked on drug use and hostility towards COVID-19 vaccination in the Centre d'étude des mouvements sociaux (CEMS, EHESS-Inserm).

Renée de Vet, NL: Temporary Rapid Rehousing Initiatives, as Part of a Housing-Led Approach

Many European countries, including the Netherlands, aim to end homelessness through a housing-led approach. Whenever possible, homelessness should be prevented, but when it cannot be avoided, rapid rehousing is key. However, suitable and permanent housing is often hard to find for people who are (about to become) homeless.

In response to this problem, initiatives have been developed in the Netherlands to temporarily house those with an urgent need. A number of these initiatives make use of hosted schemes. Host schemes aim to provide a temporary rapid rehousing option, by matching people who need a safe space to stay with members of the public with a spare room.

As part of a larger project on the shift to a housing-led approach in the Netherlands, we are conducting a study into temporary rapid rehousing initiatives. The goal is to generate knowledge about 1) the outcomes and working mechanisms of these initiatives, 2) the process of transition and challenges that these initiatives face, and 3) action frameworks that will help to strengthen and scale up these initiatives. During the first phase of the project, we will assess and describe which temporary rapid rehousing initiatives have been developed in the Netherlands. In the

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second phase, we will conduct an in-depth empirical study into several of these initiatives.

During this presentation, we will describe phase 1 in which we used a review of the (grey) literature and show which temporary rapid rehousing initiatives have been developed in the Netherlands. Also, we will discuss how these initiatives fit into a housing-led approach and what scientific evidence is available for their effectiveness. Lastly, we will describe the initiatives that have been selected for our empirical study and explain how phase 2 of the study will be conducted.

Renée de Vet, PhD, is a senior researcher in a research group for inclusive, person-centered care for vulnerable citizens, at the department of Primary and Community Care of the Radboud university medical center. Renée has over 15 years of experience in conducting research on social and health care services for people in vulnerable situations, including people who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. Her PhD dissertation focused on transitional care for people leaving shelters in order to prevent recurrent homelessness.

Seminar 16: Migration and Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE

Dion Kramer, Annie Berendsen, Jan de Vries, NL: Mobilising the Rights of EU Citizens Experiencing Homelessness: Obstacles and Dynamics of Social Change in the Netherlands
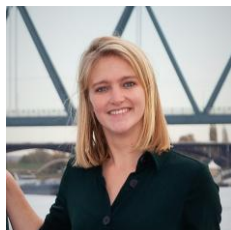
A substantial part of the people sleeping rough in many European cities are nationals from other EU Member States. This presentation will combine the findings of various research projects to explore the case of homeless EU citizens in the Netherlands and the mobilization of their rights to access homelessness support services. Until recently, Dutch municipalities systematically denied EU citizens access to overnight shelters and general homelessness services on equal footing as Dutch citizens by marking them as so-called niet-rechthebbenden ("non-rightholders"). This has most probably led to a denial of rights to EU citizens entitled to shelter as permanent residents, (former) workers, or otherwise legally residing EU citizens. The presentation will:

1) Offer a (brief) overview of the rights EU citizens enjoy when experiencing homelessness in another Member State. This discussion relies on legal research into the right to residence, right to equal treatment and protection against expulsion under EU law.

2) Explore the context and motivations that led a broad coalition of actors in the Netherlands to join efforts and consider various avenues to legally mobilize the rights of EU citizens experiencing homelessness, including strategic litigation. This part draws on participatory research and elite interviewing.

3) Present the results of a research project conducted by De Regenboog Groep which sought to map the backgrounds and conditions of EU citizens experiencing homelessness in Amsterdam and examine how many should be entitled to homelessness support in accordance with the right to equal treatment under EU law and national legislation. This research analyzed the situation of 176 homeless EU citizens, by interviewing social workers on a randomized selection of their caseloads.

The presentation will conclude by offering reflections on the various pathways to generate social change for homeless EU citizens by means of legal mobilisation and reflect on the social and political consequences of recognizing their rights for (local) homelessness support and their limits.

Dion Kramer works as Assistant Professor of EU law at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He teaches courses and conducts research on the law and politics of European integration, with a specific focus on EU free movement and the welfare state. In 2024, he received a Veni grant by the Dutch Research Council to research the rights of homeless EU citizens and explain how local governments in the Netherlands and other EU Member States reorganise their homelessness support programmes in response to the growing numbers of homeless EU citizens.

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Annie Berendsen works as a research coordinator for De Regenboog Groep, an organization in Amsterdam that helps people who are homeless, have psychiatric problems, addictions, or live in poverty. In her role she connects research to practice, using her background of interdisciplinary research to bring together different domains. Annie's recent research focuses on homeless EU citizens in Amsterdam, shedding light on their rights and the conditions in which these people reside in the city.

Jan de Vries is co-director of Straat Consulaat, an advocacy and support organisation on homelessness in The Hague. Jan has worked, for 25 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 8 years now he has been working on the right to housing and homelessness in The Netherlands. Besides being co-director of Straat Consulaat he is a board member of Straatalliantie, an advocacy and support organisation on homelessness in Amsterdam.

Miroslava Hlincikova, Martina Wilsch, SK: Housing as a Critical Precondition for Stability: Ukrainian Refugees in Slovakia

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine has displaced over 120,000 Ukrainians, primarily women, children, and older adults, seeking temporary protection in Slovakia. Housing has emerged as a critical challenge, with initial state responses including ad-hoc solutions and a housing subsidy for property owners renting to refugees. However, these measures have not fully addressed the marginalisation of refugees or their vulnerability due to the temporary nature of their legal status. The housing allowance remains uncertain and subject to continuous change.

Despite Slovakia's Housing Policy until 2030 recognising migrants and refugees as disadvantaged groups, Ukrainian refugees are excluded from public rental housing. This exclusion, combined with an unaffordable private market, forces many into precarious living conditions, affecting social integration, community ties, and personal agency. Slovakia lacks a long-term vision for refugee housing and has no systemic approach to preventing housing loss, leaving many at risk of homelessness.

Using frameworks from the anthropology of home, epistemic injustice (Medina, 2018), and the ethnography of deservingness (Tarkiainen, 2023; Streinzer, Tošić, 2022), this paper examines how displaced individuals navigate social, economic, and political landscapes to secure housing. Based on ongoing ethnographic research conducted from February 2024 to May 2025 in Bratislava, it explores the impact of housing precarity and legal temporariness on Ukrainian refugees' life trajectories.

The authors argue that the Slovak state rigidly defines vulnerability, basing housing policies on restrictive eligibility rather than data on at-risk groups. The exclusion of individual circumstances in housing allowance regulations exacerbates insecurity and reinforces the sense of liminality for refugees. This paper highlights the need for a more flexible and inclusive approach to refugee housing to prevent further social marginalisation.

Mgr. Miroslava Hlinčíková, PhD. is a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, where she earned her PhD in 2013. Her research focuses on social exclusion, integration, and human rights, particularly in relation to disadvantaged groups, including migrants, minorities, and women. She has been part of numerous research teams exploring diversity, inequality, and urban inclusion issues. Beyond academia, she collaborates as an analyst with various NGOs and actively contributes to the local initiative Kubik in Trnava, where she co-organizes socio-cultural events to foster community engagement and inclusion.

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Martina Wilsch, PhD, *is an anthropologist working as a senior researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In her research, she focuses on transnational family practices, transnational care, migration, care, gender, and migrant integration, and more recently, on the care and social reproduction in displaced Ukrainian families, alongside exploring the role of cultural practices in incorporation processes in displacement. She has academic research experience and applied research for the non-governmental sector, public institutions, and national and international organisations.*

Seminar 17: Innovative Research Methods (Room: X) - Chair: **Maša Filipovič Hrast, SI**

Alex Abramovich, CA: Pathways Interrupted: 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Leading Responses to Hidden Homelessness in Ontario, Canada

LGBTIQ+ youth are disproportionately represented among the homeless youth population. LGBTIQ+ youth experience homelessness at younger ages and are more likely to experience hidden homelessness due to stigma and discrimination compared to cisgender and heterosexual youth. Hidden homelessness refers to unstable and temporary housing situations, including couch surfing, staying at a motel/hotel, and with a friend, family, or partner. Accurate data on prevalence, experiences, and needs among LGBTIQ+ youth experiencing hidden homelessness are missing. This presentation focuses on the Pathways Interrupted study, which utilized Youth Participatory Action research and participatory visual methodologies to co-generate knowledge with community stakeholders, including youth with lived experience of homelessness, to engage in systemic change. Peer Researchers were hired across three sites in Ontario, Canada (Toronto, York Region, and London) to engage LGBTIQ+ youth (aged 16-29) with experiences of hidden homelessness to create cellphilms (short videos created with mobile technology) focused on the pathways into and out of hidden homelessness, gaps in services, and the needs of LGBTIQ+ youth. Cellphilming leverages youths' existing media skills into a research method that supports participants in creating rich and multidimensional data in a way that is inclusive and engaging. After creating and analyzing their cellphilms, youth participated in one-on-one interviews and focus group discussions to identify key themes and make recommendations to improve the youth homelessness response to hidden homelessness in their region. The objective of this research was to identify how homelessness prevention plans in regions that have moderate to high amounts of youth homelessness support could better intervene upstream to support LGBTIQ+ youth at risk of homelessness, such as addressing problematic home environments and/or supporting safe and secure re-housing. This presentation will share cellphilms, main study findings, and recommendations to improve youth homelessness responses and promote sustainable exits from homelessness among LGBTIQ+ youth.

Dr. Alex Abramovich *is a Senior Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, and holds a Canada Research Chair in 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness and Mental Health. Dr. Abramovich is an internationally recognized leader, whose research addresses the health and social inequities experienced by 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and has informed innovative housing practices—including Canada's first transitional housing program for 2SLGBTQ+ youth. He has worked with all levels of government to develop policies that address the needs of 2SLGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness and is committed to research that ethically engages marginalized populations.*

Frédérique Leresche, Giada De Coulon, Aubert Baptiste, CH: Living Without a Home: An Intersectional Research-Creation on Homelessness in Switzerland

This presentation explores homelessness among particularly marginalized groups in Switzerland: women, individuals with precarious or undocumented residency status, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Understanding homelessness among subalternized groups (Sarker, 2015) requires a commitment to a feminist and intersectional epistemology that acknowledges structural violence and systemic inequalities. This approach is grounded in a situated perspective (Harding, 2004) that recognizes all knowledge production as embedded in specific experiences and power

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relations. It also emphasizes the intrinsic political nature of emotions (Narayan, 1988) , shaping both the experience and analysis of homelessness.

While dominant narratives tend to render the homelessness of certain social groups invisible, favoring a neutral and universalizing interpretation of the phenomenon, while at the same time making individuals guilty, this study highlights the structures that produce and sustain these vulnerabilities. To do so, we believe this is important to adopt methodological tools that grant access to subaltern knowledge and affective dimensions. For example, by the use of creative or research-creation methods, which offer alternative ways of exploring and conveying lived experiences. By integrating practices such as participatory storytelling, video, and performances, research provides a more nuanced and engaged representation of homelessness.

To illustrate this, we would like to present an audiovisual research project rooted in collaborative cinema, emphasizing co-creation rather than observation. Engaging with postcolonial and feminist critiques, this work challenges ethnographic authority and the Euro-androcentric nature of documentary production. The filmmaking process involves ethical and technical training workshops, fostering dialogue on representation and narrative choices. These images not only document homelessness from within but also interrogate how participants interpret their own experiences.

We hope to contributes to more inclusive, transformative research by recognizing the agency and voices of those affected while critically examining the socio-political structures that place them in precarious situations.

Frédérique Leresche (photo) (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, Fribourg) is a researcher and actress. Since 2016, she has been conducting research on the topics of non-take-up of rights, homelessness, and situations of social violence. She is also engaged in epistemological inquiries that question the conditions of knowledge production and develops research-creation and collaborative methodologies. Her research is grounded in feminist and subaltern theories, as well as critical and intersectional approaches.
The research on which this presentation is based is carried out by a team of researchers including Baptiste Aubert, visual anthropologist based at the University of Neuchâtel, and Giada de Coulon, ethnologist, researcher at University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, Fribourg.

Seminar 18: Criminalisation of Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: Freek Spinnewijn, BE

Stefan van Tongeren, NL: From Street to Sanction – The Criminalisation of Homelessness in the Netherlands

The rise in the cost of living, growing welfare inequality, and an escalating affordable housing crisis have contributed to increasing levels of homelessness in many (Western) countries. While homelessness is widely recognised as a social welfare issue, it is increasingly treated as a public order problem. Homeless individuals are often perceived as more likely to engage in criminal activities, cause public nuisance, or disrupt the urban environment. Moreover, visible homelessness is frequently seen as detrimental to a city's public image. As a result, central and local authorities are increasingly adopting laws and regulations that criminalise homelessness by prohibiting life-sustaining behaviours that homeless individuals cannot avoid. These measures range from vagrancy laws to bans on sleeping, eating, and urinating in public spaces, as well as restrictions on temporary shelters and begging.

This presentation examines the punitive and other public order responses to homelessness by local authorities in the Netherlands. It assesses how these responses relate to the prohibition of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Using the UN Special Rapporteur's framework on laws that criminalise homelessness, this study presents a systematic quantitative analysis of local regulations in 45 Dutch municipalities, revealing the extent to which life-sustaining activities in public spaces are penalised in the Netherlands. The analysis is furthermore complemented by a qualitative, doctrinal legal assessment that contextualises the findings and offers a critical evaluation of the local Dutch policies from a human rights perspective.

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Dr. Stefan van Tongeren is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. His research focuses on the right to (access to) housing, social reintegration, and public order law. He obtained his PhD with a study on the housing of ex-offenders in local communities, exploring the balance between their rights and interests and those of their (future) neighbours. Currently, he is working on a project examining the criminalisation of homelessness in the Netherlands. In his research, Van Tongeren integrates doctrinal legal research with empirical-legal methods.

Jan Weckwerth, DE: Disentangling Urban Strategies to Dispel, Remove and Repress People Experiencing Homelessness in the Context of Commodification and Re-Regulation of Public Space

Hegemonic neoliberalism has been widely acknowledged as a major driver of the housing crisis in Europe. The deregulation and commodification of the housing market, alongside the withdrawal of the state as a housing provider, have led to a substantial shortage of affordable housing. However, neoliberalism manifests not only in a retreat of state institutions, but also in an intensified regulatory grip on individuals who do not conform to market rationalities. This is particularly evident in the restructuring of urban public spaces: For decades, inner-city areas have been increasingly designed to maintain a 'clean' and 'undisturbed' environment for middle-class consumption and entertainment.

This process disproportionately affects social groups who rely on public space beyond consumption – especially people experiencing street homelessness, for whom, in a "coincidence of places" (Tosi 2007), the most lucrative locations are precisely those where they are most perceived as disruptions. The study focuses on the effects of recent macro-level developments in urban policy and urban planning for rough sleepers. In addition to coercive measures driven by the blurring of illegal and undesirable behavior, more nuanced displacement mechanisms have emerged through the (re)design of public space. That includes, for example, the increasing disconnection from informal access to urban infrastructures. Additionally, the controversially debated hostile architecture is now becoming more intertwined with (seemingly individual) creative urban revitalization strategies. In reference to Wehrheim's (2002) notion of "exclusion through aestheticization", this phenomenon can be described as the aestheticization of exclusion.

The presentation seeks to theoretically connect the commodification and social control of urban public space under neoliberal conditions with their dire consequences for the everyday lives of people experiencing homelessness (and other marginalized groups). It offers a typology of – more or less coercive – measures, illustrated with photographs and interview excerpts from a research project on homelessness in German cities.

Jan Weckwerth is a postdoctoral scholar at the Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany. He received his Ph.D. from the Alpen-Adria-University of Klagenfurt, Austria. His research interests include social inequality, in particular class and lifestyle analyses, as well as urban sociology, housing and homelessness, the sociology of professions, and the sociology of culture and film.

13h00 – 14h00	**Lunch break (Room: AULA)**
13h00 – 14h00	**Poster Session (Room: AULA) For poster presentations, please scroll down.**

AFTER LUNCH please walk to your next session. Please note that Seminars x, x and x are in Leuwenbergh church, whereas Seminars x, x and x will take place in Centraal Museum.

14h00 – 15h20	SEMINAR SESSION 4 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

Seminar 19: Measurement Methods III (Room: X) - Chair: **Koen Hermans, BE**

Hermund Urstad, Hilde Hatleskog Zeiner, NO: The National Survey of Homelessness in Norway – Problems and Solutions

Norway is among the countries in Europe that have the best knowledge about homelessness. This is largely due to the national surveys that have been conducted regularly since 1996 . The surveys have also provided the basis for national and local measures and initiatives to combat homelessness for over 20 years. The survey has two purposes, the first is to provide data on the number of homeless people nationally and for the municipalities. Secondly, to gain a better understanding of homelessness and its development over time, i.e., the distribution of chronic and transitional homelessness and the situations described in ETHOS 1-6.

The 2024 survey in Norway has unfortunately been cancelled. For the 2024 survey, all agencies have given approval and exemption from confidentiality, except the Directorate of Labour and Welfare. The Directorate cites problems related to privacy and confidentiality in the social services, as well as requirements in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In addition, there is legal regulation of confidentiality that sets limits on what information can be collected through a survey. This means that employees of the local social services cannot participate in the survey.

As a result, Norway lacks updated information on homelessness. This new situation makes it necessary to look at other approaches. Based on the OECD Monitoring framework we will compare the Norwegian survey with a selection of other countries. The methodology of the count in Norway is a service-based method and very similar to the mappings in Denmark and Sweden. The local city counts in the EU are very relevant, and in Norway Oslo and Bergen also carry out their own surveys. Other approaches may also be possible to use.

Hermund Urstad has worked as Senior Adviser in The Norwegian Housing Bank, the main agency for implementing Norwegian social housing policy on the national level. He has a particular responsibility for homelessness statistics, analyzes and data collection.

Hilde Hatleskog Zeiner is a senior researcher at NIBR, OsloMet. She was a project member in the 2020 survey of homelessness in Norway and is project manager for the 2024 survey.

The national survey of homelessness is initiated by the Housing Bank on behalf of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. The mapping is being carried out by researchers from Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research NIBR, Oslo Metropolitan University, in close collaboration with the Housing Bank.

Masa Filipovič Hrast, Jera Sernel, Hana Košan, SI: Homelessness Count in Ljubljana

As part of the European Homelessness Count Project, the first comprehensive homelessness count was conducted in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. This study represents a significant advancement in homelessness research in Slovenia, where existing studies have been limited. While some national data are available (see Filipovič Hrast et al., 2023; Dekleva et al., 2010), previous local research has lacked a methodology conducive to broader comparability (e.g., Dekleva & Razpotnik, 2007).
The present study employed a service-based approach, conducting surveys in key services supporting individuals

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experiencing homelessness in the city. While the count primarily focused on ETHOS categories 1–3, findings revealed that a substantial proportion of respondents fell into ETHOS category 5. This presentation will discuss the key challenges linked to the first implementation of the count and challenges linked to inclusion of ETHOS categories 1 and 5 within the local context. Additionally, we will present key sociodemographic findings on individuals experiencing homelessness in Ljubljana and explore the policy implications of these results. These insights are particularly relevant in the context of preparation of Slovenia's first Strategy for Preventing and Ending Homelessness (2025–2035).

Maša Filipovič Hrast *is an associate professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana and is a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness. Her research focuses on homelessness and housing policy as well as social policy.*

Jera Sernel *is a research assistant at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. She is actively involved in various (inter)national research projects, including the European Homelessness Counts.*

Hana Košan *is a president of Association for help and self-help of homeless people - Kings of the Street (Kralji ulice). She is also a higher education associate - assistant professor of Social Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana. As a research assistant at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana she is involved in European Homelessness Counts.*

Lucy Campbell, UK: The Women's Rough Sleeping Census in England (title to be confirmed)

In England, women's homelessness is compounded by systemic neglect, with homelessness policies, funding, and services failing to recognise and respond effectively to women's experiences. Due to the constant threat of violence and abuse, women are less visible than men when homeless, and are consequently underrepresented in data and less able to access services and housing.

Over the last three years, charities and researchers have joined forces to design, deliver and scale up a truly innovative action research project – the women's rough sleeping census. The census has collected the largest data set on women's experiences of rough sleeping in Europe, and has amplified women's voices to affect tangible practice change across England.

The census, delivered annually in a growing number of local authorities across England, uses a two-part methodology, co-designed by women with lived experience of homelessness. Firstly, a snapshot survey is undertaken by cross-sector services with women over a seven-day period. The services are asked to follow gender-informed outreach practices to reach as many women as possible. Secondly, each local authority is asked to bring together cross sector data for women known by different services to be rough sleeping, to build an accurate and inclusive data set.

The census has demonstrated that there are as many as nine times more women rough sleeping than government data shows, and that the ways in which women experience rough sleeping fall outside of the current government

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definition of rough sleeping in England. The census team are using the results of the research to lobby for changes to the way women's homelessness is recognised and responded to. Recently evidenced as a good practice approach in the OECD's 'Monitoring Framework to Measure Homelessness' report, the census is an innovative and replicable model for collecting data on women's homelessness, that could be of use across Europe. (300 words)

Lucy Campbell is Head of Multiple Disadvantage at the London based charity Single Homeless Project. Lucy has been working in the homelessness sector for 18 years, always with a focus on women's homelessness, and has led on a number of innovative approaches to better meet women's needs, including an award-winning piece of research in collaboration with researchers at the University of York.

Lucy is the lead for the women's rough sleeping census in England, having led on the project since its inception.

Seminar 20: Housing First (Room: X) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE

Riikka Perälä, Saija Turunen & Axel Morgan, FI: From Fidelity to Adaptations: A Qualitative Analysis of Contextual Factors Shaping Housing First

The article looks at the relationship between the Housing First model and different contextual factors. The so-called fidelity research aims at minimizing the influence of context on the Housing First model in order not to compromise the critical ingredients of the model as a homelessness intervention. There is also a wealth of research confirming that high-fidelity Housing First has positive results for clients. The context has, however, also been approached from another direction, namely as a "real world" factor that cannot, and should not, be minimized in policy implementation, as this may exclude important factors that need to be considered. This paper approaches the context from the everyday level of Housing First work and asks 1) what contextual factors related to the implementation of the Housing First model emerge in the practical conduct HF work, 2) how they challenge or support the implementation of Housing First and 3) how the Housing First approach is adapted to address the challenges posed by the context. Empirically, the presentation draws from qualitative focus group interviews (N=8), which describe the perceptions and activities of frontline workers and clients of Housing First gathered from four European countries, Germany, Finland, Ireland and Spain. The data was analyzed by using reflexive thematic analysis. Theoretically, the article builds in Lancione and colleagues (2017) understanding of the context in which the Housing First model is actively adapted to fit the challenges posed by the local context, but at same time adheres to the key principles of the model. On this basis, five contextual factors are identified that influence the work of Housing First in the everyday level of policy implementation and, secondly, the different adaptations that are made to meet the challenges posed by the context.

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 European Union funded research project, which investigates the adaptation of Housing First policies in four European countries.

Saija Turunen is the Head of Research at Y-Foundation, Finland where she has worked since 2017. Saija studied and worked in the field of social research in the UK where she founded and ran her own research consultancy as well as taught research methods at the University of Bangor, North Wales after receiving her Ph.D. from there in 2001. Currently Saija co-leads the knowledge development work cluster of the Housing First Europe Hub. Her research interests include impact assessment, women's homelessness as well as subjective well-being.

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Caterina Cortese, IT: Tackling homelessness with Housing First Programmes and Personalized Social Support: the HF Italy Experience

What happens after 10 years in a country that decides to adopt Housing First as an intervention model to combat homelessness? This is the case of Italy and the history of the HF network promoted by fio.PSD (Italian Federation of Organizations Working with Homeless People), as well as the guidelines and the first government programmes to fund Housing first and housing led services.

The paper presents the state of development of the HF approach in Italy, results and perspectives that confirm the effectiveness of the intervention model in ending homelessness. Evidence has been gathered through a survey involving a group of HF programmes and two data collection tools: a questionnaire for longitudinal analysis of HF programmes over the ten-year period (75 HF programmes), and an in-depth study of person-centred programmes over the last 24 months (47 HF programmes). The evaluation effort has been to read the monitoring results in coherence with the main indicators used in the national and international literature as well as the 2016 European Guide, such as the integration of HF into the welfare system, housing support and housing stability, promotion and support of health and well-being, development of social ties and integration into the community, harm reduction, cost-effectiveness, the dimension of the right to residence and housing, labour integration, socio-economic integration.

The results suggest that, since 2014, the HF approach has expanded significantly in Italy transitioning from an experimental model to a key element of the social services system with 1.763 HF users and 795 HF apartments in ten years. Results show the high housing quality satisfaction by HF users in terms of habitability and services availability. Personalized plan, housing support, health and wellness support are the main supports offered by the HF team. Fio.PSD's national monitoring has shown that providing safe housing and supporting individual pathways significantly improves the quality of life of beneficiaries, integrating them into society and promoting the well-being of the whole community.

Caterina Cortese is Senior Policy and Research Officer In fio.PSD (Italian Federation of Organisations working with Homeless People), where she carries out studies and social research on homelessness in Italy, housing first programmes, health and social integration, good practices and social innovations for tackling severe marginalization. She is specialized in action-research, policy advice and technical writing activities. From 2022 to 2024 she was a professor of Economic Sociology at the University of Naples "Federico II".

Seda Rass-Turgut, DE: Housing First for Everyone? Challenges and Strategies for an Inclusive Approach in Municipal Homelessness Services

Housing was first implemented in Germany in a field of tension between universal human rights and national social policies (Rosenke 2023). This tension becomes particularly relevant given the rising proportion of foreign nationals among homeless persons in Germany, from 69% (2022) to 80% (2023) (Busch-Geertsema 2024). Drawing on concepts from critical migration research (Hess/Lebhuhn 2014) and rights-based approaches in homelessness services (Haj Ahmad/Busch-Geertsema 2024). This study analyzes the challenges of inclusive implementation of the Housing First approach, examining the relationship between its universal claim and actual accessibility for people without German citizenship.

The analysis employed a multi-perspective research design based on qualitative interviews with experts from municipal institutions (including representatives from the Department of Social Affairs and the Housing Security Coordination Office), homeless service professionals (SKM), migration services staff, and narrative interviews with affected individuals in Osnabrück. This was complemented by a document analysis of municipal policy development.

International implementation of Housing First reveals differing strategies: Finland, often praised as a model example, has effectively limited Housing First to Finnish citizens, achieving remarkable success in reducing "native" homelessness (Pleace et al. 2015). Portugal, in contrast, pursues an explicitly inclusive approach that systematically incorporates migrants and EU citizens, with its 2017-2023 homelessness strategy explicitly identifying migration as a central challenge and linking Housing First with integration measures (Baptista/Coelho 2021).

The City of Osnabrück exemplifies current challenges: the number of foreign assistance seekers has increased by 65 percent between 2018 and 2022 (Stadt Osnabrück 2023). The situation of homeless people from EU countries is exacerbated by legal barriers such as the "EU Citizens Social Welfare Exclusion Act". International research confirms that Housing First's success depends significantly on effectively including marginalized groups (Lancione, 2024).

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Experiences from Portugal and other Southern European countries demonstrate that inclusive implementation is possible under difficult economic conditions when political will exists (Baptista/Marlier 2019).

The paper develops concrete recommendations for diversity-sensitive implementation, including multilingual access pathways, culturally sensitive case management, sustainable cooperation with migrant communities, intercultural qualification of professionals, and strategies for discrimination-sensitive housing acquisition. These practice-oriented approaches can guide municipalities and NGOs toward successful Housing First implementations that systematically address the changing demographic reality of homelessness.

Prof. Dr. Seda Rass-Turgut is Professor for Diversity and Social Work at HAWK University of Applied Sciences in Hildesheim/Holzminden/Göttingen, Germany. From to 2012-2024, she worked for the City of Osnabrück, serving as an Integration Commissioner and later as Head of the Social Affairs Department. She established a municipal office for housing security and prevention, funded by the EU program "EhAP Plus". She initiated a paradigm shift in Osnabrück from temporary accommodation to long-term housing through the housing-first approach. Her research focuses on migration and municipal research, including international perspectives on homelessness and social exclusion.

Seminar 21: Mortality of People Experiencing Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: Lars Benjaminsen, DK

Magdalena Mostowska, Ewelina Biczyńska, Mateusz Słomski, PL: Exploring the Data on Homeless Mortality in Poland

There is growing recognition of health disparities and homelessness being particularly detrimental to health outcomes and increased mortality. However, data on the health and deaths of people experiencing homelessness are scarce and prone to selectivity and bias.

This paper examines the administrative data that could be used to estimate mortality among people experiencing homelessness in Poland. Linking administrative data has become a state-of-the-art method in homelessness research. The paper presents challenges of working with the available data and the caveats that the current data collection system entails with regards to homelessness.

We used a dataset of social assistance recipients in Poland. Only for a small part of the population receiving benefits due to homelessness was it possible to retrieve personal numbers and match them with the death register. Other deaths were identified based on municipal burials recorded in the database and an algorithm that calculates the probability of death based on entries with the same date of birth, gender, and municipality in the population register. We identify at least 1300 deaths per year of people who received benefits in the 12 months prior to death. The mean age at death in 2022 was 57.2 (SD=11.9). In 2022, the crude mortality rate CMR=3.39 and the standardized mortality ratio SMR=3.35 (driven mainly by the elevated SMRs for people under 50 years of age). Finally, the paper presents aggregate data on municipal burials. Urban municipalities have 4 times more such burials per capita than rural ones, which can be explained by more services, but also by weaker family ties.

The paper concludes by addressing the main shortcomings of the collection and sharing of registry data in Poland and their consequences for homelessness research.

Magdalena Mostowska 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 migrant and women's homelessness in Poland, the EU, and the US.

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Ewelina Biczyńska is a sociologist and a geographer, teaching at the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Warsaw. Her main scientific interests revolve around spatial justice, social and urban transformations, and social problems, especially in Latin America. She has been involved in several scientific projects about changes and development in Latin-American cities and regions. She also has over 12 years of experience in quantitative market research.

Mateusz Słomski is a mathematician and works as a senior specialist at Statistics Poland. His works focuses on transforming administrative registers into statistical datasets, especially in the field of social policy: social support and education.

Daniel C. Farrell, Ashwin Parulkar, Tina Goodrich, Steve McFeely & Danielle Devine, USA: Responding to Mortality Risks of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Tenants in New York City

Scholarship and reportage have confirmed that mortality rates among single adult Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) tenants are unacceptably high (Eagen, 2023; Henwood et al., 2015; Raven et al., 2020). Scholars have identified high rates of chronic health conditions, substance use problems, and unmet medical needs among individuals experiencing homelessness before transitioning to PSH as significant contributing factors to these mortality rates (Henwood et al., 2015; Raven et al., 2020).

Critical Time Intervention (CTI), a model based on intensive client engagement during crucial phases of the service delivery process, has increased housing stability for PSH tenants but has never been used to decrease mortality (Herman et al., 2007, 2010). To address these gaps, HELP USA implemented CTI with over 200 single adult PSH tenants—including over 80 in recently leased units—from February 26, 2024, to February 25, 2025, aiming to decrease mortality and increase social connectedness and positive health outcomes. The program resulted in lower mortality rates compared to those previously observed in PSH tenants in Philadelphia and persons experiencing homelessness in New York City (Table 1).

Table 1: Comparative Mortality Rates: PSH & Populations Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)

Population	Crude Mortality Rate*	Person Years^
PSH - Philadelphia	3916	1045
PEH-NYC ('90-'08)	2170	-
PEH-NYC ('22-'23)	2144	16558
PSH single adults- HELP (high risk)	1892	159
PSH single adults- HELP	1099	729

*Crude mortality rate is the number of deaths per person year in a population of 100,000. ^Person years is the period of time (in years) that a sample population is observed for a study period. Person years for HELP PSH clients is derived from February 26, 2024, to November 26, 2024, for 222 clients, inclusive of exits, such as deaths. The presentation will include analysis of 12 months of data. Bold = p<0.01 compared to Philadelphia PSH population (Henwood et al., 2015). Note: Data on PEH-NYC ('90-08) refers to middle-aged men and is also from Henwood et al. (2015). The mortality rate of PEH-NYC ('22-'23) refers to middle-aged men. HELP Research calculated this rate based on local and federal government data (HUD, 2023; DOHMH, 2024).
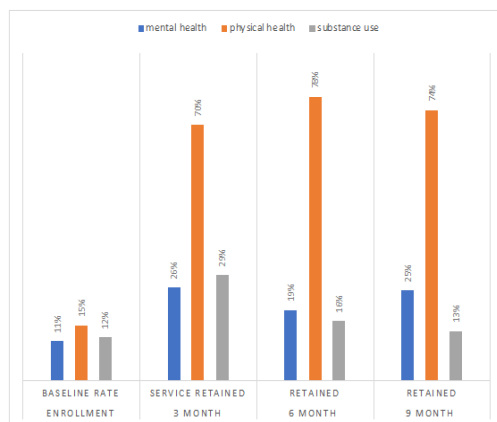
This talk will cover three topics:

1.   Assessing Mortality Risks of PSH Clients
HELP USA designed a point-based risk assessment tool that screens for chronic physical conditions, chronic homelessness histories, incarceration experiences, and demographic characteristics associated with mortality. All clients are provided enhanced services. However, the program additionally tracks outcomes of clients at or above a minimum risk score to ascertain factors indicating the highest needs.

2.   Implementing Enhanced Services

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We will discuss how enhanced services are provided and measured across the following areas: early client engagement, social support, client visits, and healthcare coordination.

3. Impact Evaluation

We will discuss how researchers and clinicians worked together to track the performance of the CTI service model every three months for one year from the start of the program. This includes tracking the impacts of enhanced wellness checks and retention in social support work groups, healthcare programs, and substance use services on mortality rates. HELP USA will present early findings from the program, such as the impacts of enhanced services on significantly increasing access to critical physical and mental health care services (Figure 1). In this context, a clinician will discuss strategies for responding to high-risk clients through the appropriate provision of enhanced services.

Figure 1: Effects of Enhanced Engagement on PSH Single Adult Clients "in Need" of Services (February 26, 2024 – November 26, 2024)

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Tina Goodrich has 25 years of experience in the fields of affordable housing administration and homeless service delivery. Most of her initial experience in government subsidized housing and services came during her nine-year tenure at MBD Community Development Corporation in the Bronx. Tina currently serves as the Vice President for Supportive Housing and Services for HELP USA's permanent supportive housing program and services located in the Greater New York City area and Long Island. Tina has a BA from CUNY Brooklyn College and Master of Arts in Urban Affairs from CUNY Queens College. She also serves as Board Vice-Chairperson at The Institute of Family Health, a Federal Qualified Health Care non-profit organization providing quality patient centered primary care to those in underserved communities.

Danielle Devine holds a Master's degree in Social Work (Adelphi University, NY) and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology (Queens College, NY). Danielle has over 10 years of clinical experience with working with diverse populations living with mental health issues, substance abuse, and serious medical ailments. During Danielle's career she assisted to pilot a successful aftercare program for veterans who could not access services at their local VA (Veterans Administration). The program heavily focused on utilizing CTI (Critical Time Intervention) to render services to the veterans. She currently holds a license for Master of Social Work in New York State. Danielle believes in expansion of services and advocacy for marginalized and vulnerable populations. Danielle is currently an Executive Director in NYC for homeless service provider HELP USA. She oversees operations for multiple social service programs in permanent housing.

Ashwin Parulkar is the Associate Vice President of Research at HELP USA (New York City).

Daniel C. Farrell is the Chief Operating Officer at HELP USA (New York City).

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Seminar 22: Prevention of Youth Homelessness Based on Work with the Family (Room: X) - Chair: **Eoin O'Sullivan, IE**

Sarah Sheridan, IE: Youth Family Mediation in Preventing Youth Homelessness: The Importance of Early Intervention

Family conflict has been identified across numerous research studies as a leading cause of homelessness among young people, often overlapping with structural disadvantages such as poverty, parental unemployment, experiences of care or residential instability, early school disengagement and/or unresolved support needs such as mental health. Youth family mediation services aim to reduce the overall severity of family discord, offering a structured environment where disputes can be resolved swiftly with the goal of repairing communication and enabling reconciliation between family members. While there is relatively limited research evidence on whether youth family mediation services effectively prevents youth homelessness, the data on school-based interventions that have emerged through Geelong Project and Upstream Cymru, for example, offers compelling results when twinned with a screening process that identifies young people at heightened risk of homelessness.

Focus Ireland Youth Family mediation was established in 2016 and has since supported more than 150 young people and their families in the Dublin region, receiving referrals primarily through child protection and community-based services. This paper presents findings from an evaluation of the service, drawing on qualitative interviews with families and stakeholders as well as an analysis of service level data. The evaluation found positive results in terms of enhanced communication, conflict de-escalation, continued engagement in school and, for some young people, reducing the likelihood to leave home prematurely. It also demonstrated effective and positive interagency collaboration between child protection and homeless services. The evaluation signalled when mediation was provided at an early point – i.e. before a conflict has escalated to 'crisis' levels – optimum results were achieved. This strongly suggests that if youth family mediation is to be scaled up to avert more young people from entering homelessness, families should be targeted at an earlier point – ideally well before they come to the attention of child protection or homeless services.

Dr Sarah Sheridan is an Independent Researcher specialising in homelessness and service evaluations. Her PhD focused on women's experiences of homelessness in Ireland. She is a Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin. Previously she worked in research management positions in Focus Ireland and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. She is a board trustee in the tenant support charity Threshold.

Nia Rees, UK: "It Started at Home": A Critical Examination of Family Mediation as an Intervention to Prevent Youth Homelessness

This paper is part of a wider study which critically examines a highly dominant, yet under-researched approach to the prevention of youth homelessness – mediation, a political priority in Wales and the global north. Dominant service responses have received limited academic scrutiny within international literature. This study begins to address this fundamental gap by critically examining mediation as an approach to youth homelessness prevention. Mediation services seek to support young people and their families to bridge differences that risk unplanned exits from home. Fundamental to the approach is the maintenance/re-establishment of ties with family, aiming to prevent homelessness. This paper draws upon findings from participatory research undertaken in the case study country of Wales, addressing this fundamental gap in understanding. It focuses upon in-depth biographical interviews and an innovative network activity with young people at risk of homelessness, who have experienced family mediation. Semi-structured interviews with mediation workers also drawn upon to comprehend the inner workings and complexities of mediation. Focusing upon themes of conflict, care, networks and home, this paper offers a rare critique of the emerging homelessness prevention paradigm - challenging the conceptualisation of prevention by considering the importance of the extent to which interventions enable ontological security and feeling of 'home'. In addition to offering insights into the way in which relationships, connections and network interactions are re-established through the processes of mediation for young people at risk of homelessness. It employs the notion of the 'dark side of home' and Adverse Childhood Experiences to uncover the role of unmaking home in the lives of the young people undertaking family mediation. It fills a gap in research within housing/youth studies by critiquing this intervention, innovatively drawing upon these concepts. By critiquing the dominant intervention mechanism of mediation, this research has direct implications for

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19th European Research Conference
18th and 19th September, 2025
Venue: Leeuwenbergh church and Centraal Museum,
Utrecht, Netherlands

European Observatory on Homelessness

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service provisions in Wales and internationally.

Dr Nia Ffion Rees, *Independent Housing Research Consultant/ Lecturer, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University is an Independent Research Consultant; and a Lecturer at Cardiff University. Her areas of interest lie within housing insecurity, homelessness, youth studies, and inequality. Her recent PhD examines the dominant responses to tackling youth homelessness – mediation, offering a rare critique of this intervention mechanism. Nia has undertaken research at a global and local level in Tanzania, Peru and Wales, with impact on service provision for homeless young people. Nia appreciates the contributions of service users/peer researchers, uplifting their voices through participatory research. Nia is an active member of the Housing Studies Association and works closely with IJOH, End Youth Homelessness Cymru; Youth Experiential Learning Simulation Wales; Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.*

Seminar 23: Social Support Networks (Room: X) - Chair: Nicholas Pleace, UK

Karen Corbett, Gloria Puchol-Ros, Juan Manuel Rodilla, ES: Informal Support Networks and Homelessness in Spain: A Quantitative Study on Social, Health, and Economic Determinants

Homelessness and informal support in Spain present significant challenges to social inclusion and housing stability. The 2008 financial crisis deepened social exclusion, worsening housing loss and weakening social ties. Informal networks provide nearly 80% of long-term care due to insufficient state coverage, yet their role in mitigating homelessness remains underexplored.

This study analyses informal support networks among 203 homeless individuals assisted by transitional housing programs managed by San Juan de Dios Valencia, Spain, examining how sociodemographic, health, and economic conditions influence these networks. Using a quantitative longitudinal design, data was collected from 2021 to 2024 through entry and exit records and follow-up two years post-exit. Regression models identified key predictors of informal support development.

Preliminary findings indicate that individuals with stable social contacts upon entering the program are more likely to maintain housing after exit (65% vs. 37%, $p<0.05$). Additionally, those with chronic health conditions tend to rely more on informal caregivers (68%) but face greater barriers in securing stable support, leading to a higher risk of housing instability (41%). The results also suggest that longer duration of homelessness is associated with weaker informal support networks, while those with some level of economic income (e.g., subsidies, informal work) are up to 40% more likely to maintain functional support networks compared to those with no income.

This study contributes to the understanding of informal social support as a crucial factor in homelessness interventions and advocates for integrated policies that strengthen both informal and formal support mechanisms. The findings align with European housing-led approaches and homelessness prevention strategies. By addressing the role of informal networks, this research provides insights into improving social policies, intervention strategies, and long-term housing stability for homeless populations.

Karen Corbett Lagos *holds a Master's degree in Management and Promotion of Local Development (University of Valencia), a Master's degree in Science and Innovation Management (Polytechnic University of Valencia), and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Austral University of Chile). She has 14 years of experience promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in Latin America, and she is currently a doctoral candidate at INGENIO (CSIC-UPV) and her research focuses on the role of higher education in fostering competencies for development and innovation. She is also part of the research team at Sant Joan de Déu Valencia, where she conducts research on social innovation.*

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Gloria Puchol-Ros holds a degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Development Cooperation from the Polytechnic University of Valencia. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Sciences at the University of Valencia and is also the Research Department Coordinator at Sant Joan de Déu Valencia (Spain). In recent years, her research has primarily focused on evaluating the effectiveness of interventions for homeless individuals through longitudinal studies. She has explored this complex issue through various theoretical frameworks, including the capability approach and emerging theories on homelessness. Her work aims to find innovative ways to address homelessness and inform evidence-based practices.

Juan Manuel Rodilla Navarro is an Industrial Engineer, holds a PhD in Social Sciences, and has a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University. He works as the Director of Social Intervention and Innovation at Sant Joan de Déu Valencia and as an associate professor at the Polytechnic University of Valencia. His research focuses on the application of monitoring and evaluation structures to improve the effectiveness of care mechanisms for vulnerable populations. He has a decade of experience coordinating development, social, and humanitarian projects in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America with organizations such as San Juan de Dios, Doctors Without Borders, and the United Nations.

Max Huber and Meta de Lange, NL: Improving the Social Network of Homeless People in the Netherlands. A study on Network Support Provided by Shelter Organizations

In the past decade, the Netherlands has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of homeless individuals, with figures doubling according to recent statistics (CBS, 2021). This alarming trend underscores the growing urgency to support this vulnerable population. While the main approach to homelessness is 'housing first'—prioritizing housing provision to homeless people—there is a growing recognition that this strategy alone is insufficient. In addition to the major housing shortage, many individuals who have been housed experience profound loneliness and a lack of self-reliance in their daily lives. That is why Dutch shelter organizations are now adopting an innovative network support approach in their care for people who experience homelessness. This approach seeks to empower clients by engaging and enhancing their social networks.

In our two-year qualitative research project 'Social Network First?' we investigated the implementation of network support for homeless people in the Dutch cities of Amsterdam and Haarlem. To gain a comprehensive understanding of this approach and its impact on the empowerment of homeless people, we conducted 53 semi-structured interviews with homeless individuals, their relatives and friends, social workers, and other relevant professionals. We build forward on theoretical insights about social ties (e.g. Granovetter, 1973) and empowerment (e.g. van Regenmortel, 2011), while taken into account the knowledge on network support from the context of mental health care (e.g. Tjaden, 2022).

Our research demonstrates the significant role of network support in enhancing the well-being of homeless individuals. The findings highlight numerous instances of increased social connectedness, practical and emotional support, and improved self-esteem because of greater involvement within the social network. At the same time, our study shows that implementing network support faces multiple challenges on different levels. In our presentation, we will shed a light on what network support consists of and which challenges need to be tackled to foster the empowerment of homeless people.

Dr. M.A. (Max) Huber has been working as a senior researcher at HVO-Querido since 2019. Prior to that, he worked for many years at the Hogeschool van Amsterdam. Max earned his PhD with research on empowerment processes in self-managed social shelter. He has extensive experience in leading and conducting participatory, practice-oriented research. Recently he joined the Utrecht University of applied sciences as a senior researcher.

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Meta de Lange has been working as a researcher and lecturer at the Urban Social Work research group since 2018. She has worked as a social worker and researcher on various social projects.

Seminar 24: Trauma Informed Care in Service Provision (Room: X) - Chair: **Lia van Doorn, NL**

Tessa Hagen, Kim Nieuwburg, NL: The Effects of Implementing Trauma-Informed Care: A New Integrated Approach within De Regenboog Groep

Research has shown that individuals who are homeless are likely to have experienced some form of previous trauma; homelessness itself can be viewed as a traumatic experience and being homeless increases the risk of further victimization and retraumatization. The same is true for refugees and displaced people. For both groups, services have provided care to traumatized people without directly acknowledging or addressing the impact of trauma. Therefore three pilot locations of De Regenboog Groep are making the shift towards Trauma-Informed Care (TIC). TIC offers a framework for providing services to traumatized individuals within a variety of service settings.

The pilot locations serve different target groups. First location is a walk-in center for homeless EU workers who face challenges like aggression and mental health deterioration. Second location is a temporary housing project to prevent long-term homelessness, combining housing with support services. Third location is a semi-permanent shelter for Ukrainian refugees, providing shared living spaces and daily support to buffer the effects of war and assist with practical issues.

This research monitors the effects of the implementation of TIC through qualitative research. This qualitative research is performed through surveys on the items of (I) Supporting staff development, (II) Creating a safe and supportive environment, (III) Assessing and planning services, (IV) Involving consumers and (V) Adapting policies. Additionally focus groups are held with professionals and consumers of the services.

As we know trauma is omnipresent in the lives of the people that we seek to support, we see this project and research as a chance to improve the quality of our services and the overall wellbeing

Tessa Hagen is the Program Coordinator for social work at De Regenboog Groep. With over 20 years of experience in the social domain, she has worked with a wide range of client groups, including those facing trauma, addiction, and mental health challenges. For the past three years, she has been dedicated to supporting people experiencing economic homelessness, focusing on access to housing and social support. Tessa is committed to implementing trauma-informed practices, ensuring that staff and services are equipped to respond effectively to trauma-related challenges. Her expertise lies in bridging policy and practice to create sustainable support structures.

Kim Nieuwburg is the Program Coordinator for refugee shelters at De Regenboog Groep. From the start she has been involved in creating a safe environment for Ukrainian refugees. First as a shelter manager and now in a more coordinating role. In this key role in coordinating the shelter locations, she is involved in both policy and operational issues. Therefore being able to identify needs and potential improvements. Next to initiating this transition to a more trauma informed approach, she advocates for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Eszter Somogyi, Nóra Teller, Alena Vachnova, Noémi Vajdovich and Elena Zagorova, HU/SK: Integrated Health and Social Service Delivery: A Needs Assessment Among Clients of Homeless Services in Central and Eastern Europe

The SOLACE-CEE project seeks to enhance access to health services for vulnerable populations across five Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries—Slovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Poland. As part of the project's impact assessment framework, data collection and analysis activities have been designed to evaluate the effectiveness of local pilot initiatives and their contribution to integrated service delivery. This study presents the preliminary findings from the project's needs assessment phase, examining the conditions under which local initiatives are being implemented and their alignment with client needs. The project is funded by the European Commission through the call focusing on Social innovation practices to combat homelessness (ESF-2023-HOMELESS).

Research Objectives and Methodology
The monitoring and evaluation strategy within the SOLACE-CEE project has been co-developed to achieve multiple objectives: to provide an empirical foundation for understanding the contextual landscape in which integrated services are designed and implemented, to assess and adapt service provision to better address client needs in local integrated hubs, to facilitate a systematic and meaningful evaluation of project processes and progress, and last but not least, to align needs assessment findings with a tailored evaluation framework that informs service development strategies.
The needs assessment phase, conducted from April to June, is based on a sample of 205 persons experiencing homelessness (PEH), comprising both households and single individuals across Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, and Hungary. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, incorporating quantitative data collection on demographics, housing trajectories, homelessness experiences, health literacy, and service access needs.
These data are further contextualized through qualitative research engaging institutional stakeholders such as organizations offering social service and healthcare providers. This component of the study explores stakeholder perspectives on service gaps, barriers to access, and potential areas for methodological and structural improvements. Specific themes include:

- Client characteristics and service needs.
- Availability and accessibility of services, including the territorial context of service use.
- Collaboration patterns among service providers.
- Institutional challenges, including funding structures, administrative hurdles, and workforce development needs.
- Innovations in service delivery, such as inter-agency collaboration, shared service spaces, telemedicine solutions.
-

This presentation will summarize the key insights derived from the assessment phase, shedding light on the critical factors that influence the successful integration of health and social services for homeless populations. The findings contribute to broader discussions on policy innovation and the practical implications of transitioning towards integrated service models in the CEE region.

Alena Vachnová (VPR and DEDO Foundation, Košice) – Lead Partner, Advocate for Ending Homelessness, and Program Designer, she leads strategy and innovation at the DEDO Foundation, advocating for systemic change to end homelessness through integrated housing, social support, healthcare, and employment services in Košice and Prešov, Slovakia. She holds degrees in law and social work and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School.

Elena Zagorová (VPR and DEDO Foundation, Košice) – Research Partner, Graduated with a Master's degree in Business Informatics from the Technical University of Košice, specializing in data analysis. Experienced in working with diverse datasets, including medical data. She participated in the Needs assessment of people experiencing homelessness concerning integrated health and social care.

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Nóra Teller, Eszter Somogyi, Noémi Vajdovich *(Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest) – Project Monitoring and Evaluation Team*

Nóra Teller *(PhD, Sociology) works at the Metropolitan Research Institute. She is member of the European Observatory on Homelessness and has co-edited the European Journal of Homelessness for 16 years. She has 24 years of research and consultancy experience in social inclusion and housing inclusion measures, homelessness research, and housing desegregation in the urban and rural context.*

Eszter Somogyi *(MA in Sociology) works at Metropolitan Research Institute, a Hungarian think-tank, has more than twenty years of experience in research and policy consultancy related to urban regeneration, housing policy and complex policy making targeting vulnerable people. She took part in several research and consultation activities targeted to the most marginalized social groups, such as homeless people and Roma communities. Her expertise also includes national and local strategy development aiming to secure affordable housing and linking housing policies with employment and education policies.*

Noémi Vajdovich *finished her Master's degree in Geography at the Eötvös Loránd University in 2024. She was a member of Eötvös József Collegium and also spent a Semestre in Spain with Erasmus. She won a competition with her paper about regional differences of energy poverty in 2021 in the national scientific student conference (OTDK) on the regional differences. She started her PhD studies in September 2024 at ELTE on geographical health dimensions of homelessness and she is employed at the Metropolitan Research Institute where she is involved in various research projects on regional processes, homelessness, integrated health and social care, housing exclusion and also sustainable urban markets.*

15h20 – 16h00	**Coffee break** **Please note that the closing plenary is in Leuwenbergh church.** **Please save enough time to get there for the start of the session.**
16h00 – 17h30	**Plenary Session II (Room: Aula of Leeuwenbergh church) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE**
16h00 – 16h30	**Pete Mackie, UK: Prioritizing Prevention** The importance of homelessness prevention is now widely acknowledged in policy, and practical efforts are advancing globally. However, persistent structural barriers and the continued prioritisation of resources, support, and research towards crisis response hinder our collective responsibility to prevent homelessness. Drawing on a substantial body of research, this presentation argues for a stronger focus on prevention, highlighting key developments, important opportunities, and the challenges that must be overcome to achieve meaningful change. *Peter Mackie, UK is a professor in the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University, where his research and advisory work are centred on homelessness prevention. He has been involved in the global expansion of the 'Upstream' homelessness prevention intervention, which focuses on supporting children and young people in schools. Peter is a founding editor of the International Journal on Homelessness and serves as Chair of Llamau, Wales's leading youth homelessness charity.*

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17h00 – 17h30	**Gregg Colburn, USA: Homelessness is a Housing Problem**
	In Homelessness is a Housing Problem, Colburn and Aldern seek to explain the substantial regional variation in rates of homelessness across cities in the United States. Using accessible statistics, the authors test a range of conventional beliefs about what drives homelessness in a given city—including mental illness, drug use, poverty, weather, generosity of public assistance, and mobility among low-income households—and find that none explain why Seattle has so much more homelessness than Chicago. Instead, housing market conditions, such as the cost and availability of rental housing, offer a far more convincing explanation.
	Gregg Colburn, US is an associate professor in the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington in Seattle. He studies housing policy, housing markets, and homelessness and is co-author of the book, Homelessness is a Housing Problem: How Structural Factors Explain U.S. Patterns (University of California Press, 2022). Gregg also serves as a member of the research council of the National Alliance to End Homelessness (U.S.).
	Questions & Closing of the conference
17h30	**Drinks reception (Aula of Leeuwenbergh church)**

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Thursday, 17h30 – 19h00
Friday, 8:30 - 9:00 and all breaks
Room: Aula

Lotte Lammens, BE: An Evaluative Framework for the Accessibility of Healthcare for People Experiencing Homelessness: A Human Rights Perspective

Homelessness is a human rights matter that affects not only the right to housing, but also that to health, social security and social welfare. Research on non-take-up indicates that people experiencing homelessness (PEH) face specific legislative and practical barriers in accessing their social rights. This is illustrated by the importance of a registered address in accessing social rights. Due to the scarcity of research on accessibility requirements according to international human rights instruments, it remains unclear if social rights are adequately ensured for PEH and if those barriers constitute human rights violations.

This study aims to outline the international requirements for the accessibility of social rights for PEH, thus enabling legally sound policy recommendations through the definition of a lower threshold and goals for progressive realization. This is done by analyzing the European Social Charter and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, along with their interpretations by their monitoring bodies.

The presented analysis focuses on the development of an evaluative framework for healthcare accessibility, encompassing the right to health, social security and medical assistance. Key elements of this framework include conditionality, affordability, availability, procedural requirements and equal access. To illustrate the serviceability of the framework, an assessment of the Belgian legislation governing access to health insurance and medical assistance for PEH is conducted. This case study leads to the identification of the framework's strengths and weaknesses, showing that the framework can effectively serve as a base for future research, both for sociological studies evaluating practical situations and for legal studies in European countries assessing social rights legislation in terms of accessibility for PEH.

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Lotte Lammens *is a PhD candidate at the Institute for Social Law, KU Leuven. Her research focuses on the access of people experiencing homelessness to social rights and social protection in Flanders from a human rights perspective, in particular by analyzing the European Social Charter and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights.*

Mattia Mansueto, BE: Housing First For Youth: A Scoping Review of Implementation, Outcomes, and Challenges

Youth homelessness is a significant social issue with long-term consequences for well-being, development, and stability. The Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) model has emerged as a rights-based, housing-led intervention designed to meet the distinct needs of young people experiencing homelessness. This study combines a scoping review that systematically examines existing research on HF4Y—identifying key facilitators, barriers, and outcomes of its implementation—with a comparative analysis of social workers' roles across Europe.

A structured search was conducted across six electronic databases—PubMed, PsycINFO, Google Scholar, JSTOR, ProQuest, and LIMO (KU Leuven Library)—and supplemented with grey literature. A total of 21 records published between 2012 and 2024 met the inclusion criteria, encompassing academic articles, policy reports, and programme evaluations from Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Denmark, Australia, and France.

The findings highlight critical facilitators, including strong multi-agency partnerships, youth-centred and trauma-informed support, and flexible service delivery. However, persistent challenges such as housing shortages, funding instability, and fragmented services limit the model's effectiveness. HF4Y programmes consistently report positive outcomes in housing stability, mental health, social inclusion, and engagement in education and employment. Nevertheless, financial insecurity and barriers to long-term employment remain significant obstacles for young people. Methodologically, the review identifies a range of research designs, including randomised controlled trials, longitudinal cohort studies, and mixed-methods approaches.

Complementing the review, a qualitative study explores the involvement of social workers in HF4Y across Belgium, Spain, Wales, and Scotland. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with HF4Y professionals and thematic analysis, the study reveals that social workers play a vital role in case management, advocacy, and interagency coordination. Nonetheless, role ambiguity, high caseloads, burnout, and systemic constraints—including misalignment with traditional social services—pose significant challenges. The findings underscore the variability of social work involvement across national contexts, shaped by workforce structures and policy environments.

This research contributes to both academic and policy debates by synthesising HF4Y implementation evidence while offering grounded insights into the professional dynamics underpinning service delivery. It highlights the need for sustained investment, clearer role delineation, and enhanced interdisciplinary collaboration to support the scalability and sustainability of HF4Y as a youth-centred, rights-based response to homelessness.

Mattia Mansueto *is a PhD-student at KULeuven specialising in youth homelessness, housing policy, and social interventions. He is particularly focused on the Housing First for Youth model and its implementation across different socio-political contexts, and Ecosocial work in social work practice. His work integrates policy analysis, literature reviews, and qualitative research to evaluate housing-led solutions for vulnerable young people. Mattia has collaborated with academic institutions, policymakers, and NGOs to advance evidence-based strategies for homelessness prevention and intervention. His research aims to inform sustainable and youth-centred housing policies that promote long-term stability and social inclusion, and environmental sustainability in Social Work.*

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European Observatory on Homelessness

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Samuel P. Jones, DK: Mobilizing Network Support for Homeless People

The article investigates how professional support staff engage in mobilizing social support for homeless people within a Housing First inspired intervention. The empirical foundation consists of 14 semi-structured interviews, of which 12 were conducted with the professional support staff, primarily case managers, and 2 were with management. All worked at the same municipal shelter. The article contributes with insight into three related dimensions of social work with homeless people. First, the uneven landscape of support networks surrounding homeless people, as the professional support staff had different experiences of the value of networks surrounding homeless people. Secondly, the article sheds light on the value of mobilizing instrumental and emotional support through the networks of homeless people. Finally, it outlines the paradoxes of network mobilizations that the professional support staff must navigate. The article presents a theoretical model conceptualizing the difference between stabilizing support networks and destabilizing networks. The model draws on social support theory (House 1981, Heaney & Israel 2008, Song & Zhang 2024) and is inspired by previous research into the support networks of homeless people (Golembiewski et al. 2017, Ayed et al. 2020, Cummings et al. 2022). Networks are dynamic entities that might serve valuable support functions on the streets or in certain social environments but lose their value when material or social circumstances change. Conceptualizing the supportive dynamics of networks might guide professionals in their approach to mobilizing homeless people's network and the dilemmas associated with this mobilization. These insights hope to be of value to the efforts to strengthen social integration of homeless people as a part of Housing First interventions (Quilgars & Pleace 2016).

Samuel P. Jones is a PhD fellow at Roskilde University. He has a Master's degree in sociology (cand.scient.soc) from Copenhagen University (2015). The ph.d. is part of a larger research project investigating when and how volunteer 'networkfriends' can be productively integrated into Housing First interventions. Prior to the ph.d., he taught sociology and politics to social workers at University College SYD in Denmark for 9 years. His main research interests are social support, marginalization, homelessness and social work within street-level organizations.

Eleonore Macerata, DK: Beyond Borders, Beneath the Surface: Homeless Migrants in Denmark – Hidden Realities and Systemic Interactions in a Welfare System

Methodology

Through a dual lens of legal analysis and ethnography, the research explores homelessness among EU migrants in Denmark, investigating the intersection of migration, vulnerability, and government policies within the country's robust welfare system.

Theoretical framework

The research analyzes concepts of solidarity, social assistance, and home and homelessness,[1] adopting a methodological 'de-nationalization' of migration[2]: a critical examination of the nation- state as a constructed entity, rather than an inherent division of territories, challenging the exclusion of non-citizens from fundamental rights, which, while universal in principle, rely on the political will of nation-states for enforcement.

Methodological de-nationalism recognizes that borders and citizenship are not inherent or natural, but rather constructed through political, historical, and economic processes, revealing tensions between European citizenship, freedom of movement and nation-state sovereignty.[4]

Findings

The research examines Denmark's response to homelessness among EU migrants, focusing on the governmental policies and the critical role of NGOs, revealing a dissonance between Denmark's reputation as a welfare state and its exclusionary practices toward vulnerable EU migrants, particularly where access to essential services requires a Civil Personal Registration (CPR) number. Although Denmark officially adopts the "housing first" strategy aligned with its welfare model, its policies explicitly exclude migrants without CPR number, potentially marginalizing them even further.

In summary, while EU citizens can legally move within the EU borders and reside in Denmark for up to 3 or 6 months (if job-seekers) without CPR, such registration is often mandatory for accessing public services, for instance municipal

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night shelters, which often deny accommodation without it.

The research calls for a paradigm shift, viewing migration as an opportunity, prioritizing long-term integration and human rights protection. Overlooking homelessness among migrants and exacerbating their living conditions does not seem to incentivize departure; rather, it places undue pressure on both the Danish system and private actors.

Eleonore Macerata holds a Bachelor's in Political Science and Human Rights and Master's in Migration Studies that provided a strong theoretical foundation for her research. She has been working with the homeless population, especially migrants, in Italy and Denmark. Based in Denmark, my research focuses on homeless migrants and mental health, and the rights of EU homeless migrants, examining how they are systematically denied basic protection and services. Parallely, she works as a social worker at two night shelters, one focused on the severely mentally ill and the other offering emergency accommodation widely used by migrant populations.

Merete Kemppainen, FI: Pursuing the Right to the City: Case Study Folkets Park - Impact Assessment

This paper focuses on the impact of the redevelopment of Folkets Park in Copenhagen, examining how public spaces with strategies for accessibility affect public opinion and attitudes towards people experiencing homelessness. The research explores the relationship between the built environment, inclusive design, co-existence, and social sustainability.

Folkets Park was chosen as the case study due to its redesign efforts aimed at improving safety and inclusivity. The renovation process, which began after a violent crime took place in the park in 2012, aimed to make the space more welcoming and safer for all users, including marginalized groups like the people experiencing homelessness. This study delves into how the park's redesign influenced the interactions between park users and the broader community, particularly in terms of fostering coexistence and addressing social exclusion.

The study was conducted using ethnographic methods, including interviews and surveys, to gather qualitative data on the experiences and attitudes of park users. Observations were also made through various tools, such as stationary activity mapping, to understand better how people use the space and interact with each other. The combination of these methods provides a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics at play in Folkets Park and sheds light on the role of public space in promoting social sustainability.

While safety and perceived inclusivity were key factors in the park's redesign, the study highlights the complexities of creating spaces that truly foster social integration. Through a closer examination of the park's social life and its impact on both regular visitors and homeless individuals, the research contributes to the broader discourse on homelessness and public space in urban settings.

Merete Kemppainen is an architect specializing in urban planning, a doctoral researcher at Aalto University, and a project worker and researcher in the VALUE project. Her research focuses on the built environment's impact on social sustainability, particularly examining power dynamics in public spaces from the perspective of marginalized communities. Kemppainen aims to protect and develop sustainable, resilient, and democratic urban environments.

Luca Szőőr-Fülöp, HU: The Exclusionary Mechanisms of the Welfare State

This presentation examines how social rights in Hungary have evolved over the past decade, focusing on homelessness as a case of structural exclusion. Applying Foucault's theory of power, it explores how political discourse, policy measures, and media narratives shape the treatment of homeless individuals. The aim is to reveal the mechanisms through which the welfare state justifies restrictive interventions rather than ensuring social protection.

Using critical discourse analysis, it examines dominant political rhetoric and media portrayals of homelessness. Additionally, policy analysis is applied to assess legislative changes, including the criminalization of rough sleeping, and their implications for social rights.

The research highlights how homelessness is framed as an individual failure rather than a systemic issue, reinforcing punitive approaches over structural solutions. By shifting the focus from social support to regulation, policies contribute to the marginalization and stigmatization of those in need. The findings offer insights for a broader European discussion on housing exclusion and call for alternative strategies prioritizing social inclusion and rights-based approaches.

Luca Anna Szöőr-Fülöp is a sociologist and public policy analyst. As a PhD candidate at the University of Debrecen, she examines exclusionary mechanisms in welfare states, with a particular focus on marginalized groups and power structures. Her research focuses on housing inequalities and housing poverty. As a junior researcher at the HÉTFA Research Institute, she participates in Hungarian and international projects. She has extensive experience in qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews, focus groups, and policy analysis. Her work has been published in academic journals, and she has presented her research at national and international conferences.

*Co-Author: **Simonné Csoba Judit** Full Professor, University of Debrecen, Faculty of Humanities, Institute of Political Science and Sociology, Department of Sociology and Social Policy*

Noémi Vajdovich, HU: The Conceptualisation and the Results of the 2024 Headcount in Budapest

Introduction

In October 2024, a comprehensive homelessness survey was conducted as part of the so-called "Homelessness Count Project" in 15 cities across 10 countries. The aim of the project was to establish a new general methodology at the European level, while also taking local specificities into account. As part of the project, we also attempted to measure the number of people experiencing homelessness in the inner districts of Budapest, at railway stations, and on certain public transport routes.

Methodology

The homelessness count officially took place on October 11, 2024, between 20:00 and 00:00 on October 12, with the participation of 132 volunteers and seven coordinators. The surveyed area was divided into 42 area-based zones and six line-based zones. Volunteers, guided by their coordinators, conducted on-site visits to carry out the survey. Their task was to count vacant bed spaces and people who appeared to be experiencing homelessness in public spaces and to observe their characteristics. To provide a more precise description of locations and the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness (PEH), and to avoid duplication, volunteers used a pre-designed Google Form and a paper questionnaire guide. The observation checklist included exact questions about coordinates of bed locations and individuals, as well as others on body position, estimated age, gender, condition (state), and type of location according to the ETHOS classification. Additionally, in the case of individuals, we also noted whether the observed person was staying alone or with others.

Results

A total of 457 individuals and 34 locations were identified within the study area, primarily near public transport hubs and in less frequented public spaces. The majority of the individuals were estimated to be between 30 and 60 years old. Most of those observed by volunteers were either sitting or in a dazed state.

Conclusions

Our research findings not only align with the objectives of the European project but also provide a clearer understanding of where people experiencing homelessness are located and their specific characteristics. These results can contribute to shaping future social policy guidelines and objectives, particularly in addressing spatial conflicts in the capital.

Noémi Vajdovich finished her Master's degree in Geography at the Eötvös Loránd University in 2024. She was a member of Eötvös József Collegium and also spent a Semestre in Spain with Erasmus. She won a competition with her paper about regional differences of energy poverty in 2021 in the national scientific student conference (OTDK) on the regional differences. She started her PhD studies in September 2024 at ELTE on geographical health dimensions of homelessness and she is employed at the Metropolitan Research Institute where she is involved in various research projects on regional processes, homelessness, integrated health and social care, housing exclusion and also sustainable urban markets.

Hayley Swanton, IE: The Role of Housing and Support in Fostering Care-Full Relationships in the Community for People Experiencing Mental Health Difficulties (PEMHD)

People Experiencing Mental Health Difficulties (PEMHD) face significant challenges in securing and sustaining stable housing. They are disproportionately represented among the homeless population (National Disability Authority, 2020) and in institutional settings such as supervised residences, community residences, and residential facilities in Ireland (CSO, 2022; HSE, 2012). Research indicates that the type of accommodation in which PEMHD live directly influences the nature and extent of their emotional connections (Forrester-Jones et al., 2012), with institutional and unstable housing environments often limiting opportunities to develop and sustain meaningful relationships (Forrester-Jones & Barnes, 2008), impacting on their mental health and recovery. Barriers to accessing relations of love, care and solidarity constitute a serious human deprivation or an affective/ relational injustice (Lynch and Baker 2009). Access to and support to sustain secure, stable housing is essential to ensuring recovery for PEMHD. This is because secure housing and good care-full networks of support create the conditions for fostering meaningful relationships, thereby contributing to recovery and social inclusion (Filia et al. 2019)

This presentation aims to present preliminary findings from an Irish longitudinal case study exploring the lived experiences of START (Support for Tenancy and Recovery Targets) participants in their recovery journey while living independently. Findings from this study suggest that being supported to access and sustain stable housing provides a foundation for building and maintaining meaningful relationships overtime. Participants described how having a secure home allowed them to reconnect with family members, form reciprocal bonds with neighbours, and develop trusting relationships with support workers. Homes became spaces where networks of caring relationships could flourish, extending beyond personal ties to include professional and community connections. Quality care and support from START support workers enabled participants to feel empowered to manage their homes, develop trust, and actively engage in relationships that nurtured their well-being and recovery. While challenges such as financial insecurity and stigma still remain, the findings indicate that when housing is accompanied by care-full networks of support, PEMHD can form meaningful relationships that contribute to their recovery and well-being and towards their active citizenship.

Hayley Swanton is a PhD student at South East Technological University (SETU) in Waterford, Ireland, conducting research that aims to narrate START participants' lived experiences of recovery while living independently. She holds a Bachelor's (Honours) degree in Social Care from Munster Technological University and a Master's in Social Work from University College Cork, with over six years of experience at Cork Simon Community.

Maya d'Ugo, MT: Exploring Deprivation, Housing Insecurity and Human Services in Malta: A Critical Ethnography

Commonly referred to as a well-kept secret, homelessness in Malta is largely underresearched and remained almost undocumented till recent years. With both similarities and differences to homelessness in other parts of Europe, service provision in Malta is influenced by the country's unique social background which blends the Catholic, the neoliberal and the remnants of socialism. Through the use of multi-site critical ethnography, and more specifically, a combination of participant observation and interviews, the study explores the lived experiences of both recipients and providers of human services in Malta, while focusing specifically on instances of resistance amongst unhoused people. The study also explores the values underpinning service-provision, and examines them against a background of anarchist theory, examining whether moralistic negotiations take place in the process of developing and providing services, or whether

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shelters, drop-in centres and food distribution kitchens are being designed to reflect actual, rather than imagined, needs.

A social worker by profession, and currently a full-time doctoral student at the University of Malta,

Maya d'Ugo is in the final stages of her PhD research on housing insecurity, deprivation and homelessness in Malta. Involved in working with unhoused families and individuals since 2016, Maya is also passionate about raising awareness of the links between capitalism, homelessness and the importance of mutual aid. When not researching, she is also involved in supporting local activist movements.

Nienke Boesveldt, Mette Palm, Roy Gigengack NL: „Homelessness Is Not A Disease... Fuck You With Your Recovery!" Identity Work among Recurrently Homeless Men Facing Institutional Power

Society judges individuals based not only on their current roles but also on past ones. Homelessness is among the most stigmatized identities, and the perceptions of the housed, including caregivers, often hinder the reintegration of homeless individuals into society. While critical scholars point to the identity work among recurrently homeless men facing institutional power, systemic failures of neoliberal capitalism as a root cause of homelessness, public perceptions often view it as an individual failure, associating low socio-economic status with mental illness or addiction. As such, individuals transitioning out of homelessness must engage in daily identity work to cope with this stigma. This paper examines how formerly homeless individuals navigate identity work during the role-exit process.

Using narrative inquiry, we position research participants as experts in their own stories. Out of a longitudinal sample of 31 formerly homeless individuals in the Netherlands, we focus on the narratives of four recurrently homeless men as exemplary cases of "mortification of the self." The research, conducted over five years and with peer researchers, examines the experiences of these participants through 20 interviews, focusing on (1) selective associations with others and (2) verbal constructions of personal identity, guided by concepts of "identity," "meaning," "performance," and "stigma."

We found that seeking help often negatively impacts self-image, with interactions with professionals sometimes experienced as degrading. However, participants did not avoid care; instead, they used identity work to resist the stigma of being seen as "human waste" while cautiously seeking help. Their stories highlight how individuals resist institutionalized symbolic violence and empower themselves through discursive strategies. This research emphasizes stigma management as a form of resistance, drawing on Goffman's performative self and role-exit theory to explore the transition out of homelessness and challenge the psychocentric discourse in care institutions.

Mette Palm is PhD-student and conducts research into people with persistent suicidality and appropriate care at Amsterdam University Medical Centre, location VU.

Nienke Boesveldt is researcher on re-housing homeless persons at Vu University Amsterdam, Social and Cultural Anthropology, lecturer at University of Amsterdam, UvA Academy and at Emerson College, in Sociology/ Anthropology.

Roy Gigengack is senior lecturer at Vu University Amsterdam, Social and Cultural Anthropology and assistant-professor Interdisciplinary Social Science at Utrecht University.

Menno Hoppen, NL: Co-Production in Homeless Services: Conditions for Meaningful Involvement

Co-production—the involvement of service users in the design and/or delivery of services—is often seen as a promising approach to improving public services. While many of these services target so-called 'vulnerable' populations, research on the specific conditions that enable co-production in such contexts remains limited.

Drawing on literature on co-production, policy implementation, and street-level bureaucracy, this study investigates how and under which conditions homeless service providers can engage service users in co-producing their services. It compares four co-production initiatives across two Dutch homeless service providers: a self-managed night shelter (NuNN) in Nijmegen, and three approaches at De Regenboog Groep in Amsterdam (self-managed night shelters, client

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councils, and visitor-volunteers).

Empirically, this study is based on extensive ethnographic research, including approximately 80 interviews with co-producers, frontline workers, organizational managers, and external stakeholders; 200 hours of participant observation in meetings and frontline work; and focus groups across both organizations. By integrating interviews and observations, the research provides a nuanced understanding of how co-production operates in practice and what conditions enable its success.
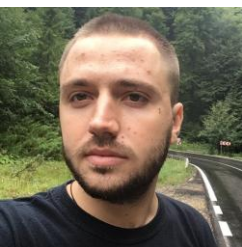
By systematically comparing multiple co-production efforts involving people experiencing homelessness, this research not only highlights the challenges and complexities of such initiatives but also identifies key enabling factors. As such, it contributes to a deeper understanding of innovative service delivery models in homelessness services, offering insights for both practitioners and researchers.

Menno Hoppen is a PhD candidate and lecturer in the Public Administration department at Radboud University Nijmegen. His research focuses on the inclusion of marginalized groups in the co-production of public services, with a particular interest in innovative strategies to enhance social inclusion for people experiencing homelessness.

Mihai Ivascu, RO: Addressing Psychiatric Treatment Barriers and Solutions for People Experiencing Homelessness

This paper presents the difficulties that homeless people in Bucharest experience when it comes to the medication treatment they should follow. Living on the streets represents a major risk to both the person's life and their health, because it creates problems related to the impossibility of purchasing the necessary medications, compliance with treatment, etc. The increased vulnerability of homeless people, the environment in which they live and exist, creates additional difficulties in their ability to recover even from minor ailments. Moreover, when it comes to chronic illnesses or mental disorders, the situation becomes even more complicated, because living on the streets makes it difficult for patients to recover and improve their health. The place of a person suffering from a chronic illness, or a mental disorder is not on the streets, but in a specialized institution. Therefore, through this paper I will show how homeless people manage or fail to comply with the medication treatment they receive, but also how they consider that living on the streets affects their disorder. At the same time, I will show the difficulties experienced by homeless people in trying to recover, in a situation where, not having a shelter and a safe place, can create additional problems in their experience with the illness they suffer from. In a city where housing first services are lacking, the way in which these people try and succeed, or fail, to comply with the medication treatment they receive, after obtaining it, I believe represents an important point of view in the need to implement the above-mentioned services. The data will be obtained after interviewing homeless adults who have a diagnosis and benefit from support to acquire it, following how they manage to comply with the medical indications they receive to improve their health.

My name is Mihai Ivașcu from Bucharest, Romania. I am 27 years old and have been working as a social worker for five years. I am currently employed by the Carusel Association, where I work at a community center in the Ferentari neighborhood—an area known for its socio-economic challenges. There, we support homeless adults, people who use drugs, sex workers, and other vulnerable groups. Additionally, I am pursuing my doctoral studies in Social Work at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest. My research interests include mental health, homeless adults, and specialized social work services.

Emory Paul, US: „Homeless, Not Helpless": How Homeless Unions Transform the Local Political Life of the Unhoused

As homelessness continues to rise across the United States, social movement organizations led by people experiencing homelessness, often referred to as homeless unions, have grown in number and influence as they seek to organize homeless people against the structural forces perpetuating their plight. Yet, the extreme marginalization of the

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unhoused has led political scientists to largely dismiss homeless people as political actors and, consequently, overlook the role of homeless unions in building and channeling the power of the unhoused. This thesis explores this incongruence in the literature by investigating how homeless unions build power. To study this phenomenon, I conducted in-depth interviews (n = 52) and participant observation with eleven homeless unions organizing locally across the country. I find that homeless unions build power by constructing critical opportunities for unhoused people to meaningfully engage in local politics as active agents rather than passive victims. By strengthening their members' leadership skills, consolidating their resistance through organization-building, and engaging in direct action within the public sphere, homeless unions overcome significant barriers to building power amongst a population thought to be unorganizable. These findings demonstrate the importance of community-led organizations as a vital source of power-building for populations excluded from the formal political arena. Moreover, the individual and collective benefits of participation in a homeless union identified in this study suggest approaches to addressing homelessness that build on the sense of togetherness in homeless people's social networks. Ultimately, I forward the need to bring the literature on social movements into greater conversation with the literature on homelessness. The historical separation of the two has led scholars to overlook the latent power of homeless people and, thus, the potential for the unhoused to lead a movement for change.

Emory Paul, US is a graduating senior at Harvard University. He has spent seven years working in homeless services in Atlanta and Boston, providing him with a nuanced understanding of how homelessness is perpetuated at the expense of being ended. His research focuses on social movement organizations led by the unhoused and evidence-based solutions to ending homelessness. He aspires to pursue a PhD in sociology and social policy, aiming to help foster a robust academic field for homelessness research in the U.S. that promotes community-engaged scholarship rooted in the voices of those with lived experiences of homelessness.

FIELD VISITS

Title: Workshop Moral Case Deliberation (MCD)

Organisation: Research Group Housing and Wellbeing, Utrecht University of Applied Sciences (HU)

Time of the site visit: Thursday, September 18th 2025, 9.30 – 11.30

Address of visit: Utrecht University of Applied Sciences, Padualaan 97, 1st floor, Educatieplein (The location is easily accessible with public transport, approximately ½ hour from Utrecht Central Station and in the building signposts will be placed in order to find the room.)

Content/activity: Dialogue about moral dilemmas and ethical questions

In this workshop, we facilitate a dialogue about moral dilemmas and ethical questions that arise when doing research on the theme of homelessness and housing exclusion. For example, questions like 'We want to work with experts by experience as co-researchers, but funders don't give money to pay them: what now?' or 'We need to share data about homeless persons to convince policymakers to build more houses, but data sharing means violating privacy legislation: what should we do?'.

Stakeholders with different, often conflicting interests, all have their own perspective on what should be done (and who should do what) in complex situations. This is why it is often very difficult to find a solution for problems, come to satisfactory agreements, and learn together. Moral Case Deliberation (MCD) has proven to be a valuable tool, to share experiences and opinions. An experienced facilitator structures the conversation in order to guarantee that every voice is heard and everyone's input is equally weighed.

Participants in this workshop can have different professions/positions (researchers, policy-makers, experts by experience).

They will see that they are not alone in their ethical struggles and find out that there are more perspectives than they were aware of.

Capacity/potential number of people who can sign up: 20 persons.