

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.



***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.

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 migration²: 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 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 Kempainen, 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 Kempainen 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. Kempainen aims to protect and develop sustainable, resilient, and democratic urban environments.

Luca Szöör-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 Szöör-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 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 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.

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 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.