



## 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

Morning hours	Site visits organized by BMSZKI and From Street to Home Association
12h30 – 13h30	Registration at the venue (AULA)
13h30 – 14h00	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Opening by Jules van Dam, President of FEANTSA (TBC)</p> <p>Welcome by Gergely Karácsony, Mayor of Budapest Capital City</p> <p>Welcome by Nóra Teller, Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest</p>
14h00 – 15h15	<p><b>Plenary Session I (Room: Auditorium) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 3;"> <p><b>Dorottya Szikra, HU: Illiberal Welfare States in the making (TBC)</b></p> <p><i>Dorottya Szikra is Senior Researcher at the Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest, and Visiting Professor at the Department of Gender Studies, CEU Vienna. She is also associated with CEU Democracy Institute. Her main research field is the illiberal and populist welfare state and family policy. Between 2016 and 2020 she acted as the co-chair of the European Social Policy Analysis Network (ESPAnet). In 2021-22 she has served as a member of the EC commissioned High-Level Group on the future of social protection and of the welfare state in the EU.</i></p> <p>Illiberal and right wing populist parties are on the rise all over the world. Their anti-pluralist stance and polarizing discourses contribute to the demise of democracy in many countries, including EU member states. Illiberal actors' welfare-related claims and policies are however rarely analysed. Based on evidence derived from manifestos and policies of illiberal parties that were in a ruling position in the last decade, I argue that their welfare ideas share important commonalities. Still, there is no one illiberal welfare model, rather, there is a diversity in their welfare effort as well as the target populations illiberals intend to please. One important message of my talk is that democratic forces need to learn from the ways in which illiberal and populist actors break away from neoliberal economic and social policies and often cater for vulnerable social groups in innovative and novel ways.</p> </div> </div> <p><b>Bálint Misetics, HU: Understanding Homelessness: Housing and Capital</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 3;"> <p><i>Bálint Misetics, Hungary, is a social policy expert whose work integrates research, advocacy, policy, and fieldwork. He is currently working for the Municipality of Budapest as the Senior Advisor to the Mayor on Housing and Social Policy, and serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Municipal Foundation for Social Policy. He was the author of the Municipality's new strategy on homelessness which attempts to reframe and address homelessness as a housing problem.</i></p> <p>Why is it that the inability to purchase something is universally understood to be caused by the lack of monetary resources, but the discrepancy between the price of housing and whatever income people who are homeless have or can attain is often not granted the appropriate focus in the discourse on homelessness? Is it not, ultimately, wealth and income that allow people to be housed, and is it not the lack thereof that explains that certain people lack housing?</p> <p>Poverty is the enforced lack of necessities. Homelessness, the enforced lack of housing, is a subset of poverty, and – as poverty itself – should be understood as the consequence and manifestation of</p> </div> </div>

social inequalities. Revisiting the fundamental question of social scientific inquiries into homelessness from these premises, the lecture attempts to sketch and justify a structural and political understanding of homelessness, centered around the affordability of housing. Marital status and family dissolution are integrated through their effect on the volume of housing wealth and income one can access through his or her social capital; "individual" vulnerabilities and risk factors are integrated as socially and unequally produced characteristics which are penalized unequally (depending on the relevant characteristics and shortcomings of welfare systems) and contribute to homelessness primarily through their effects on one's access to economic and social capital. The lecture concludes with reflections on policy.

15h15 – 15h30

Questions

15h30 – 16h00

Coffee break

16h00 – 17h30

**SEMINAR SESSION 1 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars**

**Seminar 1: Data Collection Methodologies I (Room: TBD) - Chair: Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

**Philipp Schnell, AT:** Strategies for Measuring Homelessness in a Federally Organized State – the Case of Austria

The federally organized state of Austria consists of nine federal provinces with their own social security laws and distinct networks of organizations providing services for people experiencing homelessness. The federalization of the administrative landscape results in vastly different approaches for tackling the issue of homelessness and increased complexity in quantifying its extent and profile at the national level. For this purpose, we investigated existing data sources for measuring different forms of homelessness along the ETHOS Light typology at state, federal province, and municipal/organizational level. We explored additional data sources and data gathering techniques to create insights on certain subpopulations and sociodemographic groups that are particularly at risk or under-researched. The aim was to design a measurement approach to be rolled out in all Austrian provinces and present a unified framework for data collection and analysis.

As a result, we propose three models for measuring the extent and profile of homelessness in Austria: a centralized approach, collecting data directly from social service organizations; a de-centralized approach involving governments of federal provinces; and a de-centralized approach with partial rollout in some federal provinces. Combining data sources on national, federal province, and municipal/organizational level, we present three solutions for a multi-scale, multi-method approach maximizing coverage of participating provinces and ETHOS Light categories. Also, we want to outline relevant policy dimensions that inform an efficient data collection process and provide the necessary basis for political decision-making. Reuniting the advantages of different measurement techniques, we aim to overcome the fragmentation of the Austrian social welfare system, while providing data for a hands-on strategy to combat homelessness in all Austrian provinces and social strata.



*Philipp Schnell is a postdoctoral researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, where he recently conducted a feasibility study for designing a nationwide system for collecting data on homelessness and precarious housing, commissioned by the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs. He previously published work on the lifeworlds of persons experiencing homelessness in Vienna and explored novel approaches for studying urban transformation and urban lived experience, including their effects on social space. Currently, Philipp is working on a study on life-trajectories of formerly homeless persons in permanent housing and a multi-method, multi-scale model for measuring homelessness across ETHOS Light categories in Austria.*

**Evelien Demaerschalk, Nana Mertens, Koen Hermans, BE:** Integrating a Street Count and Extensive Service-based Homelessness Count

To provide local and regional governments with concrete tools in the fight against homelessness, LUCAS KU Leuven developed a methodology for an extensive service-based homelessness count. The point in time count is a ten-month process involving intensive collaboration with local services that have (in)direct contact with homeless people. From 2020 to 2023, 14 point-in-time counts took place in cities and regions in Flanders and 10 in Wallonia.

In 2023 a first homelessness count was organized in Antwerp, the largest city in Flanders. For the first time, we

set up a street count in addition to the extensive service-based count. After a briefing, 63 practitioners walked in groups of 2 to 4 people through 25 zones. They counted people sleeping rough from 11 PM to midnight and completed a concise questionnaire. In order to verify whether someone had already been counted in the extensive service-based count, the counters asked awake individuals if they were willing to provide their anonymous ID.

We present how a street count and extensive service-based count can coexist and complement each other in a large city like Antwerp. Our results indicate that a portion of the street sleepers are known to services. They were already included in the extensive service-based count. Another group of persons counted in the street count, had not yet been in contact with the organizations participating in the count. This number of individuals could be added to the results of the extensive service based count. However, the extensive service-based count led to a higher number of persons sleeping rough compared to the street count. We will discuss the implications of this result.



*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.*

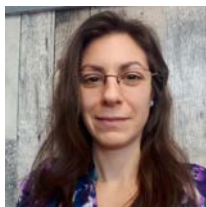
*Koen Hermans, Belgium is Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at the Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven. He is also project leader at LUCAS, Centre for Care Research and Consultancy. His research focuses on the care and support for vulnerable and underserved populations in society, 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.*

### **Seminar 2: Fidelity of Housing First (Room: TBD) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE**

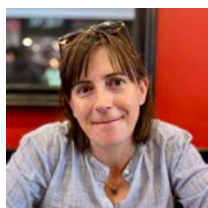
**Ashley Ward, Samara Jones, Stephen Gaetz, CA:** Validation of a Brief Fidelity Self-Assessment Tool for Housing First (HF) Interventions for Youth: Pilot Testing

Program fidelity assessment is the evaluation of a program's performance in correspondence with its defined principles and practices - or, its underlying core model. A well-recognized step in verifying a program's quality, specifically its adherence to the core model in balance with any necessary contextual adaptations, fidelity assessment can also be expensive and time-consuming; qualified independent assessors may additionally be challenging to access. In response to these concerns, self-assessment is increasingly being recognized as a valid form of fidelity review, offering a way for program operators to capture current program quality, better define its limits, and provide tangible directions for capacity-building. Housing First (HF) interventions that address youth homelessness are continuing to be implemented and operated in a number of countries; in tandem with this is a call for fidelity tools and resources to support practitioners in building their program's capacity. In this presentation, we describe a pilot study providing an initial validation of a fidelity self-assessment tool for HF programs for youth using the Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) model's core principles. It draws on data collected from a larger study examining program adoption, implementation, and practitioner innovation in HF programs for youth in Canada and Europe. The study applied a mixed-methods design consisting of survey and interview data collection; as part of the survey package, a 31-item tool was developed to measure fidelity across HF4Y's five core principles. The survey was completed by service delivery team leads (TLs); qualitative interviews were conducted with TLs as well as host organization leaders who led the decision to implement their HF program(s) for youth. Interview guides covered three topics relevant to fidelity assessment: program design and

implementation, program innovation and practices, and training and capacity-building. Currently, the study is ongoing; results of the analysis will be discussed.



*Ashley Ward (she/her) is a Senior Researcher with the Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab. She holds a PhD in Psychological Science from Toronto Metropolitan University, as well as expertise in interdisciplinary and community-based research, evidence-based program design, and program evaluation. Her research focuses on Housing First for Youth (HF4Y), evidence-based practice adoption, as well as what works to bring quality and empowerment to the lives of marginalized youth.*



*Samara Jones has worked on homelessness and social justice issues, with a particular focus on Housing First, youth, and systems change. Based in Brussels, she is the Coordinator of the Housing First Europe Hub ([www.housingfirsteurope.eu](http://www.housingfirsteurope.eu)), a partnership established by FEANTSA and the Y-Foundation (Finland), and over 20 housing providers, governments, cities, and researchers from across Europe and beyond. In 2023 and the first half of 2024, she is on sabbatical back home in Canada and is working part-time with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and A Way Home Canada as a researcher on the Housing First for Youth Program Adoption & Practice Innovations Study.*



*As a scholar, Dr. Stephen Gaetz has had a long-standing interest in understanding homelessness – its causes, how it is experienced, and evidence-based solutions to ending it. His program of research has been defined by the need to ‘make research matter’ through conducting scholarly research that is mobilized to impact policy, practice, and public opinion. Dr. Gaetz has published extensively on the topic; his research on youth homelessness, its prevention, and models of intervention have contributed to significant change in how we respond to homelessness in Canada and internationally.*

## **Riikka Perälä, Saija Turunen, FI:** Adapting Housing First. Exploring Stakeholder Perspectives on Adaptations to the Housing First Model in Four European countries

The presentation examines the local adaptations of the Housing First model in Europe. The Housing First model has proven to be a successful and effective response to homelessness with evidence of its feasibility in different contexts. However, further research is needed to explore balance between the Housing First model and the local context as well as to identify potential training needs. The data of this presentation consists of semi-structured individual interviews with stakeholders in Housing First (N=50) collected in Finland, Germany, Ireland, and Spain. The focus of the presentation is on the eight principles of the European Housing First model (Pleace 2016), prompting the interviewees to reflect on their relevance to their work and on the implementation of the principles within their respective organisations and countries. The interviews were analysed by applying thematic content analysis. In the presentation the main findings of the interviews will address the following questions: how the interviewees applied the eight principles in their work, what challenges, if any, they experienced in applying the principles and what were the underlying cause of the potential challenges. The significance of the results and the relevant training needs arising from them are discussed at the end of the presentation.



*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 and her research interests include impact assessment, women’s homelessness as well as subjective well-being.*



*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 an Erasmus+ funded research project, which investigates the adaptation of Housing First policies in four European countries.*

### Seminar 3: Understanding and Addressing LGBTQI+ Homelessness (Room: TBD) - Chair: Freek Spinnewijn, BE

**Ana Dresler and Mauro Striano, BE:** Housing Exclusion among Sex Workers in Brussels. Quantitative and Qualitative Data Concerning Trans\* people and Men Having Sexual Relations with Other Men in Exchange of Money or Services in Brussels

Housing is among the issues that most concern trans\* people and men having sexual relations with other men in exchange of money or services. According to data collected by Alias in 2022 and 2023, a little more than 2/3 of this public are homeless or in a situation of housing exclusion. Around half of the beneficiaries whose housing situation is known live with third parties, mainly with friends or clients, in apartments rented for sex work, hotels or in Airbnbs.

The main objectives of the study are: to explore housing exclusion and the consequences on the living conditions of sex workers. By collecting qualitative information, we will try to better understand the problem and define more precisely the type of housing exclusion using the ETHOS typology; to verify data indicating non-recourse to services for homeless people and asylum seekers and, where appropriate, identify the reasons; to identify and analyse informal alternative strategies employed by sex workers to fill the lack of housing solutions; to identify obstacles to access to stable and adequate housing for the concerned public. In particular, beyond structural problems, we aim at identifying the obstacles linked to the profession, the sexual orientation and the gender identity; to better understand the journeys of beneficiaries temporarily accommodated with third parties through information collected on ways of finding a room/accommodation with third parties; to assess the living conditions of people who live with third parties and to identify the impact of hidden homelessness on the health and mental health.

The study will be based on the analysis of data collected in 2023 for 262 beneficiaries. On the basis of the data analysis, 20 interviews will be carried out with beneficiaries. The profiles of the beneficiaries to be interviewed will represent a sample of the public affected by homelessness. We will therefore be careful to respect the proportions in terms of gender identities, geographical origin, income, and administrative situation.



*Ana Daniela Dresler is a researcher and course assistant in urban studies at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). As an urban planner, her research projects focus on socio-spatial inequalities and the perception of (in)security of vulnerable populations in contemporary cities. She also has a research interest in the perception of fear in the city and carried out research together with NGOs on its spatial manifestations, societal tensions, and security issues.*



*Mauro Striano is a social worker and the coordinator of Alias' social service department. In the past, he worked for almost 10 years as migration and participation policy officer at FEANTSA, as a researcher for Bruss'help and as an outreach worker for Infirmiers de Rue. He studied political science and European law on migration and asylum. His main subjects of interest are homelessness, migration and sex work.*

**Claudia Steckelberg, DE:** LGBTQI+ and Homelessness in Germany - Queer Perspectives, Experiences and Needs



According to international studies, LGBTQI+ who are homeless or live in insecure housing are to be considered a particularly vulnerable group. Experiences of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression of gender characteristics (SOGIESC) are reasons for homelessness and insecure housing as well as they can lead to an exacerbation of problems during homelessness. The target group of queer homeless people is hardly visible in social work concepts and social work science as well as in the perception of professionals.

This lecture will present the results of the first nationwide study in Germany, which was conducted by a queer research team in 2023 under the title "LGBTQI+ and Homelessness".

The experiences, perspectives and needs of queer people of different ages who are or were homeless were recorded in qualitative narrative interviews. The results clearly show how anti-queer discrimination increases the risk of becoming homeless. At the same time, homelessness increases the risk of becoming a victim of queer-hostile violence, particularly as a result of classist discrimination. An intersectional perspective is

particularly revealing and interesting, as it highlights the interaction and entanglement of homelessness with racism, classism, anti-semitism and right-wing extremist violence.

*Prof. Dr. Claudia Steckelberg holds the professorship for Social Work Science at the University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg and is a board member of the German Society for Social Work. Since the beginning of my professional career, homelessness has been a focus, both as a social worker in homeless, youth and addiction services and as a scientist in research and teaching. This includes a gender, queer and intersectional perspective.*

#### **Seminar 4: Representations and Perceptions (Room: TBD) - Chair: Masa Filipovic Hrast, SI**

##### **Magdalena Mostowska and Ewelina Biczynska, PL: The Public Memorialization of Homeless Deaths**

There's paucity of research about the memorialization of people who died homeless. Monk (et al. 2023) address the issue of bereavement but rather as an individual experience of people who experience homelessness. We draw therefore on other literature concerning public memorializations, such as on the concept of spontaneous shrines (Santino 2006) and digital spontaneous shrines. The advocacy element of commemorating homeless deaths is akin to – for instance – firearm killings or femicide, where a mix of statistics and a collection of individual stories provides a framework for the visual. These deaths are part of awareness campaigns and framed as forgotten, anonymous, where the social (not medical) has contributed to these deaths that were preventable, premature, and somehow wrongful and unfair.

We employ the methods of visual analysis (Rose 2003) to explore the various images, objects and events that commemorate people who died while experiencing homelessness. Our sample is not representative in any way, rather we draw on examples from Europe and the United States to show a variety of ways, channels, and forms. We take into consideration both physical and virtual, especially:

- Graves and other permanent or temporary tributes in public spaces
- Funerals, vigils and other ceremonies, marches and demonstrations
- Obituaries and announcements about deaths
- Press and internet articles
- Reports' covers and websites
- Media and social media coverage of memorials
- Virtual vigils and memorials

We analyse these examples both in content (and semiotics) and in form (composition) by answering question: Who is commemorating? For what purpose? What objects are depicted? How people are depicted? As individual or as groups (how are they described as a group)? What is the composition of the image (focus/distance, color/hue/saturation, lettering).



*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.*



*Ewelina Biczynska 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.*

##### **Simone Hellenen, UK: Stigma and the Front-line Worker: How Our Homelessness Systems Reproduce and Challenge Stigma**

Whilst stigma is recognised as a major challenge, there is limited research which explores the system contexts in

which stigma arises; without this knowledge there is little to guide systems-level responses to stigma. This study explores experiences of stigma and discrimination within homelessness systems in south London, seeking to understand how stigma is created and reproduced within care and support systems.

We present findings from an ethnographic study in south London ongoing since mid-2022. We draw upon data from interviews (n=67) and focus groups (n=4) with people using and delivering homelessness services, as well as participant observation (>100h) across a range of different settings. The study is framed by Bourdieu's social practice theory and concepts of habitus, capital and field. We analysed the qualitative data using thematic and grounded approaches.

Our analysis focuses on the actions taken by those who work in homelessness services to mitigate, manage and actively work against stigma. The study explores how navigating stigmatisation can involve workers being an 'outlaw' (Hopper, 2006; Cloke et al., 2017; Scullion et al., 2015) finding loopholes in systems to bypass stigma 'traps' for their clients by vouching for clients, and over or underestimating needs. These well-meaning, often effective strategies, also have side effects that can curiously serve to strengthen stigma by labelling and inadvertently reinforcing stereotypes. We look at how the varying habitus of different groups of workers are shaping these outcomes.

Given the specific homelessness system context this study explores how front line workers, even 'good workers' are left managing multiple well meaning initiatives to respond to stigma but which also reproduce stigma. The study gives insight into why initiatives that aspire to address or counter stigma don't work as we hope in the homelessness sector.



*Simone Hellere currently works on The Social Responses to Stigma (SRS) study with Andy Guise and River Újhadbor at King's College London. Following 25 years working in community development, the last 9 in homelessness with Groundswell UK, Simone did an MRes and PhD at the University of Birmingham. Her PhD thesis is about 'engagement with help', which she explored with 6 young people escaping homelessness. The SRS is a UKRI funded ethnographic study in south London seeking to understand how stigma is created and reproduced to the detriment of people experiencing homelessness and those working with them.*

## Seminar 5: Women's Homelessness I (Room: TBD) - Chair: Isabel Baptista, PT

**Dora Welker, HU:** Shared Domestic Abuse Refuge in the Age of Housing First

Refuge represents the most iconic housing response to domestic abuse-driven homelessness. The model emerged in response to the need for a safe space for women seeking immediate escape from abusive partners. The original provision largely involved different households sharing accommodation and facilities due to both necessity and ethos, and much of this shared provision remains today in the UK and elsewhere. In other areas of homelessness services, the effectiveness and appropriateness of shared forms of accommodation has increasingly been discredited. Refuges for domestic abuse survivors have to date largely escaped this critical interrogation and have instead been supported as a beneficial therapeutic model. Based on qualitative data gathered via key informant interviews and focus groups with service users in England and Scotland, this paper examines the merits and demerits of this kind of shared accommodation and reflects on whether the housing needs of domestic abuse survivors are as different from those of other groups facing homelessness as the domestic abuse sector appears to hold. We conclude that the critiques of shared and congregate living that are so persuasive as regards hostels apply with at least equal weight to refuges. Domestic abuse survivors have similar requirements for privacy, autonomy, choice, and control over their living environments as other populations experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Our contention is that, while domestic abuse survivors may have specific needs for intensive, gender-informed professional and peer support, this can be achieved without utilising outdated shared models of accommodation, though there may well be a continuing need for 'cluster' type provision of self-contained units for high-risk groups.



*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.*

**Timo Weishaupt, DE:** Female, Homeless, without a Safety Net? A Critical Perspective on How the Welfare State Protects Homeless Women

The number of homeless women in Germany has been growing over the past few years. There is a substantial amount of literature on homeless women and the struggles they face. These publications not only show that these women's biographies are characterized by violence and traumata, but that they mainly seek private solutions to solve their problems. These solutions typically involve one-sided dependencies and a need to accept and adapt to unwelcome circumstances. There is a gap in the literature, however, on the question why the assistance offered by the welfare state does not reach these women. Relying on a case study of a medium-sized university town in western Germany, this article offers a critical, gender-specific analysis of the (municipal) welfare state and homelessness assistance system and systematically makes visible various uncertainties and ambiguities, barriers to access, gaps in service provision, legitimized exclusions, unsecured transitions and unintended consequences, which allow us to explain why assistance services for women are simply lacking, why existing services fail to reach women, or why women cannot accept these services due to their gender-insensitive design. This 'gender myopia' of the German homelessness assistance system can be partly explained by a lack of financial resources, but must also take an unwillingness on the part of political decision-makers to accept women's special situations into account. The empirical basis of the argument is based on 90 interviews conducted with people affected by homelessness and experts from the support system between 2021 and 2024.



*Professor Weishaupt holds a Chair in Sociology with a focus on Social Policy at the University of Göttingen, Germany. He received his award-winning Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2008. Since his doctoral studies, he has conducted research at the work-welfare nexus with a focus on European active labour market policy (ALMP), unemployment insurance, and public employment services (PES). In 2020, he commenced a three-year research project, funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG), in which he seeks to illuminate the role of the welfare state in causing (or prolonging) homelessness and housing exclusion in three German cities (2020-2023).*

**Seminar 6: Housing Instability and Evictions (Room: TBD) - Chair: Nóra Teller, HU**

**Bart Put, Emma Hens, & Inge Pasteels, BE:** Lacunae in the Prevention of Evictions in the Flemish Private Rental Market: The Perspective of Social Service Providers

In 2020, approximately 10.000 households were threatened with legal eviction in Flanders, a region with almost 6.8 million inhabitants in the north of Belgium. Detailed, accurate and up-to-date data on evictions are hard to come by (Verstraete et al., 2018), but an earlier study found that 80% of all legal eviction procedures are initiated by private landlords (Meys & Hermans, 2014). Although a number of support systems to prevent or 'humanize' tenant evictions are in place, little is known about the experiences of social service providers in their dealings with evictions and eviction risks in the private rental market in particular. The main goal of this study is to identify both lacunae and factors of success in eviction prevention actions by social service providers in the private rental sector specifically. To this end, 36 in-depth interviews and 2 focus group discussions were held with relevant social service workers. Preliminary analyses of the conversation transcripts learn that gaps in preventive practices emerge at multiple points in the process leading up to the eviction of tenants. They are related to five factors in particular: limitations in the institutionally defined (time and role) framework for interventions, limitations in the deployment of outreach work, norms of professional secrecy, difficulties in the positioning between landlord and tenant, and limitations in the knowledge and use of existing policy instruments and support by other, more specialized social services. We conclude by emphasizing that, although sufficient supply of affordable housing remains key to eviction prevention in general, there is still much to be gained by optimizing secondary prevention strategies as well. Crucial ingredients are the extension of the framework for (outreaching) intervention possibilities, the establishment of publicly more visible housing mediation and support services, and the generalization of knowledge about effective eviction prevention chains in relevant sectors.



*Dr. Bart Put is a sociologist and researcher affiliated to PXL University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Belgium). He has carried out research on family transitions and housing, rent issues in the private rental sector, processes of eviction and social work during COVID-19. His scholarly work has previously been published in international peer-reviewed housing and social work journals.*



*Emma Hens is an educational scientist, social worker and researcher affiliated to PXL University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Belgium). Her current research activities are focused on the quality of data sources on local rental markets and private landlords' experiences with vulnerable tenants.*

*Dr. Inge Pasteels is a sociologist, statistician, and currently Head of Research of the PXL People & Society Research Centre of Expertise. Her area of expertise covers family sociology topics such as high conflict divorce and repartnering mechanisms, housing transitions of adaptive and flexible families, alongside rent issues in the private rental sector and social work intervention strategies more generally. Her work has previously been published in peer-reviewed journals centering on demography, family sociology, housing and social work.*

**Miroslava Hlinčíková, SK:** Families without Stable Homes in Continuous Change. How Does the Welfare State Approach Families During Uncertain Times in Slovakia?

In Slovakia, the most endangered by inadequate housing are households with children, especially single-parent households and households with three or more children. Even though both national and local social policies in Slovakia prioritise family protection, the current housing policy reflects a general discourse on housing based on the principles of temporal/transitional housing, merit, and personal responsibility. It generally results in public housing policies in Slovakia having such entry conditions that they are unaffordable for homeless people or those with low incomes. This system, therefore, does not end homelessness but maintains a certain status quo - it offers limited survival options but not dignified living. Within the paper, based on the results of qualitative research in three cities in Slovakia, I will examine the options families have if they lose housing or are at risk of losing it. The research is based on interviews with various actors - representatives of cities and offices, providers of social services, and clients or tenants in public housing and temporary accommodation. I am interested in how the public social system is set up in practice and how it can respond to the problems of individual families.



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

17h30 – 18h45

**Poster session (Room: AULA)**

**For bios and abstracts of the poster presenters, please scroll down.**


17h30 – 18h00

**Focus session (Room: Auditorium): “Talk with us, not about us” - Participation of people with lived experience of homelessness in housing activism and homeless services in 21th century Hungary**

**Presentation by Gyula Balog (HU), Katalin Gyöngyösi (HU), and discussion with colleagues with lived experience of the Hungarian “City is for All” housing advocacy group**

**HU-ENG interpretation will be available**

Since homelessness services were established in Hungary in the 1990s, many changes took place in the society, politics, economy and social policy of the country. A growing number of people have been affected by housing poverty, while there has been a lack of effective long-term, state-level intervention to prevent housing poverty and homelessness. The criminalization of homelessness has further increased the exclusion and everyday difficulties of people experiencing homelessness. The general structure and quality of homeless services remained the same over decades, but the system has grown and started to take over tasks from other sectors (e.g. health and mental health services, legal counselling). Policy experts, practitioners, researchers and most importantly, clients claim that the current system of homeless services cannot effectively address the complex needs of its clients.

	<p>The representation of homeless clients is a legal requirement in Hungarian homeless services. Yet, it is rarely implemented in practice. This is the starting point for our interest in, and research into the participation of homeless people in influencing housing policy, homeless services and social awareness of homelessness.</p> <p>We give an overview of the participation of people with a lived experience of homelessness in housing activism and homeless services in 21th-century Hungary. We present, from a founder/activist perspective, the operation and results of “The City is for All” group, Hungary’s most important housing advocacy initiative to date involving people with lived experience of homelessness and their allies. This reflective historical approach will be complemented with results from our recent empirical study which, relying on the thematic analysis of a series of qualitative interviews, provides insight into the interpretations of participation of Hungarian experts by experience in the field of homelessness.</p> <div data-bbox="347 633 644 853" data-label="Image">  </div> <p><i>Gyula Balog is a senior expert by experience, activist, and trainer in the field of homelessness and housing poverty, based in Budapest. He works as a peer mentor for tenants at “From Streets to Home” Association (ULE), Hungary and as board member at School of Public Life Foundation. Gyula was involved in the Hungarian “The City is for All” housing advocacy group from its beginnings. He founded and has been coordinating the “First-Hand Information on Homelessness” awareness-raising programme on homelessness and housing poverty for 20 years, bringing interactive lessons and living library events led by a group of people with lived experience to schools and other audiences for 20 years. He also took part in research projects, theatre plays as an actor, wrote short stories and journalistic pieces, and has extensive experience in community work and organization.</i></p> <div data-bbox="347 1059 472 1220" data-label="Image">  </div> <p><i>Katalin Gyöngyösi is a PhD student in the Special Needs Education programme of the Doctoral School of Education of ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, after an initial training in French language &amp; francophone culture, Nationalism Studies, and special needs education and rehabilitation. She is interested, and has professional experience in working with young and older people facing various disadvantages. Her current research focuses on the intersections of disability and homelessness, and on peer support for recovery and Independent Living. She’s volunteered in homeless services for a decade, and joined the working group coordinating the Hungarian “3rd February” annual homeless survey in 2023.</i></p>
19h00	DINNER - Venue: Vígvarjú ( <a href="https://vigvarju.vakvarju.com/?lang=en">https://vigvarju.vakvarju.com/?lang=en</a> )

## 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

9h00 – 9h30	Coffee
9h00 – 9h30	Poster Session (Room: Aula) For bios and abstracts of the poster presenters, please scroll down.
9h30 – 11h00	SEMINAR SESSION 2 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

### Seminar 7: Data Collection Methodologies II (Room: TBD) - Chair and discussant: Lars Benjaminsen, DK

**Laure-lise Robben and Koen Hermans, BE:** Homelessness Duration and Recurrence in Belgium: An Exploratory Cluster Analysis of Administrative Data

This article presents an analysis of administrative data of those facing homelessness in Belgium between 2010 and 2018. We define homelessness as those with a reference address at a local welfare agency, which was specifically designed for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) without a residential address. Our aim is to examine the duration and recurrence of homeless spells, and to critically reflect on their categorisation and using administrative data to do so. The richness of our dataset allows us to critically glance at the classic threefold typology (transitional, episodic and chronic homelessness) that is often based on limited shelter usage data for a short period of time. We distinguish three clusters: first-timers, re-enterers and chronic homelessness, and confirm significant associations of previous studies such as age and the homeless duration. We offer a more nuanced understanding of the duration and recurrence, and this for a larger group of PEH over a longer period of time.



*Laure-lise Robben is a PhD student at LUCAS, the Centre for Care Research and Consultancy at KU Leuven, supervised by prof. dr. Koen Hermans. Funded by Belspo, her PhD project focuses on homelessness trajectories and non-take-up of social rights from a dynamic perspective.*

*Koen Hermans is Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at the Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven, and project leader at LUCAS, KU Leuven. His research focuses on the care and support for vulnerable and underserved populations, such as homeless persons, and youngsters with complex needs.*

**Veera Niemi and Elisabetta Leni, FI:** Unlocking Insights on Homelessness Through Integrated Administrative Data: A Methodological Framework for Researchers in EU Countries

Finland has a long history of using administrative data for official statistics, but it has only recently become possible to merge national and regional population, health and social registers on a large scale. This shift is due to the implementation of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in 2016, followed by the establishment of the Finnish Social and Health Data Authority (Findata) in 2019. This development in data protection legislation, and Findata's role in managing data permit applications and secure data processing, has opened up new possibilities for studying homelessness by enabling the analysis of rich individual-level data from different registers over long periods of time. The integration of multiple register sources is crucial for the study of homelessness, given its multidimensional nature and the need for a comprehensive response involving at least social services, health care and the social security system. In addition, local registers have been shown to be more reliable in identifying homelessness than national registers, but only the latter are able to detect, for example, movements between cities or changes in family structure in a timely manner. It follows that the combination of local and national datasets is key to analyzing individual housing pathways in relation to major life events. Currently, the authors are using two large administrative datasets from different data sources - including health care, social security, social services, and Statistics Finland's Central Population Agency and registers - to study different aspects of homelessness and Housing First in three major Finnish cities. The experience gained in obtaining data permission and analyzing the data has led to this methodological paper.

which aims to support other researchers on homelessness in EU countries. Our framework aims to improve understanding of the GDPR regulations, highlight the potential of administrative data for homelessness research, and provide guidance on how to navigate the processes and challenges involved in accessing such valuable data.



*Veera Niemi (MsSocSci) is a researcher and final year PhD candidate of social work in University of Turku, Finland. Niemi's research focuses on analysing longitudinal housing and service pathways of the homeless through longitudinal administrative register data. Niemi is also interested in building bridges between theory and practice in social work and has years of work experience also in practice social work and as a university teacher.*



*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 8: Implementation of Housing First (Room: TBD) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE

### Caterina Cortese and Filippo Sbrana, IT: Housing First in Rome: a Community Project Experience

The presentation aims to present the main results, strengths and challenges of a large urban HF program - Housing First Rome. The program has peculiarities that make it unique in the implementation of HF projects in Italy, both in terms of the partners involved, the funding and the type of support provided by the staff. 40 people were housed in single or shared apartments for three years. With the exception of one person who left the program to return to the shelter, all other participants achieved housing and economic self-sufficiency and live within their own resources. High rates of housing stability, recovery, health, well-being, and social integration were achieved, according to the monitoring study. Factors that facilitated implementation and were favouring the success of the program, included training, organisational capacity, and social and community support. Currently, the staircase is the dominant homeless system paradigm in major cities. The challenge is to use the results of the Rome HF as an example. It shows that housing rights can be implemented.



*Caterina Cortese is Research Director 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 2023 she was a professor of Economic Sociology at the University of Naples "Federico II".*



*Filippo Sbrana is Program Manager of Housing First in Rome for the Community of Sant'Egidio, where he has been a volunteer for over thirty years in support of homeless people and marginalized adults. He is Professor of Economic History and Departmental Delegate for Research in the Department of International Humanities and Social Sciences at the University for Foreigners of Perugia.*

**Lisete Cordeiro and Ana Maria Oliveira, PT:** Implementation of Housing First in Portugal: contributions to the community integration of homeless people

In Portugal, the Housing First (HF) programme began to be implemented in the city of Lisbon, in 2009, through the AEIPS, a non-profit organization (Duarte et al., 2019) to provide housing and support to homeless people with significant support needs (Greenwood, et al, 2019). The positive results and the international recognition of Housing First (HF) approach, led to the dissemination of this model to other cities in the country and, the National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People (2017-2023) recognizes HF as a good initiative of social innovation to address homelessness (currently, there are more than 10 cities implementing HF and 420 tenants).

However, the dissemination of HF raises questions about feasibility of replication, which requires a better understanding of the contexts, the different funds that support the projects and current legislation. The National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People just supports the teams, which requires, to be sustainable, a different combination of public and private funds.

The present communication reflects the experience and analyses the specificities of the implementation of HF in Portugal, as well as identifying practices that promote effective community integration of people experiencing homelessness.

The presentation consists of three main topics: 1) Describing the distinct phases and stages of the implementation of HF in Portugal; 2) Analyzing the outcome data of the projects; 3) Identifying good practices that promote effective community integration of homeless people.



*Lisete Cordeiro is Co-founder and Executive Director of InPulsar; Sociologist with experience in designing, planning, monitoring, and evaluating social projects; Project Manager of a Housing First Project (Morada Certa| Leiria Housing First). Currently is PhD student in Social Work an Inter University Doctoral between the Faculty of Human Sciences (FCH-UCP) and the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Coimbra (FPCE-UC).*



*Ana Maria Oliveira holds a PhD in Social Work by Universidade Católica Portuguesa coordinates the Master and the PhD in Social Work. She also coordinates the Post-Graduation of Evaluation in Programs and Social Projects, the Post-Graduation of Artistic Practices and Social Inclusion, the Post-Graduation Management of Projects in Cooperation for Development and the Post-Graduation in Social Responsibility and Sustainability.*

*As a researcher at the CRC-W, she is currently engaged in the "CApS Project - Catholic University and Service Learning: Innovation and Social Responsibility" and she has also been involved in Service-Learning (SL) projects in social and interdisciplinary work. Her research focuses on areas of social intervention, including families, children and young people, and vulnerable populations. She also conducts research on social intervention models and methodologies, particularly the Strengths Based Approach. She is a member of the "Arts-based Research" and "Service User Involvement" research groups of the European Social Work Research Association and a member of the European Evaluation Society.*

## **Seminar 9: Migration and Homelessness I (Room: TBD) - Chair: Mike Allen, IE**

**Zoé Canal-Brunet, Jacques Pisarik, FR:** Barriers to Housing for People in Emergency Accommodation in and around Paris: The Role of Administrative Status

In France, emergency accommodation has come under political and public scrutiny since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the housing crisis drives a record number of households into homelessness. Samusocial de Paris, in charge of centralising the demand and offer for emergency housing in and around the capital, regulated over 45,000 spots in 2022, among which hotel rooms.

Although accommodation in hotels was designed as an emergency response, the average length of stay reached 3 years in 2022, resulting in a logjam that lessens capacity for further entry.

Access to emergency accommodation is not conditional on legal residence, unlike most longer-term housing solutions, thus undocumented households are often identified as the main factor behind its lack of fluidity. Through a quantitative survey of a sample of households in hotel accommodation across the Ile-de-France region, this study aims to assess the role of administrative status as a barrier to moving into housing and, more generally, to identify the challenges all households face in accessing social rights and regularisation.

Our results show that 55% of households surveyed are in a precarious administrative situation (undocumented (38%), or temporary residence permit (17%)). Among these, 38% already meet some conditions for regularisation. While being regularised appears to be a necessary condition to access housing, other obstacles remain for households with a residence permit, who face long delays in accessing social housing.

Lack of case management, barriers to enter the job market, especially for women, and extreme poverty levels are identified as important driving factors behind lengthening stays in emergency housing. These results argue for the strengthening of social and legal support policies, for effective access to regularisation and for defending the unconditional nature of temporary accommodation.



*Zoé Canal Brunet joined Samusocial de Paris in 2021, first as a Project Officer, focusing on improving the service provided to homeless migrants and conducting a study on the barriers to housing for undocumented households. She is now heading a team of nurses and translators providing health checks to migrants in the Paris region.*



*Jacques Pisarik studied economics and social sciences at the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the Paris School of Economics. At the Samusocial de Paris Observatory, his current research focuses on access to health care and social rights of homeless migrants in the Paris region.*

## **Ashwin Parulkar and Daniel C. Farrell, USA:** Integrating Migrant Refugees in New York City into Society amid National and Local Policy Challenges

This decade, foreign refugees fleeing violence and destitution have comprised an increasing share of urban homeless populations in the United States. A record 2.48 million migrants entered the U.S. from Mexico in 2023. U.S. officials have failed to address the issue. Federal policies that barred migrants from applying for asylum at the U.S. border in 2018 preceded border crossing influxes in 2019, which have continued unabated (excluding 2020). In 2022, officials from southern states began “bussing” migrants to northeastern cities like New York, which contributed to the 53% increase in that city’s shelter population between July ‘22 (54,738) and October ‘23 (83,985).

How do organizations serving the homeless integrate this vulnerable population into mainstream society?

HELP USA serves over 600 migrants in NYC shelters. This talk details how our staff’s responses to their needs have ensured better educational, employment, social service and housing outcomes for them.

First, we discuss how HELP tailored and implemented service plan goals for migrant families immediately after their arrival in shelters in 2022. As most migrant household heads were young women with at least two children, social workers ensured that migrant children were enrolled and stayed in school.

Second, we provided multiple services to migrants amid evolving yet conflicting policy responses. For example, as local laws expanded migrants’ access to housing subsidies the mayor sought to curb the city’s obligation to provide them shelter. In this context, HELP increased migrant employment and asylum application rates and ensured consistently high levels of healthcare and legal service access.

Finally, we discuss the processes that have led to migrant family shelter “exits”. Social workers connect these clients

to their family members living in the country and process asylum applications while Venezuelan nationals' employment prospects increased after the federal government extended temporary protected status to them in September.



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



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

## Seminar 10: Health and Homelessness (Room: TBD) - Chair: Nicholas Pleace, UK

**István Sziklai and Kata Miklós, HU:** "System Deficits in Everyday Life" - On the Situation of People Living in Homelessness and with Psychiatric Illness and Mental Disorder in Budapest, and their Support Systems

Our research is about the situation of people living in homelessness and with psychiatric illness or mental disorder in Budapest and the state of their support systems. The research, which took place between October 2022 and October 2023, was carried out in cooperation with the Semmelweis University and the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta. 540 people experiencing homelessness were surveyed and focus groups were conducted with health and social professionals.

In addition to access to social and health services, we have looked at how to navigate these systems. Some homeless people are in a particularly poor mental state and present a significant challenge to the social services system for which the care system is not prepared or sometimes empowered.

The likelihood of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) has been demonstrated in several cases. In addition, the care of homeless people with dementia is a growing problem in homeless care.

The mapping of the various barriers specifically highlighted the need for targeted training of professional support workers, who are overburdened by the lack of a natural support system, and the fundamental gaps in these professional support systems.

Recommendations: Ongoing collaboration between social and health services, embedded in protocols and funding system. Increasing the role and capacity of community-based care in social services necessary, and specific support programmes for health and social care professionals needed.



*Istvan SZIKLAI, Phd - teaching social policy at the University of ELTE, Budapest Faculty of Social Science since 2006 and director of the Institute for Social Studies at the university. He is the leader of Budapest Social Services Support Network dedicated to support the community-based social services and residential care homes for homeless people, frail elderly persons, disabled people,, children in need. The support focuses primarily on the social professionals including front-line workers and leaders as well.*



*Kata MIKLÓS - social policy expert, managing different social projects, manager of Budapest Social Services Support Network. She was deeply involved in the equal rights, self-interest representation movement in Hungary, especially in the field of the physically disabled persons.*

**John Cowman, IE:** Counting Housing Needs among Individuals with Mental Health Difficulties in a Mental Health Inpatient unit in Dublin

In Ireland, while homeless figures continue to reach new record highs, there is an increasing awareness these figures are a considerable underestimate of the real scale of the issue. Traditionally Irish mental health services did not routinely collect homeless and housing need data and so mental health housing need is largely invisible. For example, the 2023 figures for one local authority recorded three applicants for social housing on the basis of mental health, while

one Community Mental Health Team identified 24 service users registered for housing on that local authority housing waiting list.

This study was part of a larger study to explore housing need among people with mental health difficulties. The purpose of this part of the study was to identify the prevalence of housing need among inpatients on the acute inpatient unit and to see whether the level of need changed since a similar study six years earlier. The study took place on a psychiatric inpatient unit in a large general hospital in Dublin. Nurse Managers provided the quantitative data each week for 12 months. Ethical approval was granted by the SJS/AMNCH Research Ethics Committee.

On average 55% of inpatients had accommodation related needs. Fifteen (32%) were considered delayed discharge and 97% of these had accommodation related needs. An inpatient was discharged to NFA every eight days, and to homeless services every 13 days. Twelve individuals (26%) were waiting for a particular mental health or care placement and 25% of these could live in independent accommodation if appropriate supports were available. There was a 44% increase in housing need among inpatients over six years. This notably reflected a 133% increase in females discharged to homeless services.

The study found higher than expected housing need, which is largely invisible. Planning must be informed by accurate data on housing need.



*John Cowman is a Housing Coordinator in mental health services in Dublin. He is a qualified social worker who has worked in specialist housing roles since 2013. His main focus is on promoting recovery oriented housing and supports for people with mental health disabilities, in particular, ways to elicit and incorporate the service user's subjective needs and preferences. John has developed several innovative interagency housing projects and also been involved in research and evaluation. John is currently a PhD student at Queen's University Belfast. His PhD study is exploring the housing needs of people in psychiatric in-patient care.*

## Alex Bax, Theo Jackson, UK: Barometer of Homelessness and Inclusion Health

Pathway, a UK-based homeless and inclusion health charity, this year published its first Barometer of Homeless and Inclusion Health, in conjunction with Crisis. It provides an independent account of the state of homeless and inclusion health in England, considering access to and experience of healthcare, health outcomes and the social determinants of health.

We analysed four sources of evidence for the report:

- i. Literature: A rapid scoping review of recent literature on inclusion health (85 UK based pieces).
- ii. Data: Public health data presented in the 'Spotlight' analytical tool, from the UK Government's Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID).
- iii. Hospital Needs Assessments: 16 health needs assessment reports examining how hospital systems provide care to people experiencing homelessness.
- iv. Faculty for Homeless and Inclusion Health Survey: A cross-sectional survey of the Faculty of Homeless and Inclusion Health, a membership organisation for people involved in health care for inclusion health groups.

The report provides important insights for policy makers and commissioners. It describes how pressures on the healthcare system drive service inflexibility, with high thresholds. Prevention opportunities are therefore missed. Stigma and discrimination are barriers to care, and are found to drive unsafe clinical practice. Poor outcomes and experiences across all services examined point to system failure, demanding fundamental reform. The report describes the apparent choice between specialist and mainstream services as a false dichotomy; the complex relationship between the two points to the need for whole system approach.

Inclusion health groups are near-invisible within health data, a barrier to effective service commissioning. Improved recording of housing status in health settings would improve the statistical visibility of people experiencing homelessness. The report highlights gaps in research and evidence for several key topics, including questions about the role of health and care in homelessness prevention and effective interventions to challenge stigma.



*Alex Bax is the Chief Executive of Pathway, the UK's leading homeless and inclusion health charity. He was closely involved in the development of the Barometer of Homelessness. Alex joined Pathway in 2010. He brings two decades of public health experience, as a senior advisor to Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson. He led the development of London's first statutory health inequalities strategy, oversaw major reviews of planning policy for London, and chaired London's European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund Committees. Alex became a member (through distinction) of the UK Faculty of Public Health in 2012. Alex's work with the Mayor's Office, National Institute for Clinical Excellence, Greater London Alcohol and Drugs Alliance and as a London Child Poverty Commissioner offer him*



*unique insights into the long-term social determinants of health, matched only by his passion for fairness and equality. In addition to his work with Pathway, Alex is a visiting fellow at the Institute of Health and Human Development at the University of East London. He is also Chair of My Fair London.*



*Theo Jackson is Pathway's Research and Data Lead, supporting specialist services with monitoring and evaluation, working to improve the availability and use of healthcare data for Inclusion Health groups, conducting research and leading on organisational research strategy. Before joining Pathway, Theo worked as a coordinator at a charity supporting homeless migrants in Copenhagen and has volunteered with grassroots organisations supporting refugees and asylum seekers in England, Denmark and Greece. Theo has an MA in Cognitive Science and Communication and his previous research has focussed on evaluating cost-effective mental health interventions.*

## **Seminar 11: Women's Homelessness II (Room: TBD) - Chair: Masa Filipovic Hrast, SI**

**Freya Marshall Payne, UK:** Homelessness in Women's Life Histories: Lessons about Cultural Silences, Trauma and Support from the Testimonies of Women with Lived Experience

This paper presents findings from a qualitative research study on self-identifying women's experiences of homelessness throughout their life course<sup>1</sup>. It examines the ways in which women recall, narrate, historicise and make meaning from their experiences of homelessness. The research employs a novel methodology to build up a corpus of women's personal testimonies of homelessness, bringing together: original qualitative interviews with women who have exited homelessness (comprising in-depth life history interviews and biographical walking interviews); autobiographies, both self-published and traditionally published; and archival materials which include women's personal writings about their homelessness. The geographic range is England and the focus is on the self-knowledge of women with lived experience and the claims they have made - in the past and today - about the nature of women's homelessness, the issues that need to be resolved and how this might be done. This approach to data collection has two key benefits. Firstly, it facilitates a longer historical view of women's homelessness over changing policy contexts (c.1960s-present) so that we can see continuities and shared themes across interviews and in this wider data set. Secondly, it visibilises the often-forgotten knowledge produced by grassroots campaigning and research groups in the past as well as in the present. In this way, the research provides a new empirical focus on a particularly marginalised group and advances theoretical work on gender and homelessness. In this paper, I discuss in greater depth the patterns and shared obstacles we see repeated in these sources across time: chiefly, the deep stigma and cultural silence about women's homelessness, the prevalence of complex trauma, and the experience of falling between services. I then turn to consider: How can women take possession of their own stories and write into cultural and political gaps and silences, and how can listening improve policy and provision? Wider cultural narratives have shaped women's personal testimonies and the ways they make sense of their experiences, even as they seek to create their own frameworks and theories, either as individuals or collectively. A subset of the narratives are shaped by charities and the increasing valorisation of expertise by experience; this provides a valuable and robust framework for self-articulation but can, I find, reinforce a focus on the individual over vernacular theorisations of collective gendered experiences, which I find in other recent autobiographical texts and interviews. Ultimately, the paper highlights the need for person-centred trauma-informed services that can see a woman's whole life holistically; a good practice example is offered as the Liisankoti Housing First project for women in Helsinki, Finland.



*Freya Marshall Payne (she/her) is a doctoral candidate at the University of Oxford researching women's experiences of homelessness. She is an interdisciplinary social scientist and historian of contemporary Britain especially interested in gender, social justice and education. She won the 2023 Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness.*

**Heather Williams, UK:** Inverting Normative Ideas of 'Home': Multiple Exclusion Homelessness (MEH) Women's Safe Spaces

Normative ideas locate women, domesticity, safety, security and privacy within the home (Moore, 1994; Young, 1997). This paper examines the lived reality of being 'without a home' for marginalised women experiencing Multiple Exclusion Homelessness, in their everyday lives and in relation to their experiences of home in childhood.

Homelessness is a highly gendered phenomenon and studies of homelessness identify homeless women as needing to hide their visibility by occupying elusive and precarious spaces to manage gendered risks and to conceal their homeless identities (Bretherton, 2023; Mayock et al., 2015). As a small subset of the homeless population, MEH women engage in street culture activities: begging, street drinking, and socialising with the MEH social network, in public spaces which heightens their visibility. MEH women have multiple and complex needs, experience repeated incidences of homelessness and endure forms of deep social exclusion. They struggle to engage with health and social services, and are thus unavailable to scholars of homelessness who recruit study participants through these agencies (Bretherton, 2020; Mayock et al., 2015). Less is known, therefore, about MEH women's everyday lives and histories.

Following a 12-month ethnographic immersion, this paper uses life-history interviews and a mapping activity to explore MEH women's embodied experiences of childhood homes, stigma, invisibility and harm, which informs their ontologies and epistemologies on the street. Theoretically Bourdieu's habitus (1990) is applied to MEH women's embodied histories, identities and discourses around the concept of home; whilst Brighenti's (2007) categorisation of visibility as a relational, strategic and processual field provides a lens for appreciating MEH women's agency and discourse around their safety, security and visibility on the street. This paper argues that, contrary to normative understandings of homes, MEH women seek and occupy public spaces to claim a sense of safety and visibility as they cannot achieve this in homes.

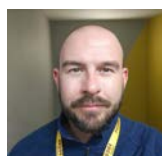


*Heather is a PhD researcher at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Heather's professional experience and research interests span homelessness, social housing and health, gender, asbestos diseases, and digital inclusion for healthcare for marginalised people. She has a 30-year professional career working in homeless, social housing and research settings. Her PhD focuses on the role of gendered social stigmas in the lives of women experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness.*

## Seminar 12: Challenges of Designing Research Methods (Room: TBD) - Chair: Nóra Teller, HU

**Daniel Hoey and Laurie O'Donnell, IE:** The Value of the PAHRCA Methodology in Engaging People with Experience of Homelessness in a Long-term Research Project

Recruiting and retaining research participants living in conditions of vulnerability requires a comprehensive strategy to overcome multiple barriers. PAHRCA (Participatory Action Research: a Human Rights and Capability Approach) is a research methodological framework that brings together participatory, human rights and capability theory to meaningfully engage vulnerable people in long-term research projects. The aim of the methodology is to bring together academics and NGOs to empower marginalised people to consider and challenge the structures that cause their marginalisation and to participate in the co-construction of knowledge as co-researchers. As part of an EU-Horizon 2020 funded project INVOLVE, Focus Ireland is using the PAHRCA framework to conduct research with lone parents with experiences of homelessness to explore their experiences of using public services and to develop recommendations to improve them. Using the approach, the project has successfully engaged sixteen parents with experience of homelessness. The project began with an extended period of trust-building which led to each parent participating in two semi-structured qualitative interviews to explore their life story and experience of public services. Following the interviews, several group sessions took place to critically reflect on key themes arising from the interviews, and to build knowledge and capacity for future phases of creative inquiry, data gathering and analysis, and the development of recommendations. This paper documents the experiences of using the PAHRCA method and describes the important practical steps and considerations, and the creative methods employed, to engage, recruit, retain, and collaborate with people with experience of homelessness in a long-term research project.



*Daniel Hoey is the Research Manager in Focus Ireland, an organisation working to end homelessness in Ireland. He holds a MSc in Applied Social Research from Trinity College Dublin. His research work to date has related to marginalised populations, including a study on the health and social needs of older methadone users. Daniel has led a programme of peer research in Focus Ireland since 2016 and has*

*managed two large scale EU-Funded Horizon 2020 research projects with people who have experienced homelessness.*



*Laurie O'Donnell has worked as the Research Officer in Focus Ireland, a homeless charity in Ireland, since 2021. She holds an MSc in Applied Social Research from Trinity college Dublin. Her research experiences and interests are in the fields of mental health, gender, and homelessness. Laurie has worked on two large scale EU-Funded Horizon 2020 research projects, one in the field of advancing gender equality and the other with people who have experienced homelessness.*

**Zsolt Temesváry, CH:** Data Collection Dilemmas Among Hard-to-Reach Homeless People: The Case of Eastern European Homeless Roma in Switzerland

In Switzerland, there exists a steadily growing group of destitute Central and Eastern European Roma migrants whose transnational mobility can be traced back to absolute poverty and severe social exclusion experienced in their home countries. The severe and visible social vulnerability of Roma beggars, sex workers, and rough sleepers belongs to the everyday image of Swiss cities. Undocumented Roma migrants typically experience the most precarious forms of homelessness, sleeping rough or creating self-made camps around cities. Eastern European Roma homeless people often become targets of hostile governmental actions, and Swiss cantons regularly use police force to deter, punish, or expel the unwanted Roma. As a result, Roma homeless people hide to avoid punishment and expulsion, rendering them a very hard-to-reach group for Swiss social services due to language barriers, cultural differences, and general mistrust of the Roma.

The initial Swiss data collections on homeless people were conducted in shelters and daycare structures inaccessible to the Roma. Consequently, destitute and hiding mobile Roma were often not considered during these data collections. The Swiss research project, called "Routes to Destitution," focused on the homelessness of Eastern European Roma migrants and employed data collection methods never before used in Switzerland to explore the hidden forms of homelessness. Instead of one-time counts, researchers conducted a long-term multi-sited field study to examine the vulnerabilities of destitute Roma. Researchers implemented a comprehensive research strategy over the course of the more than two-year research project, employing mobile methods such as walking interviews and life-history calendars to gather broader and more detailed information on this extremely vulnerable and hard-to-reach client group.



*Zsolt Temesváry is a senior lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland. He completed his PhD in social policy in Hungary and is qualified as a professional in urban poverty and mental health in Germany. His primary research areas include migration and homelessness, as well as the development of social work in Eastern Europe.*

11h00 – 11h30	Coffee break (AULA)
11h00 – 11h30	Poster Session (Room: AULA) For poster presenters' bios and abstracts, please scroll down.

11h30 – 13h00

**SEMINAR SESSION 3 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars**

**Seminar 13: Data Collection Methodologies III (Room: TBD) - Chair: Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

**Nana Mertens, Evelien Demaerschalk, Koen Hermans, BE:** Second Round of Point-in-Time Homelessness Counts in Belgium

To provide local and regional governments with data and tools for their policy and approach to homelessness, LUCAS KU Leuven developed a methodology for conducting an extensive service-based homelessness count. This point-in-time count is a ten-month process and entails close collaboration with local services who have (in)direct contact with people experiencing homelessness. Between 2020 and 2023, a total of 14 point-in-time counts were conducted in various cities and regions across Flanders, along with 10 point-in-time counts in Wallonia. In October 2023, the first reiterations of the extensive service-based counts were conducted in Flanders, specifically in the cities of Ghent and Leuven. We present the figures for both cities for the years 2020 and 2023, with a more detailed analysis of the main changes observed in both cities. Furthermore, we will outline the main lessons learned on the organization of the second count.



*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.*



*Evelien Demaerschalk is a researcher at LUCAS, Center for Care Research and Consultancy. Her work focusses 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.*

*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.*

**Pauline Portefaix, FR:** Data Collection Methods on Homelessness in France: A Comparative Analysis Between Two Different Methodologies

For years in France, associations and the research community have deplored the lack of reliable, up-to-date statistics on the issue of homelessness. The next survey on homelessness by Insee (the French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies) is scheduled for 2025. This third edition of the survey is eagerly awaited, to give a more accurate idea of the scale of the phenomenon at the national level, since the last one dates back to 2012, and the population concerned has at least doubled, according to figures from the Fondation Abbé Pierre. The survey will also provide data that will enable us to better understand the social trajectories and care pathways of individuals without a personal home. At the same time, to make up for the lack of figures needed to guide public authorities' action, France's major cities are implementing protocols to count the amount of homeless, starting with Paris, which launched the first one in 2017 and repeats it every year. These two methodologies for producing figures on the number of homeless and roofless people raise a series of questions that we propose to answer in this contribution: how are these surveys

organized? What is their particularity in terms of knowledge production? What issues do they address beyond counting? What are their limits in terms of scope and temporality? How have they evolved over time to adapt to changes in the population concerned? What blind spots can be identified? How do they complement each other? Finally, how are they used by decision-makers?



*Pauline Portefaix is research manager at Foundation Abbé Pierre is a foundation for the housing of disadvantaged people which aims to enable all of them to have access to decent housing and a dignified life, regardless of their resources or social situation. After graduating from the University Paris La Sorbonne with a degree in urban planning and sociology, she has been working for 3 years in the research department of the Foundation Abbé Pierre, and has been in charge of co-writing the annual report on housing exclusion in France and supervising other studies, which are feeding and disseminating the expertise and the advocacy of the Fondation.*

## Seminar 14: Housing Systems and Homelessness (Room: TBD) - Chair: Nóra Teller, HU

**Bart Put & Inge Pasteels, BE:** The Role of Landlords' Experiences in the (In)accessibility of the Private Rental Market for Vulnerable Tenants

Recently, the long waiting lists for social housing have received a lot of media attention in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking region of Belgium where approximately 6.8 million residents live. The most recent figures from the Flemish governmental agency for housing show that there were 176.026 candidate renters on the social housing waiting list in 2022 in Flanders, representing a 14.3% increase over a four-year period. Additionally, figures show that candidate renters have to wait around four years on average before being assigned a social rental unit. Because of the long waiting lists for social housing, many low-income tenants are forced to seek for a dwelling on the private rental market. However, this market often presents barriers, including rising rents and landlords unwilling to rent to 'high risk' tenants. Existing research pays considerable attention to processes of selection and discrimination by landlords. However, less attention is given to experiences of private landlords in renting to vulnerable groups. This study aims to address this gap by exploring the perspectives of private landlords towards vulnerable tenants. To this end, 91 in-depth interviews were held with private landlords. Qualitative content analysis of the interview transcripts reveals that landlords' attitudes towards vulnerable tenants cover a broad continuum, ranging from 'socially engaged' to '(quasi-)closed'. Moreover, findings indicate that the attitude of private landlords can shift over time, moving towards the 'closed' end of the continuum. This shift is often a result of generalizing negative experiences from renting to vulnerable tenants, long and exhausting legal proceedings that followed, and the feeling of being let down by support services when asking for help. These negative experiences often translate into a range of different landlord strategies, which in turn decrease the accessibility of the private rental market for vulnerable groups.

*Dr. Bart Put is a sociologist and researcher affiliated to PXL University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Belgium). He has carried out research on family transitions and housing, rent issues in the private rental sector, processes of eviction and social work during COVID-19. His scholarly work has previously been published in international peer-reviewed housing and social work journals.*

*Dr. Inge Pasteels is a sociologist, statistician, and currently Head of Research of the PXL People & Society Research Centre of Expertise. Her area of expertise covers family sociology topics such as high conflict divorce and repartnering mechanisms, housing transitions of adaptive and flexible families, alongside rent issues in the private rental sector and social work intervention strategies more generally. Her work has previously been published in peer-reviewed journals centering on demography, family sociology, housing and social work.*

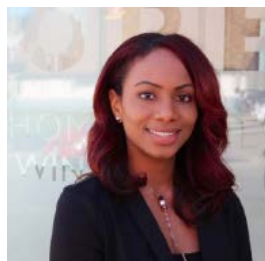
**Marie Cecile Kotyk, CA:** Seeing in Colour: A Framework to Address Anti-Black Racism in Housing and Homelessness

This doctoral research focuses on raising awareness of the role systemic anti-Black racism plays in creating housing instability in Black communities and creating a framework to address anti-Black racism in the housing and homelessness sector. Utilizing a multi- method approach, including design science, Afrocentric, and autoethnographic research methodologies, this research conducts in- depth semi-structured interviews with eight Black individuals with lived/living experiences (BPWLE) in Calgary and nine Black key informants (KI) across Canada to better understand

the impacts of systemic anti-Black racism. The interviews with BPWLE and KI highlighted the pervasiveness of anti-Black racism across sectors and the need for housing policies and practices to be grounded in equity and anti-oppression.

As a result of these interviews, a Black Housing Equity Framework (BHEF) was developed. The BHEF encompasses guiding principles aligned with the values and approaches of Black communities, as well as operational questions to guide policymakers, housing practitioners and other stakeholders in developing equitable policies and practices. The BHEF is a crucial step towards recognizing and addressing the systemic anti-Black racism and discrimination that Black communities face when accessing and maintaining housing.

Presentation Description: Utilizing a multi-method approach oriented on lived experience, the doctoral research will present the unique stories of Black Canadians with lived/living experiences of housing instability, homelessness, and racism to raise awareness of the intersections between race and housing. It will discuss the results of semi-structured interviews with Black key informants who are experts in addressing systemic anti-Black racism in their field. Additionally, the presentation will introduce the Black Housing Equity Framework, which is based on Afrocentric guiding principles and includes a Black equity assessment tool. The first of its kind in Canada, this framework can help policymakers and housing practitioners address systemic anti-Black racism in their policies and practices, thus promoting equitable housing options and outcomes for Black Canadians.



*Marie Cecile Kotyk is an urban planner and housing practitioner with 15 years of progressive experience in the public and non-profit sectors. She specializes in designing and managing community development projects, addressing affordable housing challenges and homelessness, and conducting community research to address spatial justice concerns and racial inequities in the built environment.*

*Her passion for social justice and racial equity led her to pursue her doctoral studies in the Doctor of Design program at the University of Calgary's School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture. Her research aims to address systemic anti-Black racism and advance Black inclusion in the housing and homelessness sector. In 2023, she was awarded the Alberta Human Rights and Multiculturalism scholarship at the doctoral level for her research. She is the founder and principal consultant at Kotyk Consulting and a sessional instructor at the University of Calgary's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture.*

### **Jan Weckwerth, DE:** Precarious Housing as a Gateway into and out of Homelessness

The deregulation and commodification of the housing market in Germany has led to a substantial shortage of affordable housing. The drivers of this current housing crisis are already well-known factors such as the withdrawal of the state and the decline in social housing. Furthermore, real-estate companies have recently tapped into the low-price segment as a lucrative business model. These developments not only result in the gentrification of previously lower-income neighborhoods, they also cause an increasing competition at the bottom end of the housing market and, thus, to further displacement processes of the – from a (socio-)economic perspective – most 'unattractive' groups of tenants into the most precarious housing situations or even into homelessness.

Such devastating consequences of housing policy affect not only metropolitan areas, but also smaller cities. In the case of the medium-sized German university town of Göttingen, these are particularly evident in three run-down and deprived 'sink estates' in which poor and marginalized people are spatially concentrated.

This study explores the reproduction mechanisms of the precarious housing status in relation to homelessness on the basis of semi-structured interviews with experts from the city administration and local assistance systems as well as with (former) residents who (mostly) have experienced homelessness. A multidimensional and multifaceted "denigration of place" (Wacquant/Slater/Borges Pereira 2014) on the part of various actors and institutions is revealed. These properties function as a gateway into and out of homelessness: they are often the last step before homelessness and usually the first – and only – option after a period of homelessness. This further leads to dependency on the rental situation and undermines individual resistance and collective organization. People can hardly escape from this environment and are ultimately kept in precarious living conditions.



*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.*

## Seminar 15: Migration and Homelessness II (Room: TBD) - Chair: Eoin O'Sullivan, IE

**Raluca Cosmina Budian, Susanna Salvador, Ignasi Marti Lanuza, ES:** Understanding Migrant Homelessness: Pathways Approach and Barriers to Housing Access in Spain

In Spain, social policies often prioritize housing, employment, and social services over homelessness (Rodríguez Cabrero & Marbán Gallego, 2020), yet homelessness persists, with marginalized individuals suffering worldwide (Pophaim & Peacock, 2021).

This study delves into the intricate journeys of migrants experiencing homelessness in Spain, offering a comprehensive analysis of their pathways into, through, and out of homelessness.

Recognizing the challenges in studying the trajectories of migrant homelessness, our research is driven by a focused exploration of the pathways approach and the barriers confronting migrants seeking to transition out of homelessness in Spain. Drawing on our analysis of 33 life-stories of individuals in Barcelona, Madrid and Lleida, we uncover a complex interplay of intersectionality between access to housing, barriers, and migrant status within the framework of the pathways approach (Clapham, 2005; Navarro Lashayas, 2016). Simultaneously, we employ a phenomenological method to gain profound insights into the subjective experiences of homelessness and the meanings participants attach to these experiences (Bernard et al., 2017; Creswell, 2007).

Our findings challenge conventional wisdom by revealing that the challenges faced by homeless migrants are not solely a consequence of their undocumented status; rather, they emerge through nuanced interactions of class dynamics, racialization, and immigration status. These dynamics establish conditions that heighten vulnerability and barriers to securing stable housing, often triggered by life events such as job loss.

Navigating through homelessness involves negotiating multifaceted trajectories influenced by structural realities, leading to either downward spirals or integrative passages (Chamberlain & Johnson, 2018). While some individuals transition out of homelessness through supportive networks and stable housing, others face bureaucratic impediments and societal barriers.

This research advances our understanding of migrant homelessness outcomes, emphasizing the need for comprehensive and preventive strategies in Spain. By recognizing the multifaceted of homelessness, it is important to maintain a perspective on proactive strategies for homelessness prevention (Mackie's, 2023).



*Raluca Cosmina Budian: Postdoctoral Researcher at the Esade Institute for Social Innovation and a member of the Institute's Decent Housing Observatory.*



*Susanna Salvador: Project Coordinator and Associate Director of the Decent Housing Observatory of Esade's Institute for Social Innovation.*



*Ignasi Marti Lanuza: Professor in the Department of Social Sciences, Director of the Institute for Social Innovation and Director of the Decent Housing Observatory at Esade.*

**Keire Murphy and Amy Stapleton, IE:** Access to Autonomous Housing for Beneficiaries of International Protection in Ireland

Housing plays a pivotal role in the integration of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, with the importance of housing for integration was emphasised in Ireland in the 'White Paper to End Direct Provision and to Establish a New International Protection Support Service'. It has also been incorporated in international protection instruments, with both the 1951 Refugee Convention and the EU's Qualification Directive, for example, guaranteeing beneficiaries of international protection treatment at least as favourable as nationals in relation to housing. However,

past research has shown that BIPs often face significant barriers accessing housing in practice, with many countries providing supports to access autonomous housing as a result. These barriers are a challenge for BIPs who can find themselves with limited options to exit institutional or homeless accommodation, as well as for reception systems which require outflow to accommodate new applicants. Understanding the challenges, barriers, and good practices is therefore a crucial element of governance of accommodation of international protection applicants in Ireland, as well as the integration of beneficiaries of international protection. Drawing from a national study which uses desk research, interviews and stakeholder consultation on this issue, this presentation aims to shed light on the ability of international protection beneficiaries to access autonomous housing, as well as Irish policy in relation to housing for international protection beneficiaries.



*Keire Murphy works as a Policy Officer with the Irish National Contact Point (NCP) of the European Migration Network (EMN), in the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Ireland. Keire holds an LLB in Law and French from Trinity College Dublin, and a double MSc in Public Policy and Human Development with a specialisation in Migration Studies from the University of Maastricht and the United Nations University. Prior to joining the ESRI, Keire worked with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund in Geneva, as well as NGOs in The Netherlands, France, and Lebanon focusing on*

*refugee integration and research.*



*Amy Stapleton also works within the Irish EMN NCP in the ESRI. With a triple Masters in intercultural mediation, politics and migration studies and a BSc in international development and food policy, Amy completed her PhD on migrant youth transitions in the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin. Amy also works as a project manager and researcher on a range of commissioned projects, including as a migration and youth policy expert with the EU Commission and the Council of Europe, actively contributing to evidence based European policy making in the field of youth and*

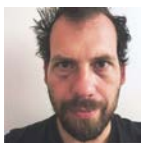
*migration.*

**Bruno Meeus and Elisabeth Mareels, NL/BE:** Homelessness, precarious citizenship, and practices of 'forced inhabitation' in Cureghem, Brussels

In this contribution, we report on ethnographic research we conducted in the marginalized neighbourhood Cureghem in Brussels. For the study, we talked to, among others, a dozen people with precarious citizenship who live in the neighbourhood for short or longer periods of time. In the contribution we explain:

- Which conditions underlie the situation in which people have to develop 'forced inhabitation practices'. Forced because the neighbourhood is a last refuge (Agier 2013) for these people who experience diverse forms of discrimination and illegalisation. Inhabitation practices because the neighbourhood offers not only forms of shelter but also the possibilities for livelihood creation (Boano & Astolfo 2020; Clapham 2023);
- That in the recent decades and as a result of a particular politics of 'world-building' (Zigon 2017), various actors have built and maintained a socio-material infrastructure in the neighbourhood to facilitate these practices of inhabitation;
- That the contemporary neighbourhood thereby emerges as a polycentric set of humanitarian, charitable, kinship, ethnicity, commercial and various other micro-regimes that provide limited groups of people in a specific situation of homelessness with (temporary) access to shelter, income, social relations and more;
- That the people we spoke with help reproduce these micro-regimes but also tactically adapt and repurpose them themselves.

The fieldwork in Cureghem was part of an international comparative research project on arrival infrastructure for migrant newcomers (AIMEC).



*Bruno Meeus (Utrecht University of Applied Sciences) is a senior lecturer in ecosocial work, strives for social and ecological justice in a diverse society, and researches the housing and living environments of people in precarious situations. He obtained his PhD as an urban geographer in 2011 and then worked with social professionals, anthropologists and architects within smaller and larger research projects (Steunpunt Wonen, H2020 ReROOT, AIMEC). Based on his own ethnographic research in Brussels (Innoviris), he developed in recent years a framework for analysing the arrival infrastructure for newcomers.*





*Eli Mareels is an anthropologist (PhD) and did research within the recent Brazilian diasporic and Pentecostal field between Brazil and Belgium (2007-15). She worked at DoucheFLUX, a Brussels' day centre for homeless persons (2016-22). Since 2022, she has been teaching at Odisee University of Applied Sciences (social work department) and took up research again for the AIMEC project which looked at the various ways in which migrants build a livelihood through arrival infrastructures in Cureghem (Brussels). Currently, she is part of the ATLAS research project about access to housing and social infrastructure for people with precarious residence status in Brussels.*

## Seminar 16: Service Design (Room: TBD) - Chair: Mike Allen, IE

**Valeria Ruiz and Alicia García Rodríguez-Marín, ES:** The Early Care Approach. An Assessment of Deinstitutionalisation of Homelessness

Right to Housing is an innovative program that began its development in Spain in 2022 with a clear objective of transforming the homelessness support system. One of its main lines of action is "Early Attention" aimed at preventing the institutionalization of individuals with a brief history of homelessness by offering housing solutions from an autonomy-focused approach.

To measure the project's impact, an evaluation was conducted with two equivalent groups: 221 individuals in the experimental group (EG) and 108 in the control group (CG). From the interim results obtained multiple insights have been derived. The impact of the first 7 months of support shows a clear increase in key aspects such as autonomy, decision-making capacity, self-esteem, and motivation for change. Improvement in emotional well-being and quality of life has emerged as pivotal factors for life stability.

Overall, a highly positive impact has been noted on the digital divide, prospects for the future and social capital, with substantial evidence indicating enhancements in social relationships, community integration and a sense of belonging within the neighbourhood.

Regarding major impact indicators: in employment terms, 40.1% of the EG have undergone job interviews in the last 3 months compared to 26.7% of the CG and the percentage of employed individuals in EG has doubled since the outset. Concerning housing, 54% of participants in the EG have found a housing solution with program support and 43% consider it probable or highly probable to find or remain autonomously housed in their current accommodation.

In conclusion, the program has achieved a 24.5% rate of autonomous exits within 7 months with an expected extra 29% increase over the next 3 months. This signifies that in just 10 months of support more than half of the individuals who started the program will be out of homelessness.



*Valeria Ruiz, evaluation specialist for HOGAR SÍ projects for more than two years in the Digitalisation and Strengthening unit and participant in several research projects on homelessness and Sociologist from the University of Granada and Master in Applied Sociology from the University of Malaga.*



*Alicia García, graduate in Political Science from the Complutense University of Madrid and a masters degree in International Relations from the University of Sussex. She has developed her professional career in the field of human rights with various groups (whistleblowers, migrants, and people in situation of homeless). For the past two years, she has been part of the international advocacy team at HOGAR SÍ, working on the development of the Derechos a la Vivienda and Hay Futuro Innovation Projects, initiatives aimed at deinstitutionalization and homelessness eradication.*

**Branagh O'Shaughnessy and Paula Mayock, IE:** Recovery from Homelessness and Substance Use Disorder: A Qualitative Examination

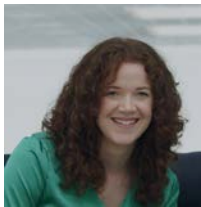
Background: The complex relationship between homelessness and substance use disorder (SUD) and the recovery

journey out of homelessness and SUD are only partially captured in existing research. Research in this area is dominated by quantitative methods which do not capture how individuals navigate homelessness and treatment services in their efforts to overcome adversity and embark on recovery. Through the lens of complex recovery, this research aimed to examine 60 homelessness service users' conceptions of recovery and their personal recovery journeys.

**Method:** Semi-structured interviews were carried out with participants in three service contexts in Ireland: emergency accommodation (n = 25), transitional housing (n = 15), and housing with supports (n = 20). Interview transcripts were coded and analysed thematically. All participants had lifetime SUD and experiences of homelessness.

**Results:** Themes generated from the data include: Recovery signifiers and supports; A broken homelessness service system; Centrality of personal relationships; and Housing as a shot at life. Recovery signifiers included self-discovery and being free of dependency. Treatment experiences were diverse, the success of which depended on the approach employed and its fit with the individual. The homelessness service system was often described as fragmented, although some felt lucky to have supportive case managers. Family reconnection was often a recovery goal, especially reconnection with children. Contrasting experiences of housed versus unhoused participants indicated that home was a safe haven for recovery and reconnection. Relying on hostels was risky for recovery and also for personal safety.

**Discussion:** Findings support a holistic conceptualisation of recovery in the context of homelessness and SUD. They also support person-centred programmes that prioritise housing and supportive relationships as facilitators of the recovery process. At policy level, a fusion of housing-led, community-based approaches and person-centred programmes can comprehensively address the overlapping challenges of homelessness and SUD.



*Dr. Branagh O'Shaughnessy is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin. Her research focuses on the psychological well-being of adults experiencing homelessness and mental health issues, with particular interest in empowering community-based programmes.*



*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".*

## Seminar 17: Youth Homelessness I (Room: TBD) - Chair: Masa Filipovic Hrast, SI

**Eszter Somogyi, Nóra Katona, Vera Horváth, HU:** What Were the Outcomes of the Housing Led Programs for Young Homeless People in Hungary?

The paper examines the results of the ESF-funded ("Housing First" - actually housing led) projects for young clients in Hungary. A total of 17 projects were implemented between 2018 and 2022, of which nine were included in the original program outcome evaluation in 2021. Of the 187 clients, 24 were under 2

5 years old at the time of entry into the programme. Due to the small sample size, the analysis uses mainly qualitative methods. In the original research, case manager social workers were interviewed using a questionnaire about the clients' condition at the time of entry and exit point of the program. These databases and interview descriptions will be used to further analyse the group of young people.

The project implementers generally classified young people as belonging to the higher risk group, both because they are more likely to use drugs in the case of addiction and because they are more mobile and therefore they are less likely to stay in the program. At the same time, the call made it compulsory to involve 1-7 young people, depending on the amount of the grant. The young people included in the programme came from a wide range of living situations (street, inadequate/makeshift housing, couch-surfing and insecure housing) and had very different social, family backgrounds and mental health conditions. Some were still living with their parents, others fell into the category of multi-generational homelessness, some still had supportive family backgrounds, and others had no family at all or were in toxic and abusive relationships. Another group of young people already had children of their own, and/or partners. Mental illness and alcohol and substance abuse were also common, and the experience of childhood trauma was

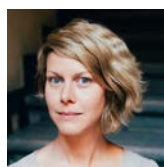
common to all clients. The paper examines the outcomes of the projects for different groups of young people, and classifies which characteristics of the clients and the projects may have led to positive outcomes in terms of increasing the chances of leaving homelessness in the long term, and which key characteristics of the projects were bottlenecks to more positive outcomes.



*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.*



*Nóra Katona (MA in Sociology and MSc in Survey Statistics) is a researcher at Metropolitan Research Institute, based in Budapest. She has three years of experience in social research related to homelessness, marginalized groups, Roma communities and social inequalities among young people in urban settings. She also has experience with both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques, data analysis and policy evaluation.*



*Vera Horváth (MA in International Relations, PhD student in Sociology) has worked at Metropolitan Research Institute and From Streets to Homes! Association. She has extensive experience in policy analysis, social research, and qualitative methods, which covers research and policy advisory regarding vulnerable populations. She contributed to the evaluation of Hungary's ESF funded "Housing First" programmes.*

## **Nia Ffion 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 literatures. 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 the home. Fundamental to the approach is the maintenance/re-establishment of ties with family, ultimately 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 in order 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 merging homelessness prevention paradigm - challenging the conceptualisation of prevention by considering the importance of the extent to which interventions enable ontological security and the 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 fills a gap in research within housing and 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 service provisions in Wales and internationally.



*Nia Ffion Rees' areas of interest broadly lie within housing insecurity, homelessness, youth studies and inequality. Her PhD examines the dominant responses to tackling youth homelessness – mediation, aiming to offer a rare critique of this intervention mechanism. Nia has undertaken research at a global level, including exploring the housing pathways of young people, Peru; informal trade and child labour, Tanzania. As Research Consultant for The Wallich and Policy and Research Manager for*

*Llatau, Nia has undertaken research which has impacted on service provision for homelessness young people in Wales. Nia appreciates the contributions of service users and peer researchers and aims to ensure their voices are heard through participatory research. Nia is an active member of the Housing Studies Association, UK; Royal Geographical Society with IBG, UK; and works closely with End Youth Homelessness Cymru, Wales; and the Youth Experiential Learning Simulation Wales, in collaboration with BakerMcKenzie, USA.*

## Seminar 18: Reflections on Housing First (Room: TBD) - Chair: Freek Spinnewijn, BE

**Ides Nicaise, Eveline Teppers, Luigi Leonori, BE:** Person First: Towards Person-Centered and Integrated Services for Homeless People with Mental Health Issues

Staff of services for homeless people from 9 European countries participated in this learning network funded by Erasmus+ (2022-2024) upon invitation by SMES Europe (a network specialised in mental health services for homeless people). The project focussed on a person-centered approach and integration of services with maximum 'ownership' by users. HIVA (KU Leuven) provided scientific support. Building on the well-known Housing First alternative, Person First can be seen as a complement with a strong emphasis on 'human investment'.

In addition to an exploratory survey of 65 services, four study visits took place (Riga, Ljubljana, Helsinki and Athens), alternating with thematic webinars for a wider audience. The final report (publication date: July 2024) can be used for training and professional development.

Some key lessons can be summarized as follows:

- shelters will continue to play a role, but need to undergo a 'quality boost': smaller scale, person-centered, connected with a comprehensive support network and helping users in drawing up an individual integration plan. The duration of residence should be 'as long as necessary, but as short as possible'.
- homeless services should operate in integrated networks around four clusters (emergency support and social assistance; physical and mental health care; housing; and rehabilitation through flexible types of work, including peer work, peer mentoring and advocacy work.
- given the high incidence of mental health issues among homeless people, all professionals working in such services should have a basic training in trauma-informed care.

The report includes a set of policy recommendations at EU, national / regional and local level.



*Prof. em. Ides Nicaise has a background in economics. He is a senior research manager at HIVA (Research Institute for Work and Society), a multidisciplinary research institute of the University of Leuven (Flemish Louvain). He specialised in social policy, more precisely the relationships between education, labour market policy and social inclusion (in rich as well as developing countries). He led the Belgian team of the European Social Policy Network until 2019 and currently participates in the coordination team of the Social Situation Monitor for DG EMPL of the European Commission. He also works occasionally as a consultant for the OECD and international NGOs. Besides his professional activities, he is chair of ATD-Fourth World Flanders, the Flemish branch of an international solidarity movement between and with people experiencing poverty, and of the Belgian Combat Poverty Service, a centre created by law as an interface between the government, other stakeholders and grassroots organisations of people experiencing poverty.*

**Nicholas Pleace, Joanne Bretherton and Deborah Quilgars, UK:** The Lived Experience of Housing First: Qualitative Research in the UK

This paper draws on a series of five research projects evaluating programmes and projects working within the Housing First model, across the UK, over the period 2010 to 2023. Drawing on the results of over 150 semi-structured interviews, using a common methodology, the paper focuses on the experiences, perceptions and opinions of people who were using Housing First to find a lasting exit from homelessness. The paper draws on this qualitative data to

highlight a number of issues with the current debates and assumptions about Housing First in the UK and beyond. Talking with people with lived experience highlighted a generally very high degree of positivity about the support offered by Housing First services. These findings were in contrast to some statistical monitoring of Housing First outcomes, which has highlighted some variable performance from Housing First in delivering improvements in social inclusion, addiction and mental and physical health, while still recording high rates of housing sustainment. However, the interviews also raised important questions about the quality of the lives experienced by people who had found housing stability through Housing First once they had exited homelessness. These questions arose in the context of deep and sustained governmental retrenchment from welfare spending, public health and social housing in the UK and centred on the ultimate viability of Housing First within the public service deserts that have been created across the UK since 2010. The paper also considers the wider implications of the findings in relation to the practicality and viability of Housing First across the highly variegated social protection and housing systems that exist at pan-EU level, also discussing possible implications for the European Platform to Combat Homelessness.



*Nicholas Pleace is a Professor of Social Policy in the School for Business and Society, University of York and Director of the Centre for Housing Policy. He is a member of the European Observatory of Homelessness which operates under the auspices of FEANTSA.*



*Dr Joanne Bretherton is an Associate Professor in Social and Criminal Justice in the School for Business and Society, University of York and a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Housing Policy. She is a co-investigator in the Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre.*



*Deborah Quilgars is a Senior Research Fellow in the School for Business and Society, University of York and in the Centre for Housing Policy. Deborah is also a member of the NIHR School for Social Care Research.*

13h00 – 14h00

Lunch break (Room: AULA)

13h00 – 14h00

Poster Session (Room: AULA) For poster presenters' bios and abstracts, please scroll down.

14h00 – 15h30

**SEMINAR SESSION 4 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars**

**Seminar 19: Definitions of Home & Homelessness (Room: TBD) - Chair: Nicholas Pleace, UK**

**Martin Wagener, Nicolas De Moor, Noémie Emmanuel, BE:** Between Alternative Living-Models and Housing Precariousness in Rural Wallonia – Questioning Frameworks of Homelessness

The last book in *Homage to Henk Meert* is titled « In my caravan, I feel like Superman ». Meert questioned representations of homelessness which are grounded in societal perceptions and normative (dis-)beliefs. Based on data from recent counts in the rural south of Belgium, we'll analyse more in detail the living situations of people in camping sites, tents, caravans or tiny houses. In Wallonia, there is a long-standing discussion about how to recognize these living arrangements between precariousness and the need of social intervention. On the one hand societal actors argue about the recognition of alternative modes of living, and on the other hand, multiple situations of poverty and deep-rooted housing-related precariousness question the "alternative model". Based on the contacts and discussions with different alternative living projects and also residents who are permanently housed on camping sites, we first analyze statistical profiles to give a better understanding of these situations. Further, we'll discuss discourses from a perspective inspired by Blumer (1970) about the normative framing of homelessness and alternative living models by a set of different actors.

*Martin Wagener is Assistant Professor in sociology at CIRTES (Centre for interdisciplinary research on Work, State and Society) at the UCLouvain.*



*Nicolas De Moor is research assistant working on the counts of homelessness in French speaking Belgium.*



*Noémie Emmanuel is PhD students at UCLouvain working mainly on trajectories of homeless women. They all have worked together in multiple projects regarding Homelessness.*

**Julia Wygnańska and Małgorzata Kostrzyńska, PL:** Definition of a home by people experiencing homelessness in Poland

We will present the qualitative study on the needs of people experiencing homelessness which was conducted by the Housing First Poland Foundation in Łódź Voivodship in 2022. 56 people with various length of homelessness experience currently being in 6 distinct housing situations from street through shelters to municipal mainstream housing (ETHOS) were asked about: their definition of a home; the extent to which their current housing situation met this definition; and meaning of being housed to ontological security (Giddens, 1991). The results were analysed in the theoretical framework of Feantsa three domain conceptual definition of home(lessness) (Edgar et al., 2004) and four markers of a home as used by Padgett (2007).

The analysis resulted in the common definition of a home: Home is a place where you can stay with your loved ones, talk to them privately, have intimate relationships, there is nice atmosphere and you are independent of the help of others. It is important to be able to decide for yourself when and what you do and how you deal with health crises. In the physical sense, the house is modest: one small room (20 m<sup>2</sup>), warm, with the possibility of preparing meals, washing the body and clothing, taking care of physiological needs, resting, storing things. The place should be equipped with basic installations and cheap/affordable to maintain. The study clearly showed that for people living in the streets their housing situation means total lack of ontological security and is an unwanted lifestyle disabling them from feeling of being human. This contradicts the common stereotype of homelessness being a chosen lifestyle.

Not all results were coherent with Feantsa and Padgett definition of a home: legal title was not playing a big role; living in a traditional homelessness shelter was meeting the need of a home as defined by the interviewees themselves regardless of that housing situation not meeting all the theoretical criteria of a home (three domains and four markers). People living in shelters can experience constancy of their material and social setting and therefore feel human and at home. Multiple occupied homeless shelter with the abstinence rule sanctioned by the removal from the shelter can be a real home.

The study was commissioned by the Regional Centre for Social Policy in Łódź (Regionalne Centrum Polityki Społecznej w Łodzi) and was financed through European Social Fund Regional Program for Łódź Voivodship 2014-2020 Technical Support (ESF Regionalny Program Operacyjny Województwa Łódzkiego na lata 2014 – 2020, Oś priorytetowa Pomoc Techniczna).



*Julia Wygnańska, researcher and advocate for ending homelessness, social integration therapist and motivational interviewing practitioner, President of Housing First Poland Foundation. Her engagement in homelessness began with research for the Municipality of Warsaw during her Sociology studies at the University of Warsaw. She become an independent researcher for the European Observatory on Homelessness. In her later projects she concentrated on evaluating housing led programs through in-depth interviews with people experiencing homelessness. Since 2019 she's a leader of Housing First Poland Foundation. She provides fidelity consultation for the teams that want to develop their programs towards HF*

*principles. In cooperation with other researchers the Foundation conducts research concentrated on the perspective given directly by people with experience of homelessness.*

*Małgorzata Kostrzyńska, PhD, University of Łódź is a university teacher, social pedagogue and art therapist. She has vast experience in qualitative research: long-term participant observation, narrative interviewing, qualitative analysis (Grounded Theory), action and participatory research. Her interests focus on perception of homelessness street work stigmatization social inclusion and exclusion social welfare and ending homelessness. As a Vice-Chairman of the Council for Solving the Problem of Homelessness at the Municipality of Łódź she is active in networking governmental and non-governmental stakeholders including experts by experience as well as representatives of science and business sectors to implement systemic and individual solutions to end homelessness. She has also worked as a street worker and assistant to people with experience of homelessness. Both in her research and social activities she concentrates on changing social awareness, breaking stereotypes and most of all presenting the perspective of people with lived experience of homelessness.*

## Seminar 20: Housing Transitions (Room: TBD) - Chair: Eoin O'Sullivan, IE

### Krista Kosonen, FI: Transition from Supported Housing Unit to Scattered Site Housing

In Finland, Housing First is applied both in supported housing units and in scattered site housing. The main aim of the Housing First approach is to secure housing and provide adequate support. The tenants in Housing First units typically have permanent tenancy agreements, and the right to housing and support as long as they want.

Even though the number of homeless people in Finland is relatively low, there are still people without permanent housing and queues to supported housing units. Thus, the discussion about "flow" to and moving on from the housing units has increased in recent years. The discussion ponders the capability of some tenants to move on, which would free space for people queuing.

According to the Finnish Housing First, the tenants should be supported towards independent living. This support should be provided in a way that respects the tenant's self-determination. The question about flow and readiness to move on may be problematic, since each move holds potential risks, like relying on old survival modes, such as substance abuse. Many tenants in supported housing units have a fragile housing history and the unit may be their first secure living environment. On the other hand, if the support is no longer needed, moving to scattered housing may be beneficial to the tenant. The tenants are eligible for support for 6-12 months after their move.

The presentation introduces an ongoing study "Supported housing transition" and presents its preliminary findings. The data consists of tenant and case worker interviews that focus on the transition phase and the support given during the transition. The outcomes illustrate the provided support and different stages in the transition. The findings suggest which support is considered meaningful and which support could be strengthened.



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

### Clíodhna Bairéad, IE: Irish Housing Dynamics: Insights from a 6-Year Time Series Analysis of Social Housing Assessment Records and Housing Assistance Payment Tenancies

The Irish housing market is currently under immense strain due to a combination of high costs, low supply and a growing population increasing demand. Homelessness and housing insecurity has become a pressing issue within the market due to a significant lack of affordable, accessible accommodation.

The Irish social housing system is reliant on local authorities who provide funding for accommodation in their region. This accommodation can be traditional social housing, provided by local authorities and approved housing bodies or through rent subsidisation in the private market. The largest subsidisation programme in Ireland is the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), which is a local authority subsidy paid on behalf of households who qualify for social housing.

This presentation utilises local authority data from social housing assessments and HAP tenants over a six year period from 2016 – 2021. This is a quantitative study, examining 264,915 households who qualified for social housing.

This presentation will provide a new perspective on housing demand among potential social housing tenants. It shows the different household structures among some of the most vulnerable households in the Irish housing market. The age and gender of the head of household as well as household composition, household income and having experienced homelessness will be discussed in this presentation. It will examine what types of households in Irish society are waiting for social housing or relying on HAP for their rent. Through examining the fluctuations in demand for social housing and HAP and the households who apply for these supports, this research provides a unique insight into the Irish social housing sector.



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

## **Seminar 21: Structural Challenges and Homelessness Strategies (Room: TBD) - Chair: Kjell Larsson, SE**

**Shmulik Szeintuch, IL:** Homelessness strategies in European Union Member States: The state of play in 2024

In the past two decades European Union countries have been developing homelessness strategies. These efforts have been amplified by the Lisbon Declaration and the launch of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness (EPOCH) in 2021.

The aim of this research is to analyze existing data on European Union national and regional homelessness strategies in order to enable policy makers, researchers, service providers and people experiencing homelessness to develop their own national, regional or local strategies, in a way that is best catered for their own country or locality, as well as to improve existing strategies in their next updated version.

An extensive literature review, an analysis of existing strategies, as well as a survey which targets a selection of European national policy makers, researchers, and representatives of the homeless sector will feed into the development of a proposal for a good homelessness strategy.

The discussion will aim to mainly pose questions that could help anyone who is developing a strategy to do it better, while averting possible pitfalls.



*Dr. Shmulik Szeintuch is a social worker and faculty member in the School of Social Work, Sapir College, as well as the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His main areas of interest are homelessness, street work and social policy. Shmulik has published research papers in Hebrew and English journals and books, as well as policy documents for The Israeli Ministry of Welfare. Finally, he is involved in policy practice, mainly in the area of homelessness. For over a decade Shmulik provided supervision to professionals in organisations working with people experiencing homelessness.*

**Eszter Somogyi, Nóra Teller, Balázs Váradi and Veronika Vass-Vigh, HU:** Barriers to Moving to a Housing-Led System in Central and Eastern Europe

Based on qualitative interviews with providers and social researchers, and a literature review of housing policies, social policies and homelessness strategies, this 2023 commissioned research took account of the barriers towards moving to a housing-led system in Central and Eastern Europe, namely in Slovakia, Croatia, Hungary and Romania.

We concluded that some of the barriers that limit the introduction and application of more extensive housing-led policies seem to be shared ones across the four countries. Structural deficiencies have multiple detrimental effects on homelessness: relatively simple regulations and measures that could help prevent homelessness are often missing; municipality-affiliated social services mainly concentrate on emergency responses and are not always well-staffed, prepared or motivated. Rental agreements are often informal, and taxes are not always paid. While slowly catching up, the countries are still considerably less developed than the EU average. This has multiple adverse effects: there are more people on low incomes who are one crisis away from homelessness; there is very limited availability of nationwide means-tested minimum-income, housing-benefit or other targeted subsidy schemes. State and municipally owned housing stock is scarce. Rents and real estate prices have markedly increased, and social support schemes



have not kept up. The political systems of the four countries, coupled with widespread negative stereotypes, have led to the emergence of political rhetoric and policies that either disregard or vilify people experiencing homelessness. Moreover, people experiencing homelessness in these countries often come from discriminated-against social groups (e.g. the Roma minority). Last but not least, a widespread lack of understanding of the causes and potential effective remedies of homelessness by both the public and politicians contributes to the expressly punitive manner of dealing with homelessness.

We also found that EU influence on the homelessness policies of these countries is important but remains limited so far, even though many of the small-scale pilot efforts were financed with EU funding. Still, there is impressive variability in homelessness policies across cities, which suggests that there is room for more and better policies. Based on our review as well as the lessons from select initiatives we formulated recommendations for policy-makers, practitioners and other stakeholders.



*Eszter Somogyi (MA in Sociology), a senior researcher at the Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest, has more than twenty years of experience in research and policy consultancy related to urban regeneration, social and affordable housing policy and complex policy-making for vulnerable people. She has participated in numerous international research and social experimentation projects.*



*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.*



*Balázs Váradi (PhD, Economics) is a senior policy analyst at the Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis. He has worked as a policy evaluator and participated in policy design in the fields of education, employment health and social policy; in addition to his applied work, he also teaches Economics and Political Economy at ELTE University.*

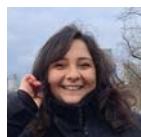


*Veronika Vass-Vigh is a policy analyst at the Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis, specializing in labor market and social policy analysis. She holds an MA in Political Science with a focus on political economy from the Central European University in Budapest, as well as another MA in Political Science from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.*

**Franca Viganò, IT:** Representations of Homelessness in Social and Health Planning in Italy. Implications at the Local, Regional and National levels: the cases of Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna

The aim of this study is to understand how homelessness is represented in social and health measures in Italy during the period preceding the Covid-19 pandemic (2019-2020) and the period immediately after the initial outbreak (2020-2021). The analysis has been carried out with the help of the “What’s the Problem Represented to be?” approach by Carol Bacchi, investigating “problems” representations and proposed solutions. The two Regions featured in this analysis are Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna, with a specific focus on their two capitals: Milano and Bologna. Given the decentralisation of the Italian healthcare system, these Regions were chosen not only because of their high-performance levels, but also because of their differences and for their role as some of the primary recipients of the Covid-19 pandemic. The documents analysed were the Local Area Plans (Piano di Zona) for each city, together with Regional Guidelines, the normative framework surrounding these measures and, where applicable, National strategies used to approach marginalisation and healthcare. In Lombardy, local healthcare became important as an objective for

future welfare planning. Integration of services and social marginalisation became evident as a health problem during the pandemic experience, while preparedness became a key word to operate on the territory. On the other hand, in Emilia-Romagna, the effects of the pandemic are visible in the way the concept of vulnerability exited the realm of poverty and it extended to the one of citizenship. Many characteristics of needs, together with some semantics once reserved for people experiencing homelessness, entered planning and policy documents for what concerns Italy and its Regions. The accent on people experiencing homelessness and their needs can still be represented as a subsidiary of poverty and/or other health vulnerabilities. While categorization can be dangerous, the representation of homelessness within the general social problems ensemble, often referred solely to the concept of poverty and material deprivation, risks overlooking specific obstacles that they might encounter when accessing services both before and after the pandemic.



*Franca Viganò holds a Bachelor's degree in History, Anthropology and Religion and a Master's degree in Ethno Anthropological Disciplines from La Sapienza University of Rome. She continued her studies with a second-level master's degree in Public Policy and Social Change at Collegio Carlo Alberto in Turin, where she had the opportunity to work as an intern with the research group of the Fundamental Rights Laboratory. After completing her studies, she worked as a researcher for CCM (now Amref-CCM Foundation) on the project: "Right to Health: a network in Turin to support the weakest" (with World Friends). She is currently enrolled in the third year of the PhD programme in "Human Rights, Society and Multilevel Governance" at the University of Padua.*

## **Seminar 22: Welfare Arrangements and Homelessness (Room: TBD) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE**

**Soshiro Yamada, Matthew D. Marr, Yusuke Kakita, Gakuto Kawamura and Hiroshi Goto, JP:** The Sustainability of a Stable Life after Leaving Homelessness in Japan

The number of homeless individuals living on the street in Japan was reported to be 25,296 in 2003; however, by 2023, it had decreased to 3,065, marking a reduction of over 80% over the past 20 years. This decline stands out notably against the backdrop of increasing homelessness reported in many European countries. It is suggested that this reduction trend is attributable to three key characteristics of the general public assistance system (*seikatsu hogo*): generality, comprehensiveness, and expeditiousness.

While it is acknowledged that the effective functioning of *seikatsu hogo* has contributed to the reduction of homelessness in Japan, the question arises whether this fact can be simply evaluated as a "success story." This study focuses on the living conditions of individuals who have transitioned from homelessness to stable housing with receiving *seikatsu hogo*. Results from a tracking survey of approximately 600 former homeless individuals revealed the following: 1) Half of them are at risk of mental health issues, 2) Many former homeless individuals have narrow support networks, with low frequencies of interaction with relatives and friends, indicating social isolation, and 3) They feel stigma associated with receiving *seikatsu hogo*. These issues pose risks to the sustainability of their community life.

Support and policy goals regarding homelessness should not solely focus on reducing homelessness. To ensure the sustainability of community life even after transitioning to stable housing, it is necessary to prevent their social isolation and eliminate the stigma associated with receiving *seikatsu hogo*.



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



*Matthew D. Marr, USA is Associate Professor of Sociology Global and Sociocultural Studies, Florida International University. His research focuses on how experiences of inequality in contemporary urban America and Japan are shaped by contexts at different levels, from the global to the individual. Marr looks at strategic research sites including housing programs for people experiencing homelessness, "service hub" neighborhoods, and day labor markets.*



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



*Gakuto Kawamura, Japan is an associate professor at Rikkyo University in the college of community and human services. He has been researching ways to organize communities in large housing estates where many of the residents are socially vulnerable. He is also interested in the area effects of social exclusion.*



*Hiroshi Goto, Japan is a professor at Rikkyo University in the College of Community and Human Services. He began his career as a social worker for a nonprofit organization supporting the homeless, San-Yu-Kai, in Japan. His current research interests encompass both local and global perspectives on homelessness. On the local level, he analyzes case records from homeless self-reliance support centers (transitional housing) in Japan. Globally, he conducts comparative studies of public assistance programs in the US and Japan.*

## **Gregg Colburn, US:** Homelessness is a Housing Problem: How Structural Factors Explain U.S. Patterns

In *Homelessness is a Housing Problem: How Structural Factors Explain U.S. Patterns* (University of California Press), Gregg Colburn and Clayton Aldern seek to explain regional variation in rates of homelessness throughout the United States. Colburn and Aldern find that housing market conditions offer a more convincing explanation than other common explanations of homelessness including, rates of poverty, mental illness, and drug use. A key contribution of this book is to highlight the importance of unit of analysis. In determining the risk of homelessness for an individual, poverty and mental health play an important causal role. But at the community level, the availability of housing explains why coastal cities (such as New York and Los Angeles) have five times the rate of homelessness of Chicago.

When presenting this research, a frequent question is whether this logic holds in other international contexts. I (Colburn) am currently working on an extension of this book in Canada. Based on discussions with scholars and advocates in Canada, it is likely that the logic of the book holds in the Canadian context given the relatively similar policy and housing market dynamics found in both Canada and the United States. But, there is an open question of whether the cost and availability of housing will have a similar effect in European nations that have meaningfully different social and housing policies than what exists in the USA. In this presentation, I will briefly share conclusions from our U.S. analysis and outline a research agenda (with hypotheses) for similar analyses across Europe.



*Gregg Colburn is an Associate Professor in the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington. He publishes research on topics related to housing 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).*

*Gregg holds a M.B.A. from Northwestern University, and a M.S.W. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Prior to academia, he worked as an investment banker and private equity professional.*

*Gregg serves as co-chair of the University of Washington's Homelessness Research Initiative and is a member of the National Alliance to End Homelessness Research Council.*

## Seminar 23: Youth Homelessness II (Room: TBD) - Chair: Melanie Redman, CA (TBC)

**Naomi Thulien and Mardi Daley, CA:** Transitioning Youth Out of Homelessness 2.0: A Pilot Rent Subsidy and Identity Capital Intervention for Youth Exiting Homelessness in Canada

Background: This 12-month pilot study builds on our previous community-engaged work and explores whether portable rent subsidies and an intervention targeting identity capital (purpose, control, self-efficacy, and self-esteem) hold promise as a way to facilitate socioeconomic inclusion for youth (age 16-24 years) exiting homelessness and living in market rent housing in Ontario, Canada.

All (n = 40) participants received rent subsidies; half were randomly assigned an identity capital intervention (co-designed leadership guide + coach). Two coaches with expertise in solution-focused coaching were hired from outside the homelessness sector; each managed a caseload of 10 youth.

Methods: The overall study was guided by a community-based participatory action research approach. The qualitative component employed a qualitative descriptive design underpinned by critical social theory. The objectives and measures were:

1. Primary – examine the feasibility and acceptability of a randomized trial of targeted economic and identity-based supports as a way to foster socioeconomic inclusion. Measures: recruitment/enrolment/dropout metrics; self-report composite checklists regarding intervention engagement; qualitative focus groups.
2. Secondary – estimate the effect of adding identity-based supports to economic supports (intervention group) compared with economic supports alone (control group) at the 12-month primary endpoint with respect to self-reported proxy indicators of socioeconomic inclusion. Measures: education, employment and training; housing security; identity capital.
3. Exploratory – explore whether the estimated effect of the intervention differs by baseline variables (e.g., gender or mental health symptoms).

Discussion: We will share our quantitative and qualitative findings, and discuss important lessons learned about the impact of solution-focused coaching on identity capital for youth transitioning out of homelessness. This intervention was co-designed with youth from our last study and their voices, along with youth from this study, will continue to inform next steps.



*Dr. Naomi Thulien is a nurse practitioner and researcher committed to working with the community – especially young people with lived expertise – to tackle the social and structural inequities that cause and perpetuate youth homelessness. Naomi is an investigator at MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, a research institute at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Canada focused on health equity. She is also an assistant professor (status only) at the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health. In 2021, Naomi co-founded Breakwater Foundation – a non-profit organization that provides rent subsidies, education bursaries, and primary health care to young women who have experienced homelessness.*



*Mardi Daley has eight years of experience as a lived experience advocate, researcher, and youth engagement specialist. She works in Toronto, Canada at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, and the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness. Mardi has an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Toronto. Mardi focuses on building ethical and meaningful engagement strategies for youth participation and leadership in research, evaluation, and community-based projects. In 2019, Mardi founded Lived Experience Lab to better support lived/living experience in workforce development, including supporting the creation of intentional youth advisory models.*

**Jörg Dittmann, Cyril Boonmann, Nils Jenkel and Delfine D'Huart, CH:** Fragile housing of vulnerable people. On the connection between homelessness and care leaving

Care leavers are adolescents and young adults who leave care homes or foster families when they reach the age of majority or later. International studies show that care leavers, especially in transition, are exposed to numerous

stresses (Thyen & Konrad, 2018; Gypen et al. 2017; Fegert et al., 2017). Experiences of homelessness have been little studied quantitatively for care leavers in Europe like Australia or North America (Kaleveld 2018; Kelly 2020). The following presentation provides results based on the quantitative longitudinal Swiss study “JAEL - Jugendhilfe aus Erfahrung lernen” (Schmid et al. 2022).

The analysis points to the high vulnerability of care leavers to ending up in precarious housing situations and experiencing homelessness compared to the Swiss population as a whole. 30% of all care leavers between the ages of 18 and 25 years report experience of homelessness, while the lifetime prevalence rate in the Swiss population as a whole is between 0.1% and 8.1%, depending on the definition of homelessness. The example of higher risk to experience homelessness highlights the extreme level of fragility in the area of housing for adults who were formerly placed in institutions or foster families as minors. Especially when those affected are dealing with mental illnesses. The results imply problems the support system has in responding appropriately to young people with specific mental health problems. We would like to discuss with you approaches and possibilities of how social and medical support systems can prevent careers at failed support services.



*Prof. Jörg Dittmann, University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland, School of Social Work. His main topics include poverty and homelessness, social planning and quantitative life situation analyses.*



*Dr. Cyril Boonmann, assistant professor, LUMC-Curium —Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Research, Psychiatric University Hospitals Basel, Basel, Switzerland. His main research interests include mental health problems and offending behavior in children, adolescents and young adults with multiple and complex needs.*



*Nils Jenkel, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Research, Psychiatric University Hospitals Basel, Basel, Switzerland. He is responsible for various initiatives, including overseeing the online platform WeAskYou, which provides psychometric diagnostics services to institutions and research projects.*



*Dr. Delfine d'Huart, Department of Youth forensic, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Research, Psychiatric University Hospitals Basel, Basel, Switzerland. Her main research interests include personality disorders and childhood maltreatment in young people.*

## **Seminar 24: Dimensions of Homelessness (Room: TBD) - Chair: Masa Filipovic Hrast, SI**

**Beth Stone, Emily Wertans, UK:** Disability and homelessness, An identity or a label? A critical analysis of terminology in the UK

While concurrent experiences of homelessness and Disability are common, they are often overlooked or misunderstood in policy and practice. This presentation is based on a novel report which examined the intersection between Disability and homelessness in the UK. The report discovered that a disproportionate number of Disabled people experience homelessness and that they face multiple barriers to exiting homelessness. It also identified

significant discrepancies in the way this intersection is recorded, monitored and supported.

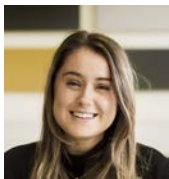
This presentation will provide an in-depth exploration of the practical issues which can arise when 'homelessness' and 'Disability' are positioned in contention with one another. It will begin by considering how Disability and homelessness are conceptualised at a theoretical level, and how this is informed by broader socioeconomic and ableist narratives. It will then consider how narrow and misinformed categorisations have undermined recording and monitoring efforts at policy and service level in the UK. Further, this presentation will demonstrate how Disabled people may struggle to meet eligibility thresholds for statutory support.

The second half of this presentation will explore the impact of Disability and homelessness labels on personhood. It will highlight the difficulty of creating a label which has real-world meaning in enabling support but which is also able to capture the complex ontological realities of Disabled people. This presentation will argue that current constructions of Disability and homelessness are too simplistic to capture intersectionality and that assigned labels carry significant weight in terms of associated stigma and personal identity construction.

Finally, this presentation will consider the broader policy and social landscape. It will demonstrate how increased politicisation and weaponising of Disability and homelessness permit problematic categorisations while removing vital safety nets. It will consider how to overcome these issues in a context of dwindling resources where support is conditional upon meeting increasingly restricted criteria.



*Dr Beth Stone is a lecturer in Disability Studies at the University of Bristol. Beth's research explores the intersection between Disability and social exclusion, with a focus on neurodiversity and homelessness.*



*Emily Wertans is a Doctoral Candidate in the School of Criminology at the University of Leicester specialising in using creative research methods when working with people affected by homelessness who have been subjected to abuse(s).*

**Sarah Cooke, Rachel O'Connor, Lydia Hutchings, Chris Fox, UK:** Evidencing the Impact of Strengths based Working on Long term outcomes

Public services often fall short of their primary objective: improving lives. Often this is because they are transactional and deficit-based, they address people's symptoms (homelessness) rather than root causes even though many challenges people face are complex and require more holistic solutions. We developed two 'strengths-based' programmes to work with adults and young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness: Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership[1] and Greater Manchester Better Outcome Partnership[2].

Strengths-based working is designed to challenge, motivate, raise awareness of, and capitalise on the individual's strengths. Front-line services were designed to be personalised and holistic, empowering individuals to help themselves and fostering sustainable change. We also sought to develop a strengths-based partnership to deliver this service and encourage the wider system to adopt strengths-based approaches. An evaluation of front-line practice using Qualitative Comparative Analysis demonstrated that, when front-line staff worked in more strengths-based ways their clients achieved better long-term outcomes. A separate evaluation identified significant savings to public budgets associated with the programme.

This body of work advances both our understanding of effective services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and the evidence-based for the effectiveness of strengths-based approaches to service delivery in public services. We describe the service delivery model in which 'reflective practice', self-efficacy and 'innovation' on the part of front-line service delivery teams were key to facilitate strength-based working. We discuss the evidence on programme effectiveness and describe the framework we developed to identify if services are working in a strength-based way, utilising the benefits of analytical and problem-solving that utilised effective data to evidence trends and impact. We conclude by outlining how this model can be embedded within service delivery organisations and scaled across local delivery systems.

*Sarah, Rachel and Lydia are Employees of Bridges Outcomes Partnerships. BOP is committed to transformative social*

*intervention, specialising in strengths-based approaches, empowering individuals in housing, homelessness, and criminal justice sectors. Our innovative strategies and data-driven analysis catalyse sustainable change, yielding long-term impact and substantial public budget savings.*



*Sarah Cooke leads the Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership. An experienced regional and national Director with a demonstrated history of working in non-profit sectors across Homelessness, Housing and Justice. Skilled in innovation & project management, consortium & relationship development, government consultation, and new business opportunities. Part of numerous ambitious pilots including Re-Unite, Greater Manchester Offenders Project, Female Offender Whole Systems Approach in GM and Transforming Rehabilitation "Through The Gate" Contracts and committed to supporting rehabilitation and empowering individuals to achieve independence through innovative and asset based services. Nominated for UK Housing Award and winning a Northern Housing Award as part of GM Homes Partnership.*



*Rachel O'Connor Rachel is a Programme Director leading the Young Persons Homeless Prevention Pathfinder at the Greater Manchester Better Outcomes Partnership (GMBOP). Since January 2021, she's been guiding the project to success, impacting young people across GM as well as feeding into wider systems learning. With eighteen years of senior management experience, Rachel excels in leading teams delivering critical services in housing, debt, and criminal justice sectors. Prior to GMBOP, she made significant impacts in the Transforming Rehabilitation contract, managing Through The Gate provision across the North West. Recognised with a Butler Trust award in 2018, Rachel is passionate about how strength based ways of working can effect positive social change.*



*Lydia Hutchings Lydia works as an Impact Analyst, previously supporting BOP's international work on the Sierra Leone Innovation Education Challenge and the Ghana Education Outcomes Project and now the GMBOP Pathfinders programme. Since studying philosophy at university, she has worked for a number of charities, predominantly within the education sector and most recently for Teach First - an education charity which aims to build a fair education for all. Lydia is passionate about promoting social mobility and helping to improve the life chances of those who need it most.*



*Chris Fox is Professor of Evaluation and Policy Analysis at Manchester Metropolitan University, where he is also Faculty Director of Research for Arts and Humanities with strategic responsibility for 350 researchers working across the arts, humanities and social sciences. Chris's areas of research specialism are evidence-based policy, public service reform and social outcomes contract (Social Impact Bonds). He has written 4 books and 45 journal papers, the most recent being 'Can a focus on co-created, strengths-based services facilitate early-stage innovation within Social Impact Bonds?' published in the International Public Management Journal.*

**15h30 – 16h00 Coffee break**

**16h00 – 17h30 Plenary Session II (Room: AUDITORIUM) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE**


**16h00 – 16h30**



**John Sylvestre, CA: Expert Perspectives on the Evolution of Housing First**

*John Sylvestre, Canada, is a Full Professor in the School of Psychology and a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Research on Educational and Community Services, at the University of Ottawa. His interests lie in the study and evaluation of community mental health programs, with a particular interest in homelessness and poverty. His recent work focuses on community development and social change strategies in social housing.*

*This presentation reports on findings from interviews with 27 individuals with diverse expertise in Housing First from the United States, Canada, and across Europe. Findings showed that the participants were near unanimous in their assessment that the evidence in support of Housing First is a core strength. Experts pointed to changes in practice, mental health systems, and policy, as a result of the implementation of Housing First, as other achievements. Experts were also clear on a number of challenges associated with Housing First. For example, they noted that when Housing*

<p>17h00 – 17h30</p>	<p>First functions as a standalone program, rather than being integrated within a more comprehensive homelessness strategy its impact can be limited. Whereas all experts agreed on the importance of fidelity in the implementation of Housing First, they differed in their views of the flexibility required to successfully implement Housing First. Finally, notable differences were identified between North American and European participants in their views of the future prospects of Housing First.</p> <p><b>Ruth Owen, BE: 15 years' work on ending homelessness in Europe: An Honest Assessment</b></p>  <p><i>Ruth Owen, Belgium, is Deputy Director at FEANTSA (European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless), where she had worked since 2010. She is an expert on homelessness and public policies to address it, notably in European contexts. She has a special interest in housing policy. Prior to working on homelessness, Ruth studied geography and worked as a teacher in London.</i></p> <p>Ruth Owen will draw on FEANTSA's experience of advocating for evidence-based homelessness policy and practice in Europe, and the role of research therein. She will share some frank reflections on achievements, frustrations, and lessons for the future.</p> <p><b>Questions &amp; Closing of the conference</b></p>
<p>17h30</p>	<p><b>Drinks reception (Rooftop Terrace, 7th floor)</b></p>



## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

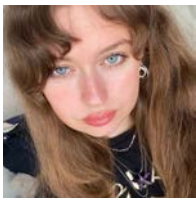
Thursday, 17h30 – 19h00 Friday, all

breaks

Room: Aula

### **Nienke Boesveldt, Thalia Iola Suranyi Correll, Marie-Louise Janssen, NL: A Minority Stress Analysis of LGBTQ+ Homelessness in the Netherlands**

This study focuses on trajectories into homelessness among LGBTQ+ individuals in the Netherlands. Based on the secondary analysis of 1,046 semi-structured interviews with 454 homeless adults conducted between 2018 and 2023, we identified 30 interviews with 14 participants who spontaneously mentioned their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Analysis of their narratives shows that sexual/gender minorities experience a unique combination of social stressors—social stigma, bullying, violence, decay of social networks, isolation—that over time increases their chances of mental health problems, substance abuse, the avoidance of available services, and becoming and remaining homeless. To address homelessness among the LGBTQ+ population, we recommend improving outreach in youth care, ensuring continuity of care into adulthood, and raising awareness on homo- and transphobia among staff in homeless shelters.



*Thalia Iola Suranyi Correll MSc is a recent Master's degree graduate at University of Amsterdam, in Sociology. Her undergraduate degree in Sociology was completed at University of Massachusetts, Boston. She is currently stepping into her career in academia with her first publication. She hopes to find funding to continue this project as an PhD applicant. She is currently working as a Junior Lecturer in the Sociology department at the University of Amsterdam.*



*Dr. Nienke Boesveldt has been a valorisation-driven teacher and researcher for 25 years. Her experience comes from her PhD on the Governance of Homelessness at Vu University Amsterdam, previous work experience at Utrecht University, municipalities and research institutes and her current projects at the University of Amsterdam. From 2018 on she has been coordinating (partly peer led) longitudinal data collection on homelessness and protected housing from both service user and professional perspective.*



*Dr. Marie-Louise Janssen got her master degree in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam in 1991. In 2007 she received her PhD with the title: Sex Workers on the Move. Latin American Women in the European Sex Industry. Marie-Louise Janssen lectures in the areas of gender and sexuality studies, social sciences and research methods and techniques at the department of Sociology of the University of Amsterdam, and has published extensively on the intersection of sex work, migration and human trafficking.*

### **Laura Phillips-Farmer, UK: Homelessness Experiences by Voicemail: How Cisgender-Heterosexual and LGBTQ+ People Narrate Their Homelessness in the Absence of Stakeholders**

#### Introduction

Approaches to UK homelessness in research and support services has typically positioned people experiencing homelessness as a homogenous group, often siphoning their experiences into topics of vulnerabilities and marginalisation (Trimingham, 2015). The LGBTQ+ community face the same challenges in maintaining agency and individuality.

#### Methods

An anonymous voicemail study was developed to gather personal stories of pathways into homelessness. Participants were asked to describe what led to their homelessness for as long or little as they liked, including any information they felt like was relevant. Six cisgender-heterosexual people and four LGBTQ+ people recorded voice

messages ranging from 1 to 20 minutes. A Narrative Thematic Analysis was conducted to explore individual and shared themes. Additionally, the AOCERC method and Biographical Narratives were applied to each participants' account.

## Results

Three main themes were constructed from the analysis: Becoming homeless involves an often difficult to narrate spiral of events marked by trauma, family relationship loss, and a dented sense of self-autonomy; Moral worth, fate and betrayal: making 'meaning' out of events creating a self-trap; Navigating homelessness services requires grit and working with others who can help you. The Biographical Narratives for participants were more complex than usual, particularly in the LGBTQ+ group whose painful experiences were more likely to be ongoing at the time of participation.

## Discussion

Approaches taken towards homelessness by UK support services and public perceptions had impacted how participants situated their experiences. Agency and individuality were important to narratives. Factors leading to homelessness were more complex and intertwined than often portrayed in prior research. Additionally, LGBTQ+ people faced intersectional issues which amplified the challenge of exiting homelessness permanently. This study demonstrates the heterogeneity in UK homelessness experiences as well as the shared challenges faced.



*Laura Phillips-Farmer is currently about to complete her mixed methods PhD. Her research examines, through the lens of Life Course Theory, the intersections between structural and individual factors leading to UK homelessness experiences with a particular focus on families. She previously worked in various homelessness support service roles including managing a night shelter project and as a support worker on a Private Rented Sector access scheme.*

## Nasibeh Hedayati, FI: Migrants' Pathways into Homelessness in Finland's Capital Region

This study investigated migrants' pathways into homelessness in Finland's Capital Region. Interviews with a mixed sample of 29 participants with migrant backgrounds who have experienced homelessness identified several types of critical incidents that can lead migrants to become homeless. For participants living alone (N= 19) and families (N=4) these critical incidents were abandonment immediately after obtaining a residence permit, rent increases, changes in the number of family members, renovations, independence, neighbours' complaints, and moving to the Capital Region. When critical incidents are paired with factors such as low income, shortage of affordable housing, lack of knowledge of Finnish language and the housing system as well as the social service system, migrants are likely to become homeless. Furthermore, according to interviews conducted with undocumented migrants (N=6), their experience of homelessness can be attributed to the absence of a residence permit and restricted rights. Within this report, we highlight instances of homelessness among people with migrant backgrounds, aiming to offer insights for policymakers in sustainably preventing homelessness.



*Nasibeh Hedayati, PhD in educational sciences (University of Helsinki), has worked in Blue Ribbon Foundation, Kota-program for more than three years where they provide multilingual housing advice for migrants who are going through housing challenges and homelessness in the Capital Region. The main goal of their program is to prevent migrants' homelessness. In the MASE project (September 2023-February 2024), she contributed as a researcher, focusing on migrants' homelessness in the capital region.*

*Blue Ribbon Foundation is a non-profit, values-based foundation established in 1957 in Finland. We are an expert in homelessness and substance abuse services and an influencer in the sector.*

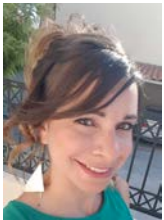
## Sasha Eykyn, UK: Homelessness at the Intersection of Complex Systems: Using Institutional Ethnography to Understand Refugee Homelessness Prevention

In the aftermath of what was publicly dubbed the 'Refugee Crisis' of 2015, the Welsh Government committed to using its devolved powers to create a culture of inclusion and safety for people seeking sanctuary in Wales. However, it is difficult to square the Welsh Government's 'Nation of Sanctuary' strategy (2019) with the continued overexposure of refugees in Wales to homelessness, destitution and precarious housing during and following their eviction from UK government funded asylum accommodation (British Red Cross 2018, Smith 2019, Mitton 2021, Lindley 2023, Brown et al. 2024). This presentation uses institutional ethnography (Smith 2002, 2005) – drawing on focus groups and interviews with refugees, policymakers and frontline practitioners, process mapping and participant observation – to

identify and explore the tensions between the lived expertise of refugees navigating these complex systems in Wales and accepted understandings of successful homelessness prevention in this context. Working to bridge the gap between what the systems themselves have been designed to do and what is actually happening for refugee communities in Wales, institutional ethnography is a promising methodological tool for developing more effective policy interventions and advocacy work in this area.



*Sasha Eykyn is a PhD Researcher in Geography and Planning at Cardiff University, Wales. Her PhD aims to better understand the different systems involved in organising how refugees experience homelessness and housing difficulties in Cardiff, in the context of the Welsh Government's 'Nation of Sanctuary' plan and the wider politics around immigration and homelessness prevention in the UK.*



**Korina-Electra Mylonaki, EL:** Women's homelessness: Improving housing outcomes for women sleeping rough in the UK.

The research question of this study is how we can improve housing outcomes for women sleeping rough in the UK. It aims to explore the structural barriers and challenges that prevent women from accessing and sustaining accommodation, as well as make recommendations for service design, commissioning and delivery and further research that will help to reduce those barriers. Using qualitative methodology, a focused literature review was carried out and thematic analysis was used to identify the main themes and findings. The key findings of this study were analysed through a feminist lens. One of the barriers to women achieving housing stability is the lack of a gendered lens in homeless services, which means that women's specific needs are not accounted for. Additionally, there is a lack of suitable accommodation that is tailored to women's needs, very limited women-only services and an overreliance on mixed-gender accommodation. Re-traumatisation of women through assessment processes and unrealistic hostel rules is proven to be another housing barrier for women. Finally, hidden homelessness is very common among women, as they use invisibility as a safety strategy. This leads to the underrepresentation of women in data collection efforts. Based on the above findings, my recommendations include increasing the amount of women-only accommodation provisions; comprehensive staff training on trauma-informed practices which is not only provided to frontline workers but to all stakeholders involved in homelessness services; adoption of gendered and trauma-informed approaches in service design and delivery where women's needs are included; service design and commissioning to include long-term wraparound support for women; involve women with lived experience of homelessness in the design of accommodation and homeless services; improve data accuracy; and further research will help expand our understanding of the complexities and nuances of women's homelessness.

*Korina Mylonaki works as a social worker supporting people sleeping rough in Manchester (UK). She is also an early career researcher and has recently undertaken an Adult Social Care Practitioner Internship, delivered by the NHS Research and Development North West. As part of that, she carried out a qualitative study, in the form of a literature review, which aimed to explore how we can improve housing outcomes for women sleeping rough in the UK. Korina holds a BA in Psychology, an MSc in Community Psychology and an MA in Social Work and is keen to develop her research career further in order to make an impact on the lives of those she supports.*

**Sara Lannin, Ivana Keenan, Tanya Blyth and Elizabeth Peña, IE:** Life After Care: A Descriptive Study on Navigating Housing Stability and Support for Youth Exiting Care

As identified internationally and in Ireland, young people placed in State care are subjected to a greater risk of social exclusion and homelessness upon exiting care. To reduce the number of care leavers entering homelessness, the Irish Government established the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) for youth, to support housing needs for individuals exiting care. The present study aimed to investigate the experiences of youth living in CAS funded properties, the support available to them, as well as challenges in providing long-term tenancy sustainment. The study focused on the CAS model of care run by Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) – a national housing and homeless charity committed to reducing homelessness and the harm caused by substance misuse and social disadvantage. A qualitative two phased research design was implemented. Phase one included semi-structured interviews with 11

young people aged between 18 to 25, living in PMVT-supported properties and phase two was based on 3 focus groups comprising 9 internal stakeholders, including frontline staff, management and directors of the organisation.

The overall experiences of youth living in these properties were positive. Youth valued the high-quality, 1-bed apartments provided, which fostered a sense of security, ownership and belonging. While property maintenance was identified as a key issue, the tailored person-centred approach to providing support by PMVT assisted youth to express their voice and helped the transition into independent living. In supporting housing stability and tenancy sustainment, the stakeholder focus groups highlighted the importance of providing fully furnished and stocked homes from the turn of a key. The challenges in supporting and accessing additional support for youth facing multiple complex needs was also discussed. Overall, CAS funding and a wraparound support of care contributes to high levels of tenancy sustainment, however further development is required with regards to the clarity surrounding the eligibility criteria and long-term practicalities of a tenancy agreement. These are needed to ensure that youth needs will be met and to allow the continuity of support and prevention of youth homelessness.



*Sara Lannin is a Research and Policy Officer with Peter McVerry Trust and is a PhD Student at the School of Education in University College Dublin. Her research focuses on supporting access and engagement with education for underserved communities. She has over 5 years of experience working in the Irish NGO with children, youth and adults of all ages and holds a BA (Hons) in Psychology and an MSc in Education, Children and Youth.*

**Eva Gallen-Granell, Mercedes Botija, Alba Galán-Sanantonio, ES:** "Unveiling Unseen Paths: An Exploratory Journey into the Life Trajectories of Homeless Individuals in Valencia"

Homelessness, the most extreme form of social exclusion, signifies the loss of rights and the gradual invisibility of those experiencing it. The pandemic and socio-economic crisis have worsened the living conditions of homeless individuals, exacerbating job insecurity and the lack of adequate housing policies in Spain. This has led to hypotheses about the emergence of new homelessness profiles and an exponential increase in this phenomenon. To analyze the changes in the homeless population in Valencia, the most populous city in the region and an area with a significant history of homelessness studies, a nocturnal count based on the S-Night methodology was conducted on December 15, 2021. The collected data revealed the presence of 754 homeless individuals, categorized according to the ETHOS typology and housed both on the streets and in shelters. According to surveys, half of the respondents reported being homeless for less than a year, with a significant proportion experiencing homelessness for short periods. The findings of the study reinforce evidence of a recent increase in homelessness, attributed to the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. They also suggest the emergence of new homeless profiles as a result of these circumstances. In conclusion, the nocturnal count of homeless individuals in Valencia provides a comprehensive view of the problem in the city and serves as a tool for social diagnosis. This analysis, crucial for social work, lays the groundwork for future research and longitudinal analyses of this reality in the city and beyond.

*Eva Gallen-Granell is a Graduate in Social Work from the University of Valencia and Master's in Development Cooperation from the Jaume I University. PhD candidate in Social Sciences. Trainee researcher under the State Program for University Teaching Staff Training (FPU 2022) in the Department of Social Work and Social Services at the University of Valencia. Author of book chapters and articles indexed in impactful databases. Has participated in various national and international scientific conferences. Research interests: poverty, social inclusion, public policies, and homelessness.*

*Mercedes Botija Yagüe holds a PhD in Social Science. Graduated in Social Work. Researcher and Associate Professor at the Department of Social Work and Social Services of the University of Valencia. She is the author of various books, chapters, and research articles in national and international journals indexed in prestigious databases. She is the Main Researcher of contracts with various private and public entities in competitive bidding. She has directed and participated in innovation projects resulting from public calls for knowledge transfer objectives. She has participated in transnational research projects dependent on competitive calls. She has received various awards for social research. Research lines: Social Services, Vulnerable Groups, and Health. She teaches in Doctoral, Master's, and Official Degrees both in national and international universities, as well as in professional courses.*

*Alba Galán- Sanantonio is a Graduate in Social Work and Master's in Gender and Equality Policies from the University of Valencia. PhD candidate in Social Sciences. Trainee researcher under the framework of the I+D+i program of the Generalitat Valenciana and the European Social Fund (CIACIF/2021/176), and lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Social Services. Author of book chapters and articles indexed in impactful databases.*

*Has participated in various scientific conferences at national and international levels. Research interests: poverty, social inclusion, public policies, homelessness, and gender.*

## **Noémi Vajdovich, HU:** The Territorial Dimensions of Health Care System for Homeless People

The issue of mass homelessness is closely related to health factors. The client's overall health condition depends on the quality of the healthcare system they receive: it matters how, under what circumstances, and where they will be treated next, as well as what access they have to healthcare services. The level of organization in healthcare often complicates the situation for the homeless, and conversely, the homeless, due to their attitudes and serious illnesses, also do not facilitate the process of healthcare provision and they also place a huge burden on the capacity of the healthcare system. My research is based on the territorial examination of these two main questions: its primary aim is to present and analyze the territorial characteristics of homeless care in Hungary, both through the spatial study of the healthcare system and the geographical characteristics of the health status of the homeless.

The study applies the so-called mixed methodology which involves processing both quantitative and qualitative data: in addition to analyzing nationwide territorial statistical data obtained from the National Health Insurance Fund Management, the study also presents the literature background of the topic and analyzes the content of interviews (made in 2023 and 2024) conducted with a total of seven experts and six homeless clients. The sample of quantitative data mainly pertains to individuals registered as homeless between 2015 and 2021, who legally had access to any healthcare service for six months after obtaining their homeless status certification.

The study highlights that a significant proportion of homeless individuals suffer from multiple serious illnesses, potentially rooted in major trauma, severe psychiatric disorders, or a lack of supportive family and social networks.

The healthcare network associated with the homeless is far more complex than initially assumed.

Over the past thirty years, Hungary has seen the emergence of a „segregated” homeless healthcare system, which overall does not have an impeccable impact on their reintegration into society.



*Noémi Vajdovich is finishing her Master's degree in Geography at the Eötvös Loránd University. During her studies, she was a member of the Eötvös József Collegium and she also spent a semester in Spain with Erasmus. The most outstanding of her professional achievements is the paper she wrote for the 2021 national scientific student conference (OTDK) on the regional differences of Energy*

*Poverty. Combining her interest in health geography and her research on energy poverty, she had the idea to investigate the geographical health dimensions of homelessness.*

## **Hayley Swanton IE:** Learnings from the Support For Tenancy And Recovery Targets Project (START): Housing and Support for Mental Health Service Users (MHSU)

The prevalence of mental health difficulties among the homeless population has been well documented in research. Lambert (2017) highlights that 90% of homeless individuals in Ireland perceive themselves to have 'psychological issues', with an additional 71.4% reporting a history of suicidal thoughts (Lambert & Gill-Emerson, 2017). Mental Health Service Users (MHSU) often face exclusion from accessing housing due to various barriers such as stigma, discrimination, lack of support, complex application processes and inadequate services or support (Murphy et al., 2017). Consequently, MHSUs are forced to live in situations that prevent their recovery and deteriorate their mental well-being (HSE, 2012), including homelessness, hospitalisation, couch surfing, living in overcrowded or unstable housing and living with family, sometimes in negative situations or because of a lack of options (Brackertz et al., 2020).

The aim of this presentation is to discuss findings from an evaluation of a housing and support model for MHSUs with housing needs called START (Support for Tenancy and Recovery Targets). The evaluation was undertaken by a research team at South East Technological University (SETU) using a cross-sectional mixed methods case study design. It involved thirty-sixty online questionnaires from staff employed by a variety of services (Mental Health Services, Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies) involved in the implementation of the START model. It also involved twenty-three questionnaires and nine semi-structured interviews with MHSU housed and supported under the START model.

A key finding from the evaluation points to the importance of tailored housing and support including advocacy, empowerment, emotional, social and practical support in addressing the housing needs of MHSU, preventing homelessness, supporting recovery, and increasing independence and quality of life. Despite these positive findings, because the evaluation was cross-sectional, it only gave a limited understanding of the long-term experiences of

MHSU once housed. The presentation will conclude by giving a brief introduction to a longitudinal qualitative participatory study being conducted by the presenters aimed at filling this gap. The current study aims to understand the lived experience of START participants in creating and sustaining a home and their participation and inclusion in the community over time.



*Hayley Swanton is a PhD student at South East Technological University (SETU) in Waterford, Ireland. 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 5 years of experience at Cork Simon Community, she has experience in a diverse range of roles, including supporting individuals with employment, education, and training in the employment and training department. She has also worked as a night worker, providing emergency support and facilitating an emergency sleeper service for rough sleepers. Currently, she supports individuals living independently under the Housing First model and those in high-support residential housing with diverse needs, including physical and mental health difficulties and*

*addiction.*

## **Ida Nilsson, SE:** Factors Associated with Self-Initiated Moves During the Formal Eviction Process

Housing eviction is a common occurrence, affecting hundreds of thousands of Europeans annually. It is well known that it primarily impacts the most vulnerable groups in society and is associated with adverse outcomes. However, previous research heavily relies on enforced removals registered in official statistics, thus missing eviction outcomes that disrupt or do not undergo the formal eviction process. This exploratory study based on unique national Swedish register data on evictions with a sample of over 60,000 individuals, examines self-initiated moves and contrasts them with those who regain their lease and those who were forcibly removed. Results from univariable and multivariable multinomial logistic regression analyses indicate that economic hardship and living in a single household are associated with self-initiated moves and enforced removals. However, distinct factors associated with self-initiated moves are age under 25, living as a couple with children, non-metropolitan residence, and Swedish background. Gender-stratified analysis highlights strong associations for young and Swedish-background women with self-initiated moves. The results underscore the significance of implementing preventive social services interventions that address the specific needs of this larger group of individuals who face evictions under a broader definition. Further implications for research, policy, and social work practice are discussed.



*Ida Nilsson is a PhD student at the Department of Social Work at Stockholm University. She holds an MSc degree in Social Work and is an experienced social worker primarily focused on issues related to over-indebtedness and financial counselling. Her research interest revolves around housing exclusion and its links to economic vulnerability and inequality. The paper is a draft of the second article in her register based dissertation project which focuses on evictions that occur during the formal eviction process before enforcement.*

## **Gloria Puchol, Radia Ben Ghazala, Juan Manuel Rodilla, Carmen Montalba ES:** Analyzing Homelessness Response Database using AI

Homelessness is a significant social challenge in Europe, affecting individuals from diverse characteristics. Given the high complexity of this social problem, there is a need for preventive and reactive responses tailored to specific groups. The present research aims to explore the potential of database exploitation, utilizing new technologies to analyze complex data for evidence-based interventions on homelessness. The study is based on a project that explores the potential of data science and artificial intelligence (AI) in homelessness interventions, by using intervention records from a Spanish-based organization that offers accommodation programs for homeless people. Over the past decade, the organization has recorded all its interventions with homeless individuals, holding thousands of cases with diverse variables, including population characteristics, intervention and outcome variables. Current homelessness responses tend to be generic, adapting services to individual cases, but the number of cases with different characteristics is immense. For instance, if we try to calculate the possible scenarios for homelessness responses, considering all variable combinations, with approximately 43 variables as starting characteristics and 97 intervention and outcome variables, assuming binary variables, there are roughly 2140 permutations, resulting in an extensive range of potential cases and possible professional responses. Through AI and logarithmic analysis, the ultimate aim of the research is to provide professionals with probabilistic success rates for interventions, and to

identify the most effective variables, treatments, and pathways for different subgroups and cases. Ethical guidance and authorization is crucial to ensure that the design of the algorithmic model revolves around an ethical purpose. Additionally, research outcomes may inform macro-level policy development or meso-level technical intervention guidelines.



*Gloria Puchol holds a degree in Economics and a Master's in Development Cooperation from the Polytechnic University of Valencia. Currently, she plays a pivotal role as the coordinator of the research department at Sant Joan de Déu València and PhD candidate in Social Science at the University of Valencia. Gloria's expertise lies in homelessness research, homeless program evaluation, and the application of the capability approach on homelessness research.*



*Radia Ben Ghazala is in 4th year of Data Science Bachelor's Degree. With a solid understanding of programming languages such as Python and R, as well as data analysis and visualization tools, she is eager to apply her skills to real-world data-driven challenges.*



*Juan Manuel Rodilla holds a dual role as a PhD candidate at the University of Valencia and a coordinator at Sant Joan de Déu València, a non-profit organization committed to providing housing, healthcare access, and employment assistance to the homeless population of Valencia. His research primarily focuses on homelessness, monitoring, and evaluation. Juan holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University, as well as a Master's degree in development policies and processes from the Polytechnic University of Valencia. Additionally, he possesses a Postgraduate degree in Development Cooperation from the University of Valencia. With over a decade of experience, Juan has coordinated fieldwork for development and humanitarian projects with organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and the United Nations.*



*Carmen Montalba has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Sociology. PhD in Sociology at the University of Valencia. She holds a Master's degree in Ethical Governance and Artificial Intelligence. Her research interests are focused on the social impact of digital transformation; social and employment policies; applied ethics; and ethics and Artificial Intelligence.*

**Early registration is encouraged from July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**DEADLINE for registration: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.**

## Chairs of the Workshops



*Melanie Redman is the co-founder, President & CEO of A Way Home Canada, a national coalition reimagining solutions to youth homelessness through transformations in policy, planning and practice. A Way Home Canada has inspired communities and countries around the world to adopt the A Way Home brand as a way to participate in a growing international movement for change. Melanie leads the National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness in Canada, which is a pan-Canadian community of practice for youth homelessness service providers. Melanie is also the co-founder and Partnership and Implementation Director for the Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab, which is a Government of Canada Research Tri-Council Networks of Centres of Excellence. Since 2021, Making the Shift has held the designation as a Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence. Melanie was named an Ashoka Fellow in 2023 for her on-going social entrepreneurship.*



*Mike Allen is Director of Advocacy, Research and Communications in Focus Ireland. He was President of FEANTSA (the European Network for Homeless Organisations) 2013-16 and is a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness. He is chair of the European Housing First Hub. He has published a number of articles on unemployment, homelessness and social movements and is co-author of 'Ending Homelessness? The Contrasting Experience of Denmark, Finland and Ireland' (Policy Press 2020).*

*Lars Benjaminsen is a senior researcher at The Danish Center for Social Science Research (VIVE). Since 2006 he is also a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness. He is responsible for conducting the national homelessness counts in Denmark. He has also conducted several studies on social exclusion, homelessness and other forms of marginalization in Denmark as well as research on social interventions for homeless people and other vulnerable groups.*



*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 is 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.*

*Maša Filipovič Hrast is an associate professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. She is Head of sociology department and Head of Center for Welfare Studies at Faculty of Social Sciences and a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness. Her research topics include development of welfare state, social policy, housing policy, homelessness, and social inclusion.*



*Kjell Larsson – A representative for Sweden's national association of city missions in FEANTSA since 2009, and currently as the president of FEANTSA. Working as a Development director on strategic level at City mission Gothenburg and nationally for Swedish City missions, with focus on housing and homelessness. He has been working as an executive in the social field for almost 25 years, with engagement in a lot of different projects on local and national level. He is also in charge of the National Swedish Housing first HUB.*

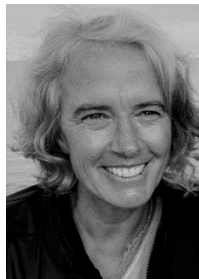
*Eoin O'Sullivan is a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin and Professor in Social Policy in the School of Social Work and Social Policy. He is a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness since 1992, and editor of the European Journal of Homelessness since 2009. Recent books include Ending Homelessness? Policy and Progress in Denmark, Finland, and Ireland (2020) and Reimagining Homelessness? (2020).*





*Nicholas Pleace is Director of the Centre for Housing Policy, an interdisciplinary research team within the School of Business and Society at the University of York. He has worked in homelessness research for over 25 years and been a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness for over a decade. Nicholas has a Chair in Social Policy at York and is currently the University Research Theme Champion for Justice and Equalities Research.*

*Freek Spinnewijn is director of FEANTSA. FEANTSA is the European umbrella of NGOs working with homeless people. FEANTSA has member organisation in 30 European countries. Freek studied Medieval History and European Law and Policy at the University of Leuven (BE). After some short work placements at the UN in Geneva and the EU in Brussels, he became director of EPSO, a European network of seniors' organisations. In 2001, Freek took up his current position of director of FEANTSA. Freek sits on the board of several European organisations such as the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and Social Services Europe.*



*Isabel Baptista is an independent researcher with over twenty years' research experience in poverty and social inclusion topics, homelessness issues, analysis of governance mechanisms, social protection policies and systems, and gender-based violence. Over the years, she has coordinated and participated in several research projects and authored and co-authored several publications in these fields. She has long been involved in EU level research networks. Currently, she is the Social Inclusion Leader of the European Social Policy Analysis Network (ESPAN). She was the national expert of the "European Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion" (2004-2013) and then coordinated the Portuguese team of the ESPN (2014-2018). She was also a member of the national team of FRANET, which is responsible for supporting the Agency for Fundamental Rights of the European Union (FRA), as regards the national situation in relation to fundamental rights. She was a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness (EOH/FEANTSA) until December 2021. In this role, she co-authored the EOH comparative studies on homelessness for the last ten years. Since then, she regularly cooperates with the EOH. She is also a member of the Women's Homelessness in Europe Network (WHEN). She currently participates in the GIMAE which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Portuguese National Homelessness Strategy and the preparation of the upcoming strategy. She has also been actively involved in collaboration platforms at the local level involving a very wide range of public and private organisations, in the area of social exclusion and gender-based violence. She is fluent in Portuguese (native) and English, with working knowledge of French and Spanish.*



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