18th European Research Conference

12th and 13th September, 2024

Venue: Central European University
Nádor 15, Budapest, Hungary

European Observatory on Homelessness

BMSZKI
Budapesti Módszertani
Szociális Központ és Intézményei

13th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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 primarly 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.

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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.

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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 course1. 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

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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.
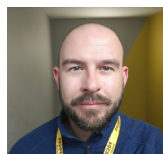
Heather is a PhD researcher at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Heather's professional experience and research interests span homelessness, social housing and health, gender, asbestos diseases, and digital inclusion for healthcare for marginalised people. She has a 30-year 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.

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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.

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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 cit-ies. Undocumented Roma migrants typically experience the most precarious forms of homeless-ness, 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 peo-ple hide to avoid punishment and expulsion, rendering them

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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 Desti-tution," 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 homeless-ness. 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 re-search 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.

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