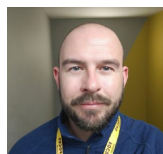


Seminar 12: Challenges of Designing Research Methods (Room: TBD) - Chair: Nóra Teller, HU

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 cit-ies. 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 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.



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.