

## 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.*