

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

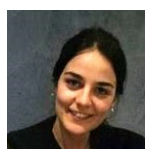
The last book in Homage to Henk Meert is titled « In my caravan, I feel like Superman ». Meert questioned representations of homelessness which are grounded in societal perceptions and normative (dis-)beliefs. Based on data from recent counts in the rural south of Belgium, we'll analyse more in detail 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 m²), 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 Padget 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 became 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.



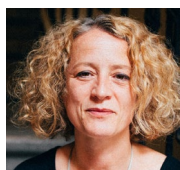
Dr. Shmulik Szeintuch is a social worker and faculty member in the School of Social Work, Sapir College, as well as the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His main areas of interest are homelessness, street work and social policy. Shmulik has published 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.

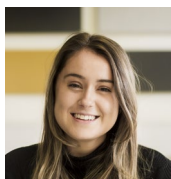
This presentation will provide an in-depth exploration of the practical issues which can arise when 'homelessness' and 'Disability' are positioned in contention with one another. It will begin by considering how Disability and homelessness are conceptualised at a theoretical level, and how this is informed 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

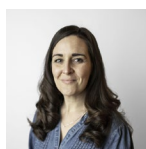
Public services often fall short of their primary objective: improving lives. Often this is because they are transactional and deficit-based, they address people's symptoms (homelessness) rather than root causes even though many challenges people face are complex and require more holistic solutions. 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.



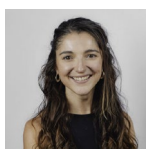
Sarah Cooke leads the Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership. An experienced regional and national Director with a demonstrated history of working in non-profit sectors across Homelessness, Housing and Justice. Skilled in innovation & project management, consortium & relationship development, government 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.

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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.