

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

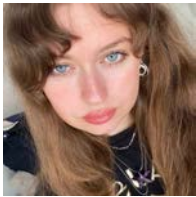
Thursday, 17h30 – 19h00 Friday, all

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.

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 8th, 2024.

DEADLINE for registration: September 1st, 2024.