Seminar 11: Data on Rough Sleepers (Room: 00.14)
Chair: **Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

Ashwin Parulkar, Daniel C. Farrell, USA: Causes of Homelessness among the Unsheltered Population in Las Vegas, Nevada (USA)

Ashwin Parulkar is the Senior Research Specialist at HELP USA. He manages a research team that examines the processes and outcomes of HELP's transitional housing and homelessness prevention programs in context of policies and best practices relating to services for people experiencing homelessness and housing instability. He holds an M.A. in international relations and M.F.A. in creative writing from Syracuse University and a B.S. in management from Case Western Reserve University. He is pursuing a PhD in development studies at the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.

Danny Farrell, LCSW 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.

In 2020, the federal point in time count identified 66% of the 5,283 persons experiencing homelessness in Las Vegas as unsheltered. This presentation will discuss findings on a HELP USA study on the causes of homelessness among this population. It is based on a survey that HELP USA designed, then administered with the local government, to clients of a major homeless service centre called the Courtyard.

HELP USA applied a latent class analysis (LCA) to 360 completed surveys to identify causal profiles, in relation to the following indicators: primary causes of homelessness, adverse childhood experiences, institutionalisation and substance use & health problems.

The final model yielded three distinct "classes" of entering homelessness. The largest group (n=239; 66%) entered homelessness due to unemployment. They had, comparatively, lower rates of adverse childhood experiences (e.g., abuse) and health and substance problems.

The second group (n=40; 11%) had the highest likelihood of entering homelessness due to family discord, and high rates of incarceration and multiple adverse childhood experiences (e.g., being in the foster system (49.8%) and experiencing abuse (81%)).

The third group (n=81; 23%) had the highest likelihood of both entering homelessness due to health problems and the loss of housing (e.g., eviction), as well as significantly higher rates of substance use and mental health problems.

The presenters will discuss these findings in context of the – predominantly structural - drivers of homelessness in Las Vegas that studies have identified. For example, a "heavy concentration" of the city's population is "precarious[ly] employed" in the service industry; the local unemployment rate (6.0%) far outpaces the national rate (3.5%); and the city has one of the largest affordable housing deficits in the country (75% of poor families pay more than 30% of their income on rent) (Seymour and Akers, 2021; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, n.d.).

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Ferran Busquets, ES: Living on the Streets in Barcelona. Analysis of a Homeless City

Ferran Busquets is director of Arrels Foundation. In 1998, he joined Arrels as a volunteer on the street team, being with people who live on the streets in Barcelona. He later joined as an employee and has managed the organisation since 2012. At the same time, he has volunteered in prisons and global south countries, offering technological support to organisations. He is part of the Board of Directors of the Catalan Social Action Entities and member of the Ethics Committee of the Social Services of Catalonia. He is a senior engineer in Computer Science and postgraduate in Social Mediation.

Almost 70% of people who live on the street in the city of Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain) do not have hope of moving into an accommodation anytime soon and four out of every ten do not have anyone to count on. The more time someone spends living on the street the worse their situation, and possibility of leaving it, becomes. Only 46% of people who live on the street say they have been attended to by social services or by a social entity in the last six months and 19% say that the last place in which they slept was an institutional resource. This is data from interviews with 345 of the approximately 1,200 people who sleep on the streets of Barcelona every night (collected in June 2022).

In this conference, we will approach the situation of people living on the streets in Barcelona and how it has evolved in recent years. Through the annual nocturnal survey organised by Arrels Foundation since 2016, we will be able to reflect on and analyse the evolution of people's socio-demographic profile in recent years, their homelessness trajectory and expectations, the social care response they are receiving or the people they can count on. From 2016 to 2022, Arrels Foundation has received 2,082 responses from people who sleep rough in Barcelona with a survey and counting methodology that has involved more than 3,400 community volunteers, including people who experience homelessness.