

Seminar 17: Homeless Women (Room: AULA)

Chair: Nóra Teller, HU

Boróka Fehér and Lea Lengyel, HU: Second Generation Homelessness - Stories of Homeless Women and their Families



Boróka Fehér has worked with homeless people in Hungary since 1999. She is a policy officer of the Policy Department of the Budapest Methodological Centre of Social Policy (BMSZKI), the homeless service provider of the City of Budapest. She is a member of the February 3rd research team, carrying out the only annual survey among homeless people in Hungary. Her field of special interest is finding data in order to support the situation and services available for homeless women, empowering and participative ways of working. She is a member of FEANTSA's Women's Cluster. She holds a PhD in Social Work and Social Policy.



Lea Lengyel studied Intercultural Psychology and Pedagogy first. She holds a PhD in Sociology, her thesis was entitled "Homeless women - Life stories and gender identity". She has been working with homeless people, focusing on women since 2014 in night shelters, as an outreach worker, and is now a key worker in a hostel. She is a lecturer at the University of ELTE as well as other programs in higher education.

We shall introduce our research about second and third generations of homeless women. According to an internal survey, every third homeless woman has at least one adult child who is homeless themselves. We will discuss the stories of 20 homeless women and their parents and/or children as well as siblings who have become homeless at least once during their lives. We want to explore the pathways into (and hopefully out of) homelessness, and what could (should) have taken place to prevent whole families falling through the social net. We focus on their housing path, but also their lives together: did they live together as a family or were children separated from their mother/parents as growing up? As the individual (maybe a couple) is at the centre of support, information about family members might not be taken into consideration throughout the process, while data suggests that for most families their ties are important, and the problems of their family members influence their daily and long-term strategies. We argue that in order to support multigenerational families more effectively, the whole family has to be in focus.

Data derives from the documentation of social work at one (or several) of BMSZKI's services (entry interviews, care plan, case documentation) that have been taken separately by each family member. (BMSZKI is a large service provider organisation in Budapest, with a variety of services for homeless people at 22 various locations.) The authors are working for BMSZKI, Ms Lengyel is a support worker as well as a researcher, Ms Fehér is a policy officer, both with robust research experience about women's homelessness.

Josepha Moriau, Noémie Emmanuel, Martin Wagener, BE: Trajectories of Homeless Women in Relation through a Gender Perspective on Social Work



Martin Wagener is Assistant Professor in sociology at CIRTES (Centre for interdisciplinary research on Work, State and Society) at the UCLouvain. **Noémie Emmanuel** and **Josepha Moriau** are PhD students at UCLouvain. They have worked together in multiple projects regarding Homelessness.

This paper combines a quantitative and qualitative approach to the trajectories of homeless women and social work practices. The counts in over 200 municipalities in urban and rural areas show a specific gendered pattern of homeless



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women situations in Belgium. Regarding interventions, the methods of support that integrate the gender issue are multiplying, as evidenced by the opening of long term shelters and day care centres in particular for women. We will therefore first look at the overall situation of homelessness in Belgium, and then look at the gender specificities of the trajectories of women experiencing homelessness. At least, on the basis of the gender specificities, the different modes of intervention, social work and support will be analysed in perspective.