

Seminar 3: Understanding and Addressing LGBTQI+ Homelessness (Room: TBD) - Chair: Freek Spinnewijn, BE

Ana Dresler and Mauro Striano, BE: Housing Exclusion among Sex Workers in Brussels. Quantitative and Qualitative Data Concerning Trans* people and Men Having Sexual Relations with Other Men in Exchange of Money or Services in Brussels

Housing is among the issues that most concern trans* people and men having sexual relations with other men in exchange of money or services. According to data collected by Alias in 2022 and 2023, a little more than 2/3 of this public are homeless or in a situation of housing exclusion. Around half of the beneficiaries whose housing situation is known live with third parties, mainly with friends or clients, in apartments rented for sex work, hotels or in Airbnbs.

The main objectives of the study are: to explore housing exclusion and the consequences on the living conditions of sex workers. By collecting qualitative information, we will try to better understand the problem and define more precisely the type of housing exclusion using the ETHOS typology; to verify data indicating non-recourse to services for homeless people and asylum seekers and, where appropriate, identify the reasons; to identify and analyse informal alternative strategies employed by sex workers to fill the lack of housing solutions; to identify obstacles to access to stable and adequate housing for the concerned public. In particular, beyond structural problems, we aim at identifying the obstacles linked to the profession, the sexual orientation and the gender identity; to better understand the journeys of beneficiaries temporarily accommodated with third parties through information collected on ways of finding a room/accommodation with third parties; to assess the living conditions of people who live with third parties and to identify the impact of hidden homelessness on the health and mental health.

The study will be based on the analysis of data collected in 2023 for 262 beneficiaries. On the basis of the data analysis, 20 interviews will be carried out with beneficiaries. The profiles of the beneficiaries to be interviewed will represent a sample of the public affected by homelessness. We will therefore be careful to respect the proportions in terms of gender identities, geographical origin, income, and administrative situation.



Ana Daniela Dresler is a researcher and course assistant in urban studies at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). As an urban planner, her research projects focus on socio-spatial inequalities and the perception of (in)security of vulnerable populations in contemporary cities. She also has a research interest in the perception of fear in the city and carried out research together with NGOs on its spatial manifestations, societal tensions, and security issues.



Mauro Striano is a social worker and the coordinator of Alias' social service department. In the past, he worked for almost 10 years as migration and participation policy officer at FEANTSA, as a researcher for Bruss'help and as an outreach worker for Infirmiers de Rue. He studied political science and European law on migration and asylum. His main subjects of interest are homelessness, migration and sex work.

Claudia Steckelberg, DE: LGBTQI+ and Homelessness in Germany - Queer Perspectives, Experiences and Needs

According to international studies, LGBTQI+ who are homeless or live in insecure housing are to be considered a particularly vulnerable group. Experiences of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression of gender characteristics (SOGIESC) are reasons for homelessness and insecure housing as well as they can lead to an exacerbation of problems during homelessness. The target group of queer homeless people is hardly visible in social work concepts and social work science as well as in the perception of professionals.

This lecture will present the results of the first nationwide study in Germany, which was conducted by a queer research team in 2023 under the title "LGBTQI+ and Homelessness". The experiences, perspectives and needs of queer people of different ages who are or were homeless were recorded in qualitative narrative interviews. The results clearly show how anti-queer discrimination increases the risk of becoming homeless. At the same time, homelessness increases the risk of becoming a victim of queer-hostile violence, particularly as a result of classist discrimination. An intersectional perspective is particularly revealing and interesting, as it highlights the interaction and entanglement of homelessness with racism, classism, anti-semitism and right-wing extremist violence.



Prof. Dr. Claudia Steckelberg holds the professorship for Social Work Science at the University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg and is a board member of the German Society for Social Work. Since the beginning of my professional career, homelessness has been a focus, both as a social worker in homeless, youth and addiction services and as a scientist in research and teaching. This includes a gender, queer and intersectional perspective.