# Presentation Abstracts

## Poster Presentations

**David Guertin**
Getting out the street: The dynamogenic effect of religious beliefs and practices

This study examines the role of different religious practices and beliefs mobilized by men experiencing chronic, cyclical and situational homelessness in Montreal in their pathway out of the street ; it also looks at the perception of this role among workers helping this population in order to know their point of view on these same practices, mobilized or not, in their reintegration and intervention programs. Our analysis shows that these practices and beliefs are perceived as a guide, as a value system that offers a guideline to daily actions and a greater motivation to project oneself into a better future. Through a Durkheimian analysis of religion and its power of action, called dynamogenic virtue, this study show that religious practices and beliefs have a positive impact on the process of getting off the street for men. In particular, the fact of integrating a system of religious practices and beliefs create a sense of belonging to a community, a feeling that is often absent from the homeless population.

**Mallory VanMeeter**
*A Closer Look at Couch Hopping: Patterns and Types of Shared Housing as part of Youth Housing Instability*

Informality in housing in the Global South is a well established subject of study. Recent scholarship has highlighted the need to examine similar practices in the Global North (Shrestha, Gurren & Maalsen, 2021). In the U.S. context, we know informal shared housing is common among unaccompanied youth (Morton et al., 2018). Most prior work has focused on risks to youth, like discomfort, conflict, and instability (Hail-Jares, Vichta-Ohlsen & Nash, 2020). We now know that youth sometimes stay with trusted adults who offer hospitality even when the arrangement involves housing or financial precarity (Curry et al., 2021; VanMeeter et al., 2022). However, we know relatively little about how youth characterize different kinds of shared housing arrangements, and when they tend to happen in the trajectory of homelessness. To address this gap, I conducted secondary qualitative analysis of the Voices of Youth Count interviews with 200 young adults in five counties across the U.S. Their stories highlight the diversity of shared housing experiences, the share of arrangements which youth describe as positive, and the large and small ways shared housing can shape youth housing trajectories.

**Bridget Osei Henewaah Annor, Abe Oudshoorn**
*The Lived Experiences, Health and Resilience of Homeless Adolescent Girls in Urban Ghana*

Research on homelessness is lacking in the African context, specifically in Ghana. Although there are several evidence showing that the challenge of homelessness exists in Ghana, only few studies have been conducted on this all important topic. In particular, the gendered experience of this phenomenon has not been given

attention. While studies conducted in other context have suggested that gender plays a unique role in the experiences of homelessness, not much attention has been given to this aspect of the homeless research in Ghana. In addition, research conducted on the homeless population in Ghana has mostly focused on the challenges. The resilience of the homeless population most especially adolescent girls in Ghana, their health promoting behaviours as well factors associated with risky sexual behaviours have not been explored. Using a mixed method approach, this study therefore seeks to explore the lived experiences of homeless adolescent girls in Ghana through a gender framework. The study will also seek to explore; factors that promote their resilience, their health needs and health promoting behaviours and factors associated with risky sexual health behaviours.

**Jon Hopkins, Jesse Laitinen**
*Understanding the homeless population in Cape Town and why current responses perpetuate the problem*

Homelessness is growing rapidly in Cape Town and understanding the homeless population is important to provide better responses to effectively address this crisis. The current response to homelessness is split between a compassionate response of indiscriminate handouts, and a punitive policing-based response that includes issuing fines and breaking down of temporary structures.

**Laura Salatino**
*Autonomy on the streets of Sao Paulo: narratives between State protectorship and client accountability*

This research seeks to understand how the expectations that street-level bureaucrats have about the behavior of users influence the implementation of shelter and housing policies for homeless population, especially regarding the possibilities of access and permanence in services. The dimensions present in the context of implementation are fundamental to explain the results of the services, mainly in relation to the work carried out by bureaucrats at street level, who make constant decisions about the possibilities of access at the facility, based on the policies' rules, but also guided by informal aspects, such as values and expectations. In this sense, an approach is sought that makes it possible to observe the narratives constructed by street-level bureaucrats around the term "autonomy" and how the different perceptions and meanings constructed by these professionals influence the access to the policies.

**Patricia Oluchi Onuoha**
*Youth Exuberance: Negative implication from Peer Influence and Homelessness*

This paper presents the enthusiasm attached on youths exploration to experience life outside parental guidance, which has become a thing of major concern in a fast paced world. Its endangering outcome results: from a post Covid-19 pandemic era where the countrys dwindling economy is greatly affected leading to unemployment and poverty. In a bid to salvage the situation, many youths through peer pressure indulge in activities that unconsciously affect them in their quest to make rich quick via any available options the moment presents them with, in search of greener pastures abroad. Most of them fall victims of homelessness in an unprepared headlong adventure. This study will (a) examine effects of peer influence resulting from youth exuberance as a major lead to homelessness. The research will be conducted using research questionnaires and shared experience of anonymous victims to derive an understanding on the subject matter.

The findings will encourage youths to learn skills to be gainfully employed and to improve their well-being. The paper will devise a platform to show commitment to incorporate initiatives that will enhance early childs learning ability to right dispositions.

## Nicolas Spallanzani-Sarrasin
*Legal representation of people experiencing homelessness by criminal defense lawyers*

This qualitative research explores the practice of criminal defense lawyers (n=80) when representing people experiencing homelessness, whether through traditional judicial process or diversion/therapeutic justice programs. I will discuss about how they adapt their practices and negotiate with other actors (crown, judges, stakeholders, etc.) to ensure support and promote access to various diversion programs. To do so, I document the way in which lawyers, whether permanent legal aid staff or in private practice, collect and use information related to the socio-economic situation of their client, identify a situation of homelessness (visible or hidden) and adapt their lawyer-client approach. I am also interested in negotiation strategies employed, particularly at bail and sentencing stage, and I seek to understand how lawyers negotiate access and collaborate with support and therapeutic justice programs. Furthermore, I explore the contexts and impacts of their interactions with non-legal stakeholders, such as social workers or justice or community stakeholders. Lastly, I analyze how the COVID-19 pandemic has shaped legal representation of people experiencing homelessness.

## Stephanie Wadge
*Understanding how gender shapes the mental health experiences of youth who are homeless*

Housing is a determinant of health, and experiences of homelessness negatively shape mental health status, trajectories, and healthcare access for youth. It is well established that gender shapes mental health experiences for people of all ages: yet research that explores the intersection of gender, homelessness, and youth mental health is limited. Gendered norms are the explicit and implicit social rules that prescribe how people of a perceived gender are expected to behave, see themselves, relate to others, and are evaluated by the world around them. The expectations and constraints of being a female, male, or transgender young person may add a layer of complexity to the experience of homelessness. I will present preliminary findings from interviews with youth aged 16-24 who have lived experiences of homelessness in the Niagara Region, Canada to animate how gender, homelessness, and age intersect to shape mental health. Using a Gender Based Analysis+ framework, I will challenge preconceived notions that all youth have similar experiences of homelessness. Strategies to guide equitable allocation of resources and supports that are attentive to gender will be explored.

## Amanda Barry, Emma Ockuly, Ugo Onyeukwu, Syed Saquib, Mylena Sena, Molly Brown
*Interactions Between Police and People Experiencing Homelessness*

Despite recent increases in legal protections for people experiencing homelessness (PEH), people who are unhoused experience high rates of contact with the police. These contacts often result in negative outcomes for PEH and rarely result in connection to social or medical services. Further, the presence of police officers contributes to instances of police brutality in the US, including the murders of several PEH, including Robert Delgado and Jacob Griffin. The murder of George Floyd in 2020 sparked outrage around the world as well as calls to 'Defund the Police.' Many of these calls involve limiting the responsibilities of police officers,

including responding to issues such as homelessness. In light of this, it is important to understand the rate and nature of interactions between police and PEH. The present systematic review evaluates the literature examining interactions between police officers and PEH. This presentation aims to summarize the extent to which PEH have contact with the police and determine the nature of these interactions. Findings will raise awareness and create a dialogue about interactions between PEH and police, as well as facilitate local policy change.

## Fran Calvo
*Suicidal ideation and suicide mortality: a seven-year longitudinal study in Girona (Catalonia, Spain)*

In 2015 we used a scale to analyse suicide risk in a sample of 154 homeless people. 45.2% (n = 66) of the sample scored above the cut-off point of the scale indicating risk of suicide. 27.7% had made a previous suicide attempt Females scored higher on Plutchik's suicide risk test. Being female was the second most important predictor of suicide risk in this sample (after daily alcohol consumption). What has happened 7 years later (ED records, hospital, primary care centres)? 57 individuals (37.0%) were hospitalised an average of 1.6 times for an assault. 32 individuals (20.8%) were treated for a suicide attempt. 23 (14.9%) died at a mean age of 52.6 years (SD = 11.2). 9 (5.8%) died by suicide and 4 (2.6%) by lethal overdose. The suicide risk scale was the best predictor of suicide mortality. There was a correlation between the number of suicide attempts and the number of episodes of violence experienced. People who experienced more episodes of violence scored higher on suicide scale and made more suicide attempts. People (individuals) who experienced violence had more non-fatal overdoses from CNS depressants, alcohol consumption and made more suicide attempts.

## Jessica Federman
*Using Informal Learning to Promote Resiliency and Reduce Stress for Recovering Homeless*

In this work, a process model is tested to explain how informal learning can serve as a coping mechanism toward reducing the negative behavioral tendencies of persistent stress and anxiety that occur when transitioning out of homelessness. This research suggests that informal learning in conjunction with emotion regulation can help neutralize negative emotions, and promote improved cognitive functioning, better social functioning, and higher task performance. From a practical perspective, managers and organizational leaders can better anticipate the negative effects of stress and anxiety and how to channel those emotions into positive, constructive, and functional self-improvements toward employee well-being.

## Olayinka Ariba
*Mothering Through the Experiences of Homelessness with a Particular Focus on Child Separation: A Scoping Review*

Mothers who are homeless are ostracized in society. Due to their homelessness and related issues, many mothers experiencing homelessness are separated from their children. While some literature reveals child separation among homeless mothers in high-income nations (HICs), little is known about low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). We asked the question: What is the breadth of knowledge on child separation while mothering through the experience of homelessness? We followed the Joanna Briggs Institute

framework for systematic scoping reviews and PRISMA-ScR checklist. The final synthesis included 61 articles after removing duplicates. We identified six important themes: the impact of housing loss and economic hardship; maternal risk factors predicting child separation; public surveillance and stigmatization; the physical environment and system-level barriers and adaptive strategies. This review highlights the intersectionality of child separation, as most women in American literature are women of color. While mother-child separation within the context of homelessness is common in HICs, there appear to be no studies exploring this issue in LMICs. More research is needed in LMICs.

**Janine Noorloos**
Mobilizing Technology to Improve Health Outcomes Within Shelter Settings for Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness

**Nao Kasai, Sayuri Murakami, Yudai Masumitsu, Masato Dohi**
*Pandemic and the Olympics in Tokyo 2021: Testimony from Grassroots Homeless Support Groups*

In the summer of 2021, the Tokyo Olympic Games were held without spectators under a state of emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic. For a city, the hosting of an event like the Olympics can have a negative impact on the lives of people living on its streets, but the same opportunity can serve to push forward inclusive and effective policies for such people if the city chooses so. The situation for the Tokyo Olympics was even more complicated due to the then delta variant outbreak, and there was deep concern about the possible impact on activities of support groups and people experiencing homelessness before and during the Games. Against this backdrop, we conducted a questionnaire survey in August 2021 with eight homeless support groups in Tokyo. The survey had two aims: 1) to give a chronological overview of support group activities and illustrate their situations behind the mega sport event; and 2) to gather testimony on what happened to people living on the street during the Games. In this summary, we present findings for each of the aims and give a brief discussion on the social responsibility of the Olympic Games in relation to its impact on the people living in the host city.

**Kayla Hamel, Yvonne Bohr**
*Innovative Programs to Address Youth Homelessness in Low- and Middle-Income Countries*

This presentation provides an overview of several different programs that hold the potential to improve the quality of life for youth experiencing homelessness, particularly in Low- and Middle-Income Country (LMIC) settings. We describe such programs and how they may be adapted for implementation in such settings. These recommendations were based off of the findings of research focused on resilience, which was conducted with a group of young people in street situations, living in Leon, Nicaragua. We briefly describe this research and use the findings as a theoretical evidence base the utility of the above mentioned programs.

## Podium Presentations

**Jessica Dobrovic, Nadia di Girolamo**

*How to improve service level and administrative data to demonstrate the prevalence and needs of sub-cohorts of people experiencing homelessness. Applications for service creation and delivery utilizing disability data as a case study.*

It is widely acknowledged that people experiencing homelessness can present to specialist homelessness services experiencing multiple co-morbidities.  However, services do not always collect specific data to demonstrate the prevalence of specific co-morbidities, and experience a push pull of administrative burden and increasing pressure to demonstrate impact through data. Using disability as a case study, the presentation will discuss how the identification and collection of targeted data was used to demonstrate the needs of people with disability experiencing homelessness and influence service design. People with disability are over-represented in the homelessness sector as they often experience greater housing and financial stress than people without a disability. However, unless someone presents with a significant physical disability, the identification of disability and an understanding of its associated impacts are much less clear. Drawing on presenter experience and research, the importance of data to demonstrate collective needs and influence service delivery will be discussed with relevance to service design and prevention in homelessness services.

## Ian Thomas
*Using routine data linkage in homelessness research: Its challenges and how we can respond to them*

By combining information routinely collected by different organisations, or â€˜data linkageâ€™, we can build an interdisciplinary knowledge base relating to homelessness, thereby enabling greater research and evaluation. However, use of routine data and data linkage is not without its challenges, not least of which is acquiring the data in the first instanceâ€”a process often complicated by legal issues in (re)use of data. Rather than rehashing the benefits of routine data linkage, this presentation explores some of its challenges, specifically when researching homeless populations. It draws on two studies undertaken by Administrative Data Research Wales: (1) the linkage of education data and housing services data to explore the possible effects of homelessness on school absenteeism, (2) linkage between health data and coronavirus vaccinations data in to explore vaccine inequality among people experiencing homelessness. The challenges faced in undertaking these studies are outlined, along with how they were responded to, often requiring pragmatism and innovative methodological techniques.

## Harry Tan, Francesca Lee, Jenin Teo, Rachel Ng
*Tackling homelessness in Singapore: effects of housing the homeless in a pandemic*

Singapore's approach to the outbreak of COVID-19 spotlighted an urgency to house the homeless on the streets. Lockdown restrictions without exceptions were enforced on public spaces, leaving little to nowhere rough sleepers could go. Efforts to provide shelter for homeless people became an immediate priority for the government and was achieved through collaboration with volunteer welfare organisations and social service agencies. This paper reviews a whole-of-society approach towards tackling homelessness through transitional shelter provision and the use of public housing infrastructure as shelters in Singapore. Drawing from an ongoing three-year study on homelessness in Singapore, we present findings from qualitative interviews conducted among 50 homeless people who had received shelter support from March 2020 to March 2021. First, we will discuss how shelter support provided was responsive to the needs of the homeless during the

pandemic. Second, we analyse the form of shelters provided to the homeless and how it differed from conventional shelters in literature. Third, we highlight the impact of temporary shelter provision on long-term housing plans.

**Leigh Bursey**
*A Snapshot of Homelessness in Brockville Reviewing Obstacles, Challenges, and Social Supports - How COVID Funding Positively Impacted Small Town Services, and Highlighted Barriers to Becoming Housed*

"The paper focuses on in-person client interviews with willing participants who sought shelter services at the Brockville Warming Centre/Brockville Cooperative Care Centre. Clients were asked a variety of questions about their experiences with homelessness, the barriers that they face to attaining housing in their community, and how the warming centre could better serve them to maximize their experiences. The interviews were voluntary, and uniform in nature. That said, all participants were encouraged to share their stories in their own words and to also put into words what they might say to local decision makers and funding partners., including direct quotes.  The information is presented in graph form, as well as in full interview summaries, and includes case studies of five clients from five decades of life who are or were facing homelessness in the 22,000 person Ontario, Canada community. The report also highlights how previous justice involvement created unforeseen problems for social integration of clients. This presentation is believed to be of interest to a global audience, as it is this author's belief that these issues are not exclusive to just this municipality."

**Oluwaseyi Somefun, Lauren Mar, Ahmad Bonakdar**
*Preventing Youth Homelessness through Family and Natural Supports*

Several interventions have been put in place to reduce youth homelessness in Canada and the role of the family as a protective factor for youth homelessness is gaining traction. This is because family and natural supports have been beneficial for young people who are at risk of homelessness or who may want to return home after being exposed to homelessness. The aim of our research was to understand the experiences of youth and families who participated in the family and natural support (FNS) intervention. We worked with a total of eight social service agencies, located in eight cities across Canada. These are Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary (Calgary), Homeward Trust (Edmonton), Woods Homes (Lethbridge), McMan Youth and Family Community Services Association (Red Deer), Medicine Hat Community Housing Society (Medicine Hat), Grand Prairie Youth Emergency Shelter Society (Grand Prairie), Woods Homes (Fort McMurray), and Covenant House (Toronto). Mixed method data was collected from youth and families through these agencies to explore their living conditions before and after the FNS intervention. Preliminary results showed that majority of the youth found the FNS intervention helpful.

**Alexia Murphy, Olga Shevchenko**
*Crisis as a catalyst for change: transferrable lessons from adapting to war and pandemic in global homelessness services*

When the war broke out Depaul Ukraine rapidly refocused its work. In response to a changed landscape, services were reshaped to provide shelter and vital assistance. New approaches were adopted and models of service delivery localised, including the use of empty hotels, accompanied by Depaul International, Slovakia

and UK. In 2020, responding to another crisis, Depaul UK contributed to the 'Everyone In' initiative and set up an emergency hotel for 100 rough-sleepers in 24 hours, bending organisational structures and transforming ways of working. Rapid changes and improvements were made in face of these urgent crises. What orthodoxies were challenged by these contexts, in service delivery, risk thresholds and practice? There were also systems changes: both society and government removed some of the barriers to addressing homelessness, such as the reduction in stigma in Ukraine, and some of the labyrinthine aspects of the UK system. Could there be an opportunity to better challenge barriers and take this mindset into non-crisis times? Finally, we'll reflect on crisis models and work adaptations which have or could be maintained, leading to long-term improvements for the sector.

**Amanda Noble, Benjamin Owens**
*A Dark Intersection: Exposing the Structural Inequities that lead to Youth Homelessness and Sex Trafficking*

Understanding how youth homelessness and sex trafficking intersect is vital as youth who are homeless are vulnerable to being lured into trafficking, and survivors may be unable to escape without appropriate housing. In this presentation, we share findings from mixed-methods, participatory action research. We begin by describing the projectâ€™s methodological approach, including its anti-colonial lens and the utilization of voices of survivors of sex trafficking. We also detail our collaboration with Niswi Kwe consulting, who ran an Indigenous-led parallel project. We share findings from interviews with survivors and service providers, including the structural inequities that lead to youth homelessness and sex trafficking, recommendations to make shelters safer for youth, and the housing and service needs of survivors who are escaping traffickers. We then share survey results from service providers across Canada in the youth homelessness sector, detailing their levels of awareness on this issue. We conclude by outlining the next steps, which is the development of a conceptual framework of socioeconomic inclusion for youth with intersecting histories of homelessness and trafficking.

**Angie Jaman, Claire Edmanson**
*Have your PIE and eat it too! A psychologically-informed environment (PIE) for youth homelessness intervention and prevention.*

Preventing youth homelessness has many health, psychosocial and economic benefits, both at the individual and societal level. As such, there is an increasing focus on preventing and/or reducing the detrimental effects of homelessness for youth so they donâ€™t become chronically unhoused and in ill-health. Globally, a range of service types have developed for youth experiencing homelessness (YEH), with refuge a common approach. Few studies have evaluated this setting creating a lack of evidence-based practice knowledge, resulting in widely varying service approaches. This paper draws on preliminary data from a PhD project investigating a trauma-informed, needs-focused model in use in Victoria - a psychologically-informed environment (PIE) - and will outline its conceptual design, adaptability, practical uses and efficacy using data from a pre-post trial. In a systematic review we found no evaluations of a comparable model internationally. Preliminary results from qualitative interviews with over 30 staff and YEH show high levels of acceptability, feasibility and positive impact on staff wellbeing and culture. YEH also positively rated support. Practice implications will be discussed.

**Nia Ffion Rees**
*"It started at home": Prevention of Youth Homelessness, An Exploration of Mediation in Networks of Care and Place Attachment*

This paper critically examines a highly dominant, yet under-researched approach to the prevention of youth homelessness â€" family mediation, a political priority in Wales and the global north. Dominant service responses have received little academic scrutiny within international literatures. It will begin to address this fundamental gap by critically examining mediation as an approach to youth homelessness prevention. Mediation services seek to support young people and their families to bridge differences that risk unplanned exits from the home. This paper draws upon findings from participatory research undertaken in the case study country of Wales. It focuses upon in-depth biographical interviews and network activities, undertaken with young people at risk of homelessness, who have experienced family mediation, wholly innovative approach. It explores the impact of their social networks before and after mediation and the role it plays in repairing broken relationships. In addition to semi-structured mediation worker interviews. By critiquing the dominant intervention mechanism of mediation, this research has direct implications for service provisions in Wales and internationally.

**Alina McKay, Victoria Barclay, Kaayla Ashley, Ghazaleh Akebarnejad**
*Identifying Policy Barriers to Housing in the Gender-Based Violence Sector*

In this presentation, we will review Canada's adoption of the National Housing Strategy, and the role of core-housing needs in measuring Canada's fulfilment of the right to housing. We then turn to explore a particular piece of core-housing needs - housing suitability - as measured by National Occupancy Standards. Drawing on seventeen interviews with women who have experienced gender-based violence and five interviews with housing organizations, providers, and academic experts we review National Occupancy Standards and the role they play as a barrier to housing. We propose that if Canada is to take a rights-based approach to housing seriously, a more nuanced approach to measuring housing suitability is needed as part of the measure of core-housing needs. We conclude by introducing a key objective and six criteria that should be accounted for when constructing new occupancy standards, and the implications of these criteria for measures of housing suitability. These findings have international implications, especially when considering Canada's history of colonialism and the adoption of National Occupancy Standards by New Zealand and Australia.

**Juliet Watson, Jacqui Theobald, Freda Haylett, Dr Suellen Murray**
*The challenge of pregnancy and homelessness: Australian perspectives*

All pregnant women face contextualised choices and limitations around having a child, birthing preferences, and preparing for parenthood; however, for those who are homeless, these are circumscribed by precarity, poverty, and an under-resourced service sector. The ramifications for women and their babies are severe, with homelessness being associated with multiple health risks such as pre-term labour, low birth weight, and poorer perinatal outcomes. Without housing, it can also be difficult for women to keep their babies in their care once they are born. This paper presents findings from two projects undertaken in Victoria, Australia, on the challenges facing pregnant women experiencing homelessness. It also explores the difficulties encountered by service providers working with limited resources and within a system that often does not

account for gender. Empirical research involving interviews with 14 women who had experienced homelessness while pregnant, and interviews and focus groups with 27 service providers from the health and housing sectors highlighted the multiple systemic and social barriers faced by pregnant women as they navigate the health and housing service sectors.

**Meabh Savage**
*Reconceptualising how we understand and respond to homeless mothers- hearing from unaccompanied homeless mothers about why care and class relations matter to them*

This paper is based on a qualitative study conducted in the Republic of Ireland. The study consisted of two phases-Phase one involved twelve in-depth interviews with seven homeless unaccompanied mothers, based around several themes relating to their care and classed experiences across their lives. Phase two involved semi-structured interviews with twelve homelessness workers. The study primarily examined the way three intersecting circles (primary, secondary and tertiary) of nurturing (or lack of nurturing) within the affective sphere interact within the economic, political and cultural relations (Lynch 2007) in women's lives to produce affective injustices . The findings enhance our understanding of how affective injustices are framed, and continue to frame, the lives and experiences of homeless unaccompanied mothers.  They show how those who are mothers need care for themselves as persons and to be carers of their children (Kittay 1999).  This support has been absent from the lives of unaccompanied mothers. Mothers views on why affective and class relations matters are also revealed, so that mothers can inform professionals why relations of care and solidarity matter to them.

**Nick Falvo, Kristy Buccieri, Naomi Nichols, Cyndi Gilmer**
*Creating open access curriculum: Examples from three projects*

The first presentation will be led by Dr. Naomi Nichols, who co-edited a 2016 open access anthology published by the Homeless Hub. The book is titled ""Exploring Effective Systems Responses to Homelessness"" and is co-edited with Dr. Carey Doberstein. It includes three dozen case studies written by practitioners on the ground and researchers in the field to demonstrate that systemic change is possible at various levels of activity within the realm of homelessness and associated sectors.
The second presentation will be from Dr. Kristy Buccieri and Dr. Cyndi Gilmer. It provides an overview of their recently-launched interactive virtual textbook about homelessness in Canada. It is freely available online and can be used by instructors as an e-text for existing courses or as a fully developed online course in itself.
Dr. Nick Falvo will lead the third presentation about his open access e-textbook on homelessness in high-income countries. Dr. Falvo has been uploading each chapter to his website as it becomes available."

**Karinna Soto, Esme Davis, Gabriel Cunha, Jennifer Fabbrini**
*Housing First Service Delivery in IGH Vanguard Cities in Chile, England, Uruguay and the United States*

Housing First programs have been found to be highly effective at achieving housing stability for chronically homeless individuals with complex needs. IGH Vanguard Cities will provide details about how they have created and implemented their Housing First Programs. Services in Chile's Housing First program are administered through an assertive community treatment model. Once a person enters the program, a team of

professionals works to acclimate them to their new housing and community and connect them to support services. Service professionals include clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, and social workers. Upon entering the program, a social intervention plan is designed in collaboration with participants. Glasgow's Housing First program delivers services in the service-users' homes, temporary accommodation, or drop-in centers depending on the needs of the client. Case load sizes range between 7 and 10 people per case worker. Edmonton's Housing First program is part of a robust system of housing with a coordinated access program to road map matching people to the right housing solution and a focus on providing indigenous-led housing first programs.

**Sándor Békási, Zsuzsa Gyorffy**
*Digital Health in the Care of People Experiencing Homelessness*

Due to the COVID pandemic, digital health expanded worldwide. While digital technologies might contribute to health inequalities, they might also offer a new kind of access to healthcare. The joint research group of Semmelweis University and the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta started to explore the opportunities of telemedicine with an attitude survey in 2020. Based on the openness of homeless clients towards online medical consultations, a telehealth pilot was completed in 2021. 75 individuals were recruited from 4 community shelters and invited to a course of 6 online visits biweekly. Parameters regarding feasibility, sustainability, and medical relevance were measured both on the originating and remote sites. These research activities led to the implementation of a hybrid primary care model combining in-person health services with telemedicine and mobile medical outreach teams. To support evidence-based decision-making, a health research initiative called DocRoom was also founded in 2022 by the Charity Service. Our experiences suggest that a holistic service portfolio might have a significant effect on client satisfaction and regular access to high-quality care.

**Olga Shevchenko, Matthew Carter**
*Applying best practice and innovative solutions in an emergency - a case study from the war in Ukraine*

Within 4 weeks of the war in Ukraine, an estimated 6.5 million people were displaced. With an entire population effectively at risk of homelessness and diminishing supplies, Depaul Ukraine radically transformed its approach, with support from its global partners. Initial work with Depaul Slovakia and Depaul International set up supply chains to get aid into the country, but after six months with no end in sight, we reshaped our programme to refocus on our objective: providing shelter and assistance to those most in need. New approaches were adopted and models of service delivery localized, drawing on Depaul Ukraine's existing engagement with communities to access vulnerable groups. In this changed context, traditional homelessness strategies were tailored to meet new client groups and needs, drawing on expertise from across the Depaul Group. Three areas will be discussed in depth: empty hostels were used to provide displaced families with emergency accommodation; day-centres were re-established for new client groups, and safeguarding processes embedded through structured accompaniment by Depaul UK Safeguarding Leads, bringing together both humanitarian and homelessness sector approaches."

**Yoshihiro Okamoto**
*A study on homelessness and housing policy in Japan from the viewpoint of the right to housing*

This study examines the homeless issues and housing policy in Japan from the viewpoint of "the right to housing".  It has become clear that the housing policy has the following characteristics when considered from the viewpoint of "the right to housing."

Firstly, as it is based on the employment independence, loss of employment leads the rough sleeping or living in poor and unstable conditions. Employment depends on the economy, the management policy of the company, the age and the health condition. In addition, the living stability is influenced by the size of the household, and the smaller scale of households is more likely to live in instability.

Secondly, Japan's housing policy is divided into two systems: the field of the employment and public welfare, and the field of living in the house.

Thirdly, as the housing policy is divided into two systems, it is not possible to accurately grasp the situation from rough sleeping to living in poor housing conditions.

Fourthly, people who have been excluded from the housing market live in informal poor housing conditions. Consequently, the Japan housing system cannot maintain housing unless stable  employment and stable income.

**Alex Nelson, Misha Khan**

*From Consultation to Meaningful Engagement: Centering Lived Experience in the Right to Housing*

Meaningful engagement of impacted communities is a fundamental principle of the human right to housing: we ask, what makes engagement meaningful? And how is rights-based participation different from the often tokenistic experiences so many advocates have had at decision-making tables? This presentation draws on the work of the National Right to Housing Network (NRHN): the NRHN is a group of key leaders, organizations, and lived experts who have a shared mission to fully realize the right to housing for all, and ultimately eliminate homelessness in Canada. Human rights mechanisms feel abstract, but the National Housing Strategy Act, passed into law in Canada in 2019, has actionable legal teeth: it is important that advocates use the NHSA mechanisms as real, legal tools, doing so in a way doesn't deepen the harm of interacting with often violent and exploitative systems. Told from the perspective of two human rights advocates with lived experience of homelessness, we share learnings and challenges from the NRHN on fostering spaces where lived experts can engage with human rights processes in a way that results in concrete action, and enables them to claim their right to housing.

**Katrina Milaney, Amanda Noble, Benjamin Owens**

*Shelter Diversion in Six Canadian Communities: A Paradigm Shift for Youth Homelessness Prevention*

Diversion is an innovative method for people at imminent risk of homelessness. We will describe our longitudinal study on the effectiveness of shelter diversion for young people across five, large and smaller municipalities in Canada. We will provide an overview of the rationale for shelter diversion, anticipated outcomes, and the key performance indicators being used to measure effectiveness. The methodology will be outlined, including how the voices of youth and family members are being incorporated in decision-making. A description of the five community models that are part of the research will be provided, including the differences in their local adaptations of shelter diversion. We will share preliminary findings from the study, including an implementation evaluation which highlights lessons learned in initiating a shelter diversion program, the ripple effects that occurred across the organizations, challenges, and early successes.  This

presentation is useful for service providers who are considering implementing a shelter diversion program, policymakers considering shifting their response to youth homelessness to prevention or anyone interested in learning about diversion.

**Mallory VanMeeter, Jacqueline White, Susanna Curry, Brenda Tully**
*Easing the burden: How couch hopping youth and informal adult hosts navigate relational challenges*

"This study investigates relational dynamics that arise when a known adult hosts a young person facing homelessness ('chosen family hosting'). Through interviews with nine youth experiencing housing instability and ten adult hosts, we identified five themes: (1) youth often worried about burdening hosts and (2) youth felt vulnerable about the security of the hosting arrangement. Youth and hosts also shared how (3) youth's pursuit of the Western ideal of independence precluded imagining a longer-term stay with their host. Given shared living, youth and hosts (4) experienced tensions around household expectations and boundaries. Importantly, they also shared (5) how they tried to resolve challenges by developing household agreements, using varied communication strategies, enlisting support from other people, and modeling positive behaviors. Though this work investigates the sometimes-challenging relational dynamics that arise in these arrangements, both youth and informal hosts still identified hosts as an important anticipated source of ongoing support. Our research suggests the importance of investing in relationship support for these often-overlooked informal housing options.

**Stephan De Beer, Jeremy Harris, Silvia Schor, Undral Bold**
*Cities on the Vanguard Working to Prevent and End Homelessness: Collaborative and Systems Level Approaches on Data, Housing, and Equity/Inclusion*

IGH's Vanguard Cities set specific, local goals on homelessness and progress towards those goals while learning from each other about what worked, what didn't, and what can be done going forward. In this session, IGH Vanguard Cities representatives from South Africa, Australia, Brazil, and Mongolia will present on their city's work to end homelessness with a focus on data, systems and collaboration, and equity. The presenters will identify critical elements for change as well as challenges. An independent evaluation of the Vanguard Cities found that key enablers of progress included a lead coordinating agency, and coordinated entry to services, alongside investment in specialized and evidence-based interventions, such as assertive street outreach services, individual case management and Housing First. Key barriers to progress included heavy reliance on undignified and sometimes unsafe communal shelters, a preoccupation with meeting immediate physiological needs, and sometimes perceived spiritual needs, rather than structural and system change, and a lack of emphasis on prevention. Aggressive enforcement interventions by police and city authorities, and documentary and identification barriers, were also counter-productive to reduction efforts.

**Verônica Brito Sepúlveda Martines, Jose Vicente de Oliveira Kaspreski, Aline Sayuri Cawamura**
*The impact of the lack of data on the homeless population: an analysis in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic in Sao Paulo*

In Brazil, the homeless population is legally identified as a heterogeneous group, marked by extreme poverty, fragile family ties and lack of conventional housing. Such vulnerabilities hinder access to public services and

create invisibility before the State, which historically ignores its specificities in public policy design. Ultimately, this is due to hinder the lack of official data collection mechanisms for this group.

This scenario was evident during the Covid-19 pandemic, when there was no reliable production of specific data on the mortality of the homeless people in Brazil. Thus, health public policies' creation for this group was negatively affected. This article proposal aims to analyze the impact of the lack of data production as a way to understand the reality of homeless people and their consequent invisibility in the public policies. Therefore we observed the underreporting of Covid-19 deaths of the homeless population in Sao Paulo, Brazil, which creates an absence of evidence that reinforces the government's narrative of effectiveness and sufficiency of policies for this group, and moreover makes them invisible in their deaths and lives.

**Rian Watt**

*Best Practices for Collecting Quality Data on Homelessness in International Contexts: Lessons from the USA, UK, Canada, and Australia*

Community Solutions leads the Built for Zero movement, which has helped 14 communities around the United States reach 'functional zero' (FZ) homelessness for a population since launching in 2015. Built for Zero has also helped launch partner initiatives in Canada (Built for Zero Canada, with 2 communities at FZ), Australia (Advance to Zero), and the United Kingdom (Built for Zero UK). Central to the Built for Zero approach is helping communities collect high-quality, comprehensive, real-time data about the number of people experiencing homelessness in their communities. CS has helped more than 80 communities around the world reach this standard. This presentation, delivered by Rian Watt and Taylor Grills, will draw on the presenters experience working professionally in homelessness in all four countries and share lessons learned about the value of quality data and the complexities inherent in collecting it across international contexts.

**Jean Hughes, Jeff Karabanow**

COVID-19 and Homelessness: Promoting Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery in Two Communities in Nova Scotia

Building on emergent literature on homelessness and the COVID-19 pandemic, this qualitative study presents a portrait of the homeless sector in two Nova Scotian, Canada communities: Halifax Regional Municipality and Cape Breton Regional Municipality. This research provides an understanding of the health and wellness of the populations experiencing homelessness during the first waves of COVID-19; the processes involved in supporting homeless populations during the pandemic; and determining what has worked, what has not, and changes needed. The data will hopefully inform current and future emergency crises and disaster relief responses for those experiencing homelessness and those who are marginalized, vulnerable, and living on the fringes of society. Through an oral presentation and animated short, I will present the core themes, lessons learned, along with recommendations that capture the narratives from a group of individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the pandemic and those tasked with developing, supporting, innovating, and funding the disaster responses in two Nova Scotian communities.

**Peter Mackie**

*Preventing homelessness: What works and why we don't do it*

This presentation will introduce a homelessness prevention typology that challenges policy makers, practitioners and academics to move upstream in our thinking around the prevention of homelessness. Distinguishing between Universal, Upstream, Crisis, Emergency, and Repeat prevention, the typology provides a heuristic tool through which we will explore the nascent evidence on what works to prevent homelessness. The presentation then offers a perspective on a second, yet equally important question; if we know what works, why don't we do it? This presentation draws on a primarily qualitative study of homelessness prevention in the UK which informed the development of the typology, and a synthesis of key international evidence on what works to prevent homelessness.

**Bharat Raj Rawat**
*Homelessness in Nepal*

Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia with a population of 26.4 million. Of these, an estimated 2.5 million are homeless. The majority of the homeless population in Nepal live in Kathmandu, the capital city. In Kathmandu, it is estimated that there are 1,500 homeless people. The homeless population in Nepal has increased in recent years due to a variety of factors. These include the 2015 earthquake, which displaced many people; political instability; and poverty. In addition, there has been a recent influx of refugees from neighboring countries, such as Tibet and Bhutan. The Nepali government has responded to the issue of homelessness by establishing a number of shelters and support centers. However, these are often overcrowded and do not meet the needs of the homeless population. In addition, the government has been criticized for not doing enough to address the root causes of homelessness, such as poverty and political instability. The issue of homelessness in Nepal is a complex one. There are a variety of factors that contribute to the problem, and it is an issue that the government has yet to fully address.

**Eric Goldfischer, Rob Robinson**
*Rights, Systems, and Housing: An Internationalist Critique of New York City's Right to Shelter*

New York City's Right to Shelter requirement, often cited as unique within the United States, mandates the city to provide shelter to all who find themselves without a home. Yet while created to ensure a basic level of care, Right to Shelter has instead created a sprawling shelter system that often fails to meet basic needs and prevents quicker access to housing. As such, it differs enormously from the Right to Housing, and may even slow the process of obtaining housing. In this presentation, we zoom away from the United States to consider Right to Shelter in the context of the broader international human rights framing: Right to Housing. In contexts such as Finland and Scotland, a legally enshrined Right to Housing produces similar but distinct systems to place people into housing. How does the system produced by New York City to fulfill a Right to Shelter compare with those set up internationally to attempt to provide a Right to Housing? And what might we learn about how cities unevenly distribute benefits, goods, and services by examining the impact of each approach?

**Ragini Malhotra**
*The Intensification of Homelessness Surveillance Post COVID*

In a previous paper, I show how regulatory power operates through spatial territorialism and stigmatized surveillance in a state sanctioned homeless shelter in New Delhi primarily. This stigmatization is inseparable from the community's historically enforced precarity and state-induced dispossession. The empirical case of the Aakash Sadan shelter thus demonstrates how the convergence of these spatial features in a state-sanctioned community can leave residents with reduced access to basic and urgently needed services, heightening experiences of poverty and precarity. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the surveillance of marginalized residents of India's capital, Delhi, experienced news forms of heightened surveillance which ultimately further entrenched precarity and poverty. I propose an analysis of the complex ways in which this happened by comparing the everyday experiences of criminalization and stigmatization residents of Aakash Sadan had prior to and following the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Hannah Brais, Dr. Ayobami Laniyonu**
*Improving Police-Homeless Relations: Evidence from Montreal, Canada*

In February-March 2021 researchers from the Old Brewery Mission, a large homeless service provider in Montreal, Canada, and the University of Toronto conducted 24 open-ended interviews with Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) officers to better understand their interventions with homeless individuals, perceived changes around interventions in the SPVM, training for this work, and their relationship with homeless service providers. Themes that emerged included tensions between following protocol and helping homeless individuals; the need for increased training; reflections on interventions with Indigenous individuals; changes in neighbourhoods and changing homeless populations; a dire need for low-barrier and harm reduction services; as well as a desire for a coordinated access system that works with and for the police. Officers consistently pointed to structural and systemic determinants of homelessness as beyond their capacity to change. Implications for this research indicate a willingness on the part of some officers to reconsider their role in working with homeless individuals and a sustained interest to improve relations with homeless serving organizations.

**Brooke Phillips, Dr. Carrie Anne Marshall, et al**
*Forced into a Bottleneck and Trying to Cope - Lived Experience Perspectives of Homelessness and Methamphetamine Use*

Methamphetamine among persons who experience homelessness has increased threefold in recent years, but limited research is available about the ways in which use of methamphetamine may influence experiences of homelessness and accessing services.  This study aimed to seek knowledge from persons with lived experiences of homelessness to uncover these experiences.
We conducted quantitative interviews with 189 persons with lived experiences of homelessness who use methamphetamine in two cities in Ontario, Canada. Twenty-eight participants were invited to participate in semi-structured qualitative interviews as part of this mixed methods study. Informed by Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, we conducted a thematic analysis of transcribed interviews, and we will discuss the findings of the quantitative interviews in this presentation. Our findings identified that persons who use methamphetamine and experience homelessness are deeply marginalized, misunderstood, and thwarted in their attempts to make change in their lives by a system that is ill-fitting for their needs and lacking the appropriate resources and supports for their unique situation.

**Corinna Easton, Carrie Anne Marshall, Abe Oudshoorn, Tracy Smith-Carrier, Cheryl Forchuk**
*The experience of food insecurity during and following homelessness in high-income countries: Findings from a systematic review and meta-aggregation*

Due to inequitable distribution of resources, homelessness and food insecurity continue to rise in high income countries. This topic is an important contribution given the health consequences of homelessness and the importance of nutrition. Through a health equity lens, we have conducted a meta-aggregation of qualitative findings collected across five databases using the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology, following Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses guidelines. Twenty-four studies with 462 participants were included. Through meta-aggregation four themes were created: 1) imposed food options as a determinant of health out of my control; 2) obtaining food for survival despite stigma or other consequences; 3) situated within a system that maintains food insecurity; and 4) surviving hardships. Persons during and following homelessness in high income countries face multiple challenges when securing food while situated in an oppressive system. Despite this, persons who have experienced homelessness demonstrate resilience by finding ways to meet their basic needs in the face of imposed barriers. Implications for research, policy and practice are offered.

**Katherine Maurer, Anick Desrosiers**
*How does it feel to be 'sheltered'? Women experiencing homelessness' reflections on shelter services through a trauma-sensitive lens*

Many women experiencing homelessness have lived an accumulation of traumatic stress exposure, often since childhood. Homelessness itself can generate trauma. People having experienced acute or cumulative traumatic stressors have specific needs related to physical and relational safety that influence their perception of what comprises a supportive environment. We conducted 33 semi-structured case study interviews on service usage, homelessness histories, transitional programs experiences, and well-being. We recruited via snowball sampling at a women's transitional shelter in a major Canadian city. Participant median age: 43 yrs; 55% Francophone; 32% homeless one year or more. Women valued the transition time from homelessness to housing. For some, social support in the shelter engendered stabilization and sense of safety. Other women reported a lack of feeling safe, privacy, shelter cleanliness, and were anxious to leave as soon as possible. Women's accounts of shelter experiences are essential to create physical and relational settings to meet their needs. Trauma-sensitive approaches center these needs, workers' knowledge and sensitivity to trauma and strength-based interventions

**Cheryl Forchuk, Richard Booth**
*Getting the Data on Rural Homelessness in Canada: Key Findings from Year 1 and Year 2 of the Homelessness Counts Study*

There is a gap in understanding dynamics of rural homelessness in Canada due to limited research and data. Factors including minimal to non-existent social and homeless services, unfavourable climate, and unsafe living conditions pose challenges for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) in rural Canada. A cross-sectional mixed-methods study design was used in the primary study of this secondary analysis. Quantitative

instruments included surveys on demographics, housing history/preferences, and health/social service usage. Qualitative insights were captured through open-ended questions on facilitators/barriers for accessing services, as well as focus groups with service providers. The sample included 400 PEH. 110 participants lived in smPOPCTR and 290 lived in urban settings. In smPOPCTR, majority of the sample (83.6%) identified as Indigenous and had more than one psychiatric diagnosis (51.8%), the most common being substance-related disorders (47.3%). Descriptions related to homelessness in rural/remote locations from focus groups were collapsed into who, help, where and culture/context categories. Contemporary disruptions include COVID-19 and housing market changes.

**Annie Duchesne**
*COVID-19 and temporary shelter use in Canada: What new data reveal about how the shelter system adapted to the pandemic*

The homelessness service landscape has changed considerably as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As service providers moved quickly to meet public health guidelines, there was a major shift from reliance on the traditional emergency shelter system to temporary alternatives including hotels/motels, and adapted use of public spaces. Newly available national administrative shelter data show how the pandemic tested the flexibility and resilience of Canada's emergency shelter system, and how communities and service providers quickly adapted their service model to provide shelter to those who needed it. The presentation will describe how the methodology for estimating national shelter use in 2020 was challenged and revised to capture experiences in temporary shelters. It will explain what lessons can be drawn from these data and offer some clues about the role that the temporary shelter system may play in the future.

**Ryan Finnigan**
*A Crisis on a Crisis: California's Shelter and Housing Efforts for People Experiencing Homelessness during the Covid-19 Pandemic*

In response to the layered crises of the Covid-19 pandemic and staggering unsheltered homelessness, the state of California launched a program to rent hotel/motel rooms to rapidly and safely shelter people at the highest risk from Covid-19. The state subsequently launched a program to purchase and permanently convert hotels/motels and other spaces into non-congregate shelters and permanent supportive housing. This study assesses the dire need for shelter and housing in the context of the pandemic, and how these programs were implemented across the state. Surveys and interviews with people experiencing homelessness throughout the pandemic describe the fraught position of people who could not find safety either outside or in traditional shelter, particularly women. Administrative data and interviews with homelessness service providers and administrators assess how and why California's hotel/motel programs were implemented differently across the state. Despite substantial resource requirements to implement these programs, they also created opportunities for under-resourced places to meaningfully expand their shelter and housing capacity for people experiencing homelessness.

**Lutendo Malisha**
*A critical review of census homeless data in South Africa*

The South African constitution states in section 26(1) of the Constitution that everyone has the right of access to adequate housing. Accessibility means that the State must create conducive conditions for all its citizens, irrespective of their economic status, to access affordable housing. However, "accurate statistics on the number of homeless people in South Africa are non-existent" (Dailymaverick, 2021). Lack of statistics hinders progress in measuring national and international development goals that the country has committed to. Currently, the only hope of representative or near accurate statistics is through data collected in censuses in South Africa. This study reviewed methodologies of the previous South African censuses (1996, 2001 and 2011). The results reveal major discrepancies in the tools of data collection used to collect data on homeless population. This provides doubts in the quality of data collected.

**Stephen Gaetz, Melanie Redman, Allyson Marsolais**
*Making the Shift - Using Social Innovation to Build the Case for Youth Homelessness Prevention*

Prevention has been largely an afterthought in our response to homelessness in North America. Our presentation provides an overview of our efforts to contribute to the transformation of our response to homelessness through using social innovation to develop the knowledge and evidence base for youth homelessness prevention. Our panel will involve three presentations:
1. Making the Shift: Using Social Innovation to Build the Case for Youth Homelessness Prevention. The work of MtS supports programming and policy decisions that will better coordinate systems, break down silos and reorient investments away from a crisis response to foreground the importance of prevention.
2. Housing First for Youth: What have we learned from our Demonstration Projects in Canada? HF4Y is an adaptation of Housing First designed to meet the needs of developing adolescents and young adults. Here we discuss the preliminary results of developmental and outcomes evaluations of our 4 demonstration projects.
3. Enhancing International Collaboration: The UNECE Toronto Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention. Here we review the goals and activities of our charter centre of excellence.

**Molly Brown, Rachel Fyall, Quinmill Lei, Camilla Cummings**
*Street-Level Advocacy: Threats to Fairness in Coordinated Entry Systems*

Communities across the globe are implementing strategies to efficiently and fairly allocate housing resources to unhoused individuals. Coordinated Entry (CE) is one such method that is mandated for federally funded housing services in the United States. However, there is limited evidence-based guidance on CE best practices, leaving ample room for unintended issues to arise within CE systems. Using data from a multi-informant qualitative case study of a CE system within a large U.S. city, this presentation highlights how differential advocacy by service providers and self-advocacy by unhoused persons can create threats to fairness in CE. Interviews and focus groups were conducted with formerly unhoused adults (n = 18), service providers (n = 27), and policy leaders (n = 11). Thematic analysis revealed that street-level advocacy occurred across several CE system components, including the vulnerability assessment process, case conferencing, and housing referral. Results suggest that CE systems may not fully overcome differential advocacy-related challenges that were prevalent in traditional service systems. Implications for practice will be discussed.

**Ignacio Eissmann, Felipe Estay, Isabel Lacalle**

*Supported Housing Program: Approach to the first results of the Chilean experience of adaptation of the Housing First Model*

This paper analyzes the implementation of the supported housing program (adaptation of the HF model) between 2019 - 2021, addressing the question: what have been the results in housing stability and improving the quality of life? The methodology considered the review of secondary information and interviews with program participants. The results show that the program achieve interrupt trajectories of homelessness of the vast majority of people, changing their living conditions, and improving the perception of well-being. However, it is still too early to draw conclusions about its impact, since residential stability can only be observed in the long term, to identify whether the program is indeed a definitive interruption of homelessness trajectories, or is part of periods brief access to housing within life histories marked by the oscillation between the street, shelters and residential programs. On the other hand, the intervention experiences of this program have shown that it is essential to build human capital capable of adequately implementing this design, since the change in the logic of the intervention is also a change in the way of thinking about public policy in Chile.

**Hilary Silver, Laura Colini**
*How Permanent Are the COVID-19 Pandemic Reforms of Homelessness Policies?*

In much of the US and Europe, the initial responses to the coronavirus pandemic entailed special measures designed to protect the especially vulnerable homeless population both in congregate shelters and living outdoors. These included the provision of individualized housing units, cash, and hygienic improvements. To prevent additional homelessness, eviction moratoria were widespread. Sometimes different levels of government failed to coordinate their interventions, impeding needed assistance. However, as the pandemic entered new phases, these reforms were treated as exceptions and were allowed to expire. Newly housed people were returned to shelters and the streets, while those already living rough were "swept" out of visible public spaces. But advocates for the unhoused are continuing to draw lessons from the improvements and use them for institutionalizing and enacting long-term evidence-based policy changes. This paper documents the ongoing process of shifting from welfare state to penal state and variations across cities, with examples from three federal states, Germany, Italy, and the USA.

**John Graham, Yale Belanger, Katherine Maurer, Mary Ellen Donnan**
*Comparing the homelessness plan experiences of small Canadian cities: Insights for policy and practice.*

There is great promise in cross-geographic site homelessness research for small and medium ranged cities. This paper presents the methodological and analytical learnings that are occurring in a SSHRC funded community engaged study in Kelowna, BC, Lethbridge, Alberta, and Sherbrooke Quebec. Each city has a very different experience of multi year plans to end homelessness. Kelowna is half way through its first; Lethbridge has undertaken one multi year plan and is in it second; and Sherbrooke has a different approach to homelessness planning than the other two cities. The economic and political differences of each site context does not preclude some surprising cross-fertilization of innovations, with possible cross-site scalings up. This paper focuses on the challenges of multi-sector, cross-provincial homelessness innovation development; and their current and potential prospects. A comparative approach helps systems to move beyond anchoring

biases, availability biases, framing effect, and inattentional blindness. Actionable items: When done well, systems therefore stand the potential of accomplishing heightened service improvement and genuine innovation.

**Jayne Malenfant, Amanda Buchnea**
*Building International Knowledge Communities for Housing Justice: Sharing Housing Experiences across the Globe*

To imagine alternatives to the global housing crisis, this discussion will begin in recognizing links between neoliberalism, colonialism, systemic racism, trauma, and homelessness. We will share historical and current contexts, opening space to ask what alternatives might look like. We will invite participants to identify the ways that homelessness is connected with urgent issues such as climate change, racial justice and LGBTQ2S+ rights. We will ask participants to reflect on how they come into this conversation, and what they know, firsthand or otherwise, about homelessness and the systems that feed into it (in their own communities, globally, historically). When working in shelters, non-profits, as activists, or with experiences of homelessness, it can be difficult to find capacity to imagine how to enact radical change, while treating the immediate symptoms of the housing crisis. This work is incredibly urgent, especially within the context of financialization of housing, the drug poisoning crisis, and increasing climate disasters and displacement. This workshop will serve as a starting point for sustained conversations to build international solidarity for housing justice.

**Carolyne Grimard, Veronic Lapalme**
*Community First: Homelessness Intervention in a Transdisciplinary Dimension*

In the 1980s and 1990s, intervention practices for homeless individuals were mainly based on the Treatment First approach, which advocated access to health, and addictions services before access to housing. A few years later, this was replaced by Housing First practices, which postulates that it takes housing first for a person experiencing homelessness before seeking other services. In both cases housing is placed as a cornerstone of intervention approaches. Yet, we can live in a city without having a conventional home. This theoretical presentation seeks to better understand how we inhabit the city in a housing crisis context. By focusing on the notion of community, we will examine the concept of Community first in a transdisciplinary way to redefine the field of intervention practices towards homeless populations. We will deconstruct the forms of inhabitation (Pichon, 2012) to reveal different ways in which urban space is shared, often at the expense of certain groups (Lavigne 2014; Loison-Leruste, 2014). By putting the debate back into the hands of the community, it can include a diversity of actors and include diverse populations that also experience spatial injustice.

**Tyler Frederick, Nick Kerman**
*Relationships and Supports for Young People - A national and a longitudinal perspective from Canada*

Supportive relationships are increasingly understood to play a role in the process of preventing and exiting homelessness. However, peer and family relationships are highly complex and can also be sources of stress,

street entrenchment, and risk. In this context, questions remain about the dynamics that shape family contact, desire for family re-connection, and social support. The aim of this presentation is to share findings from two Canadian studies. First, at a national level from the Without a Home survey; and second, using insights from a longitudinal, qualitative research project with 50 young people experiencing homelessness in Ontario. Several key research questions will be addressed, including: at a national level, what factors predict levels of support from family members and peers, and what factors shape a desire for family reconnection? Using the qualitative data, the presentation will dive deeper to understand how patterns in family relationships evolve and change over time in the context of various housing patterns, such as exploring how they change as young people move from homelessness to housing.

**Olya Glantsman, Luciano Berardi**
*Housing Insecurity & Homelessness Among College Students*

This presentation will highlight the results from the online survey distributed in the summer of 2020 at a large, private, urban university in the Midwest, U.S. The data come from 1,956 graduate and undergraduate students and present trends of housing insecurity and homelessness. Various characteristics of students who reported experiencing either housing insecurity or/and homelessness were explored including race/ethnicity, first generation status, disability status, etc. Results indicated certain student groups find themselves at greater risk of housing insecurity compared to their counterparts and certain groups are far more likely to deal with homelessness. Barriers to addressing housing insecurity and homelessness among college students as well as possible solutions to these issues will be discussed.

**Eric Weissman, Kristen Byrne, Lisa Mader, Alacia Tshilombo**
*What to do about Post-Secondary Student Homelessness - Global Perspectives*

Post Secondary Student homelessness (PSSH) is distinct form K-12 experiences, yet related to these, and affects 110,000 students in Canada alone - and as many as 4 million US PS students; globally, no one knows. There are concrete demonstrable solutions and supports. This presentations looks at 4 years of research by our team to understand the prevalence of PSSH, an environmental scan of best practices to address this housing need, and the role that students, institutions and communities play in these responses.

**Jonathan Hopkins**
*Using occupational therapists to create an effective pathway out of homelessness*

Homelessness is growing rapidly in Cape Town and understanding the homeless population is important to provide better responses to effectively address this crisis. The current response to homelessness is split between a compassionate response of indiscriminate handouts, and a punitive policing-based response that includes issuing fines and breaking down of temporary structures.A survey of a representative sample of 350 people experiencing homelessness in Cape Town was undertaken in early 2020 and explored reasons for homelessness, levels of income raised, current service use, levels of substance use disorders and experiences whilst living on the street. This rich dataset is used to evaluate current responses, highlighting where there are mismatches between existing policy and practice and the actual experience of those living in homelessness. A third response will be offered a developmental approach that provides pathways out of homelessness, based on pockets of emergent practice within the city. These lessons will likely be applicable and approaches for

both the Cape Town context but also which have lessons applicable for other developing countries, and urban settings.

**Patti Plett, Carrie Anne Marshall, Abe Oudshoorn, Rebecca Gewurtz, et al**
*Experiences of belonging following homelessness: A systematic review and meta-aggregation*

Belonging is relevant to homelessness prevention as it is critical for supporting well-being following homelessness and for the process of creating home. Little is known, however, about the scope of existing research exploring experiences of belonging following homelessness. Using Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) and PRISMA guidelines, we conducted a systematic review of qualitative evidence and a meta-aggregation guided by the research question: "What are the experiences of belonging for individuals as they leave homelessness?" We searched seven databases combining three main concepts: 1) homelessness; 2) belonging; and 3) transition. Four themes were generated in our analysis: 1) developing a sense of belonging is a challenging process in the transition to housing; 2) shifting connections and finding new belonging; 3) belonging through engaging in meaningful activities; and 4) housing as a foundation for connection. These findings suggest that housing stability creates opportunities for belonging but developing a sense of belonging is a difficult process that takes time, involves changing social networks, and is facilitated by engaging in meaningful activities.

**Mackenzie Masilon, Hallie Kirschner**
*Using Technology to Bridge the Gap on Housing Services*

Safe Stays by Reloshare is a free to use business to business hotel booking platform that allows for social services to book reservations for clients without needing a name, ID, or credit card. This service, which launched in August 2021, has over 300 agencies that provide housing services throughout the US secure safe and confidential housing support for survivors, victims of crime, and unhousing individuals. Our presentation will provide a brief overview of the platform, and how we are using technology to bridge the gap of housing services throughout the U.S.

**Naomi Nichols, Jayne Malenfant**
*The Social Organization of Pervasive Penality in the Lives of Young People Experiencing Homelessness*

Research affirms that municipal laws regulate and criminalize activities associated with homelessness. Research has yet to explore how these laws intersect with other socio-legal processes to create socially-organized relations of surveillance and punishment for those who are its targets. Our participatory project began with interviews with precariously housed and homeless youth to learn about their socio-legal histories across a range of public sector institutions. Analysis of interviews revealed common points of friction in young people's lives, which anchored subsequent policy and legislative analysis. Our presentation will show how young people's early experiences with the police recursively organize how their subsequent criminal-legal work unfolds particularly, as they spend more time in public spaces that are governed by neo-vagrancy by-laws and provincial safe streets legislation. Homeless youth are often drawn into relations of surveillance because they are viewed to be in need of protection; over time, however, these same relations position youth as the targets of penalizing policies and laws.

**Timothy de Pass, Abbey Radford, Lydia Hicks, Oluwagbenga Dada, Jessie Lund, et al**
*A National Study of Tertiary Prevention Models for Youth Exiting Homelessness*

There is a lack of clear articulation regarding best practices for stabilizing housing trajectories of youth exiting homelessness. A multiple case study design was implemented to examine housing stabilization models for youth in Canada. Alongside archival data analysis, semi-structured interviews took place with service providers and users at multiple youth homelessness organizations. Based out of two hubs, the Thunder Bay hub is looking at northern and Indigenous-focused sites and the southern hub focusing on general, urban-based organizations. This presentation highlights emerging themes from the case studies. These include the use of prevention approaches through collaboration with community supports; utilization of wrap-around care models; and flexibility within interventions to meet youth's unique needs. Additionally, Indigenous-focused organizations highlighted the importance of culture as an intervention, and the importance of increasing accessible and permanent connections to culture. This study is contributing to the understanding of novel best practices to support young people experiencing homelessness, including Housing First for youth and Family Reconnect approaches.

**Erdenechimeg Ulziisuren, Bayanmunkh Lkhagvasuren, Tuya Sukhbat**
*The Case of Mongolia: Homelessness*

Mongolia transitioned to democracy from socialism in 1990 which brought many social problems such as alcoholism, poverty, unemployment, family breakdown and rural to urban migration. This historic event has influenced the most for the phenomena of homelessness in Mongolia. We will present a case study of Mongolia providing an overview of homelessness from its birth in 1990 up to now emphasizing main drivers of homelessness unique to its context. In particular, there are 3 levels of causes to homelessness: social (unemployment, migration etc), family (domestic violence, bias toward male child etc) and individual (behavioral and genetic). We will also share lessons learned of the past 32 years while providing services for the homelessness from the perspective of challenges occurred for the NGO shelters, lack of coordination or support from Government in terms of policy and funding, and void of total policy for the homelessness in the years of 1990-2012. In addition, we will provide good examples of graduating from homelessness based on stories of people with lived experiences and their services for the peer homeless despite the lack of Government financial support and policy.

**Carrie Anne Marshall, Brooke Phillips, Julia Holmes, Eric Todd, et al**
*Co-designing solutions for supporting thriving following homelessness: The Transition from Homelessness Study*

Purpose: To prevent ongoing homelessness, there is a need to identify ways of helping individuals to "thrive" rather than simply sustain their tenancies following homelessness. Co-designing novel approaches is needed. Method: We conducted a community-based participatory research study in two cities in Ontario, Canada in collaboration with persons with lived experience, service providers, researchers, and policymakers in two phases: 1) a stakeholder consultation with 46 persons with lived experience of homelessness and mental illness, 38 service providers, and 22 organizational leaders (n=106); and 2) co-design of a novel intervention based on our consultation. Results: Our findings emphasize the importance of targeting community

integration following homelessness, specifically through the use of peer support and meaningful activity engagement following homelessness. In response, we co-designed a novel model called the "Peer to Community Model" designed to target community integration following homelessness. Conclusion: A pilot study aimed at assessing the feasibility and acceptability of the Peer to Community Model is currently underway.

**Nicole Bahena, Tawanda Acosta**
*Chicago's Expedited Housing Initiative: Lessons Learned on Collective Impact Models with Surge in Funding*

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chicago homeless system launched the Expedited Housing Initiative (EHI), modeled off disaster recovery re-housing efforts, that sought to house high-risk individuals and families in their own apartments as quickly as possible, allowing them to practice social distancing, ending their homelessness, and setting them on a pathway for long-term housing stability. The collective impact model and collaboration is hard, and often takes longer than doing things alone. However, with EHI, Chicago was able to act quickly while still collaborating. Having successfully housed over 1800 households in 2 years, EHI is a success story in how collective impact efforts, coupled with a surge in funding, can lead to quick action and long-term systems change efforts.

**Stephanie Laing, John Graham**
*Sense of Community: Neighbour to Neighbour Pilot Project*

The Neighbour to Neighbour Pilot Project (N2NPP) will harness Kelowna's social capital toward a more inclusive and accepting community where those who were/are experiencing homelessness are exposed to less stigma and more support. There is a gap in social support for individuals during the transition from homeless to housed. Experiences of loneliness, isolation, and a lack of strong and ongoing social support while newly housed are a barrier to successful long-term housing. By matching volunteers from various faith-based groups to newly housed individuals, the N2NPP will facilitate opportunities to develop and strengthen relationships with neighbours to foster a sense of community connection and social support. The goal of the N2NPP is to provide informal, community social support for those with housing and we anticipate that relationships will lead to a stronger sense of community, decreases in feelings of loneliness and social isolation, and increased successes in long-term housing. At the time of the IJOH Conference, the N2NPP will have been running for 5 months and we look forward to sharing early results.

**Americo Nave, Maria Carmona**
*An innovative employability response targeting people who use drugs and experience chronic homelessness*

Throughout our 20 years of experience in direct intervention with people experiencing homelessness (PEH), we have constantly been confronted with the challenge of promoting their inclusion in the labour market. The Ã UM RESTAURANTE project and its methodology were designed to overcome this need by creating an employability response adapted to the PEH. It is developed in 4 phases that combine training and on-the-job experience, culminating in the inclusion in the labour market. The whole process is guided by a case manager, through close and person-centered support, where trainees are the main responsible for defining their path and goals. This project has a significant impact on improving people's living conditions and

promotes effective long-term change. No trainee remains in a homeless situation and all have had social and health support. This project enables people to gradually regain the daily habits necessary for a working activity, promotes the (re)acquisition of personal and social skills and facilitates labour inclusion, actively promoting the social inclusion of its beneficiaries. 50% of the people who completed the training were integrated into the labour market.

**Judy McDonald, Katherine Hale**
*Mental Readiness for Frontline Workers in Homelessness Services in Ottawa, Canada*

First line of defense against homelessness is to ensure strong, competent frontline workers. How do seasoned frontline workers in homelessness services (FWHSs) perform their best facing real daily challenges? How do they prepare to be ready-on-demand, manage distractions, stay focused and develop coping strategies? Answers were derived using an Operational Readiness Framework and mental-readiness research from elite sport and other high-pressure jobs. Factors were investigated related to competency with 35 highly respected FWHSs in Ottawa, Canada nominated by their peers and supervisors as 'exceptional' in specialty areas like: addictions, mental health, hoarding, trauma, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Quantitative and qualitative analyses revealed that mental readiness is critical and the balance between readiness (physical, technical and mental) and performance contributed to their competency and resiliency. Common elements of success were found with many similarities in mental readiness practices engaged by excellent FWHSs and other top professionals. The publication was marked by IJOH as a valuable contribution and the fastest article to reach 100 downloads to date.

**Matt Peacock & David Tovey, Rhoda Rosen, Carl Wiley**
*The role of arts and creativity in the homeless sector worldwide*

Homelessness is not just about housing: A staggering number of people also face trauma, poor mental health, loneliness, stigma. Creativity is offering a holistic support structure. Arts & Homelessness International (AHI), the global network for the sector, has identified over 500 projects working in this field. AHI's Literature Review of Arts/Homelessness (Shaw, 2019) analysed 61 research projects across the world which all demonstrated impacts of resilience, well-being and skills. AHI is proposing to deliver an overview of the sector including findings from a recent report on 'Homelessness & the Global South' (Fry, Villalobos, Waweru, 2020). Following this, 2 of the most respected projects in the sector will present: Red Line Service and Lyte Collective both from Chicago. RLS will show the way socially engaged art is uniquely poised to decrease social isolation, destigmatize houselessness, develop social cohesion and a thriving loving community. Late Collective will present their work with young people, supporting them; end harmful systems that cause young people to need our help in the first place and to help build a more equitable world together.

**Joe Padgett Herz**
*About us Without Us: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Homelessness at the United Nations*

The United Nations plays a major role in creating, changing, and challenging international discourse on social inequities and injustices. Homelessness has historically been an underrepresented social problem within the UN system. To date, no official definition has been established. How has discourse on homelessness been

shaped at the UN, if no official definitions have been established? What are the implicit meanings that representatives have used over the years? Homelessness was ignored for many years at the United Nations, and when it was talked about it was described vaguely. How was the discourse on homelessness created and how has is changed? This study examines the culture of discourse production within the UN by focusing on the ways it has understood homelessness as a social issue. In this research all mentions of the word "homeless" from 1946 to 1987 were analyzed to catalogue the change in definition of homelessness at the UN.

## Carlos Mesquita
*A 10 year plan to end chronic homelessness in Cape Town South Africa by a previously homeless man.*

I am a previously homeless man and founder of the first two independent living facilities for Homeless people in Cape Town as well as being a columnis on homelessness for Cape Town's most widely read newspaper the Cape Argus. I have dedicated the last two years of my life since coming out of homelessness to finding pathways out of homelessness that are dignified and sustainable. I have recently finished a concept plan to end chronic homelessness in Cape Town South Africa. The 5 key strategic areas of focus are: Accommodation, Prevention, Strong and co-ordinated and flexible response, Data research and targets and timelines, Being, Becoming, BELONGING, Building Community capacity and its based on the principles that everyone deserves a place to call home off the streets and that if we all work together as a community we can end chronic homelessness in Cape Town.

## Nan Zhou
*Labour market participation and income trends of people experiencing homelessness in Canada*

Previous studies have demonstrated the significance of labour market participation for reducing homelessness. Specifically, employment or higher perceived self-efficacy in searching for employment is correlated with a shorter span of homelessness. However, there is a dearth of information on how labour market participation and income of people experiencing homelessness change over time. There is also a lack of information on whether or not these two socio-economic statistics of homelessness population differ from those of a comparable group, such as people at risk of homelessness.
This study makes use of databases created by linking Canadian tax filer data to three surveys: the 2011 and 2016 Canadian Censuses, as well as the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey. The analysis focuses on the prevalence of labour market participation, employment history and income sources of people experiencing homelessness, compared to people who exited out of homelessness and those who were at risk of homelessness but never experienced homelessness. The effect of employment history on the likelihood of existing homelessness is also estimated.

## Maria de los Angeles Ibanez, Mauricio Soto
*Homelessness in Chile and support programs: Is it really possible to have community programs to build for zero?*

The presentation is a general overview about homelessness in Chile, their support programs to ending it and how Renca county proposes to build for zero.

## Aravind Unni

*Analysing National Urban Livelihood Mission – Shelter for Urban Homeless (NULM – SUH) Scheme: Critical Readings for Rethinking Urban Homelessness in India*

Urban homelessness as a developmental concern emerged in India by 2000s, through the first years, the civil society led the charge to establish the issue, cause and impacts of homelessness, and managed to convince the State to act and bring in a social welfare framework for the homeless. In 2013, the union government released the National Urban Livelihood Mission – Shelter for Urban Homeless (NULM – SUH) at the national level, thereafter, to be followed by states and cities at the urban governance level. The primary aim of the program was the provision of shelters to the urban homeless, with a host of imaginary services alongside. A welcomed scheme (not a law), with many progressive features, substantial resources faced stiff resistance from the exclusionary 'world-class' cities discourse in its implementation. Thereby diluting the imagination, space that was required for the allocation of shelters in the cities. Post 2014-15, the other national priorities like Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission) & Smart Cities Mission proved to be more lucrative for state/ city authorities to implement and further side-lined the NULM – SUH in terms of priorities. The scheme that was imagined to be a temporary stop-gap arrangement to address the immediate need of urban homeless has now stagnated at the level of imagination and its implementation also plateauing. It is in this context, that the paper wishes to present an historical analysis of the scheme and assess with existing evaluation reports, exchanges with homeless residents, subject experts, and government officials to frame the challenges in the implementation of the NULM – SUH. These challenges will not be restricted to the usual 'State' focused lack of capacities, resources, or intent, but look at the framework of the act, the urban – society milieu, and the urbanization trajectory of Indian cities that do not allow for homeless shelters in their cities. The paper will be a result of the ongoing efforts of civil society groups in India to reframe, improve and mainstream NULM-SUH scheme. The paper will also draw experiences from other cities – national policies across the world, especially the global south for incorporating a wider evidence and policy frame to aid in the critical readings of NULM-SUH and rethinking urban homelessness in India.

**Sarah Charlton, Tsepang Leuta**
*Beyond homelessness: unpacking the occupation of public space in Johannesburg*

Street homelessness is an increasingly visible phenomenon in South Africa with the public spaces of most large cities showing signs of habitation. Using case study material from Johannesburg this paper contextualises diverse strands of the phenomenon, and responses to it, against a reading of socio-economic and other contributory factors. It considers the extent to which contemporary debates on the notion of homelessness characterise and account for the circumstances under review. Empirical material comes from the authors' separate investigations into people living in parks and cemeteries, as well as the authors' analysis of various reports on homelessness in the suburbs of the city and the conflicts and mediations that surround these. The presentation discusses perspectives and lived experiences of homeless people residing in public open spaces, including parks and cemeteries. It differentiates amongst these circumstances, underscoring the diverse socio-economic factors that contribute to them. It shows the multi-faceted nature of homelessness in this southern context in contrast to misconceptions on the part of many fellow residents and officials that tend to homogenise it.