

International Perspectives on Homelessness:

Chapter 1: Europe

-A major policy challenge at the turn of the twentieth century in Europe is the development of effective crisis intervention measures complementary to well-established general social, housing, and welfare protection (21).

-Homelessness can best be understood as the outcome of the social process of exclusion during which latently present risks materialize progressively (21).

>Consider risk: groups, development, mental, handicap, etc

-Living conditions as a focus of identification or specific needs and services for those who are homeless at a given point in time, it provides a weak foundation for making comprehensive preventive policies (21).

-Risk of homelessness cut through three levels of causality: 1. social structures, 2. family networks, 3. and person fragility (22).

>Apply the most stress

-Lack of affordable housing entails severe competition at the bottom level of the rental market (23).

-Strong quote: The way these macro social factors operate may be summarized in the following way: Lack of affordable housing entails severe competition at the bottom level of the rental market. Individuals who have social, physical, or mental disabilities are weak competitors at risk of being excluded from the regular housing market. Lack of adequate social protection of people who do not have enough income to live in a way compatible with human dignity ghettoizes people in severely substandard housing and run-down neighborhoods. Lack of community-based mental health care for individuals suffering from mental and community-based mental health care for individuals suffering from mental from mental and personality disorders is one key determinant of homelessness for those belonging to this risk group. People who do not need to be institutionalized but need care and support in order to be able to live in independent housing are at risk of becoming homeless if they are not assisted by community (23).

-Restrictions to housing particular groups of people: Travelers and gypsies, ethnic minorities, nonnationals, migrants, ex-offenders, and mentally or physical handicapped persons

>KEY STRUCTURAL CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS ^^^

-Could lead to prostitution, major criminal activity, heavy substance abuse, and severe mental disability

-Difference between Finland's homelessness and United Kingdom on page 24.

-In innovative, more personalized services, which address the multiple needs of their clients, people stay longer, and an increasing number of people find paths out of homelessness. Thus a decrease in the number of people registered in shelters may be partly due to a lower turnover of clients and partly to successful reintegration of homeless people into permanent housing (28).

-A comprehensive research study of the dynamics of homelessness would need to look at the time lag between the onset of risks, the growth in the number of people exposed to risks, the duration of the exposure to risks of individuals belonging to risk groups, the targeting of risk-reducing policies, and the manifestation of homelessness as the last stage of the =process of accumulation of handicaps and extreme social exclusion (28).

-Homeless are not a homogenous group (29)

-Experience a diversity of problems before and during their transition to homelessness.

-Strong quote at the top of page 29, discusses who Europe accepts with their homeless families!

-Denmark has a design: new small, staff-intensive establishments which care for particular groups, such as **battered women** (29).

-Severe living conditions no doubt may aggravate symptoms of psychopathology, but the indicators of psychiatric morbidity paired with information about the true of accommodation provided to homeless people reflect also how services operate in selecting their clients (29).

-The policies that have best addressed homelessness are multifaceted (as opposed to mono faceted), integrated (versus segmented), long-term (versus short term), preventive (curative), and structural (versus individual), and they include participation of the homeless (versus imposed by public authorities) (34).

Chapter 2: Sweden

Historically, the degree of privacy and self-determination has been small for women, children and servants living in their masters' households.

-Homeless women are perceived as *hidden* in a dual sense. They are invisible in the environment and in services dominated by men, and they conceal themselves from the society in general and authorities specifically; this implies a relatively vast hidden statistic. They are also said to be *repressed and exploited by men* who abuse them physically at home and exploit them sexually when they are homeless. They are further regarded as having *more severe problems* than men do, because they are more injured by homelessness while at the same time they avoid services and authorities. Hence, they are expected to need more treatment and longer time to recover once they are "discovered." Finally, they are considered to have *special needs*, for example, protection from men, which has motivated a growing share of institutions and shelters for women only (Sahlin and Thörn 2000, 35f.) (50).

-Homeless families with children are rarely referred to shelters and hotels except in emergency situations but get access to secondary housing market, primarily to the "highest steps" on the staircase, that is to ordinary flats integrated in residential areas. This is due to the strong conviction among local social authorities that children's homes should be as "normal" as possible, regardless of their parents' problems (Sahlin 1996) (51).

-Homelessness historically has been approached from two competing or sometimes complementary perspectives: one that focuses on the lack of suitable, affordable, and accessible housing, and another— following the vagrancy policy— that focuses on asocial lifestyles as the core and cause of the homelessness problem (54).

-“This regulated lack of housing control should by no means be regarded as a residual problem, but rather as the deliberate result of current homelessness policies. The winners of these games

are the landlord, who have increased their discretionary power over housing applicants and tenants and reduced their responsibilities and economic risks. The fourth party, the central government, has withdrawn from the game in order to help out the market forces and the budget deficits” (57).

Chapter 3: Denmark

-Homelessness as place and homelessness as types of people (66).

Social Légalisation:

- >1. The offer counseling and support toward the prevention of social problems
- >2. To offer various common services that might have a preventive aim as well
- >3. To consider the demands which follow from reduced physical or mental function ability or from special social problems.

**Refer to page 70 for more detail about the diver types of support offered through social guidance in Denmark.

Chapter 4: Germany

Germany has the lowest ratio of owner occupation in the European Union. (85)

Countries with the highest** Ireland, Greece, and Spain

-There is no legal definition of homelessness in Germany, but experts and policy makers generally agree the definition of homelessness should not be reduced to people sleeping rough and that the problem goes beyond being without a dwelling (87).

1. People who are homeless
2. People who are threatened by homelessness
3. People who live in unacceptable housing conditions.

-1992 800,000 homeless persons in Germany (88).

>Said to be 860,000 (2017).

>Expected to rise to 1.2 million by 2018... Has this happened?

-German municipalities are obliged by police law to avert this danger by providing roofless persons with temporary accommodation at minimal standards (89).

-Homeless shelters ran primarily by religious organizations.

-1970s, in spite of the brutal practice during German fascism when thousands of homeless beggars were arrested and deported to concentration camps, where there “persons without a settled way of living” were sterilized and later exterminating as psychopaths (Ayass 1995) (90).

-Homelessness was classified as a structural problem of poverty and lack of housing, and the phrase person without a settled way of living was replaced by the term “single homeless person.” (91).

-They were supplemented more and more by “ambulant” advice centers which were to help the homeless realize their claims to legal minimum standards and to assist in integration —> Their aim was to integrated them as soon as possible into normal, permanent housing (91).

-It was realized that overcoming homelessness and providing permanent housing are basic requirements for an integration of homeless people into society and for the success of further social and therapeutic action. (91).