



First conference of the Belgian Homelessness Research Network, 24 March 2022

Homelessness is on the rise in Belgium and Europe. Research on the national and international level is needed to improve the lives of people experiencing homelessness through better use of data and evidence. In the BRAIN-project **TRAHOME**, three research groups have joined forces: LUCAS KU Leuven, Social Work and Social Pedagogy UGent and CIRTES of the UCL. TRAHOME is a four-year research project on the trajectories of homeless persons based on a mixed methods research approach.

Since homelessness research is also taking place in diverse research groups across the country and provides complexities, the TRAHOME team would like to organize an open-minded exchange between researchers dealing with homelessness, and associated historical and societal issues and processes leading to homelessness, in the Belgian welfare state.

We are therefore pleased to announce the first conference of the **Belgian Homelessness Research Network** in Brussels. The aim of the network is to strengthen and cross-fertilize the knowledge and cooperation between different researchers, and to create an inspiring network of early stage researchers and PhD students.

Planned schedule

This conference will be held in a hybrid physical-virtual format on the **24 March 2022** in **University Saint-Louis-Brussels UClouvain**, Boulevard du Jardin Botanique 43, 1000 Brussels. See further for registration details. We are planning to hold the conference in person while responding to applicable COVID-19 related restrictions. If you want to join in online, the Zoom link can be found [here](#) (ID: 868 3245 2057).

9h30-11h Welcome and introduction

- International keynote presentation by prof. dr. Paula Mayock (Trinity College, Dublin)
- National keynote presentation by the TRAHOME team: prof. dr. Koen Hermans (KU Leuven), prof. dr. Griet Roets (UGent), and prof. dr. Martin Wagener (UCL)

11h30-12h30 First session

12h30-13h30 Lunch

13h30-15h00 Second session in smaller groups

15h00-15h15 Break

15h15-16h30 Reflection and next steps

The morning session will be **open to all researchers and professionals** who have an interest in Belgian homelessness research. The afternoon sessions will **only be open for enrolled researchers**.

Keynote speakers

Prof. dr. Paula Mayock is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College in Dublin. Mayock's research focuses primarily on the lives and experiences of marginalised youth, covering areas including homelessness, drug use and drug problems, risk behaviour, sexuality, and mental health. In recent studies, Mayock investigates youth homelessness and women's homelessness.

Prof. dr. Koen Hermans is an Assistant Professor Social Work and Social Policy. He is also a project leader at LUCAS, Centre for Care Research and Consultancy at KU Leuven, where he executes practice- and policy-oriented research on homelessness, social exclusion, poverty and well-being.

Prof. dr. Griet Roets is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogy at Ghent University, and one of the founders of the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research consortium of the Urban Academy.

Prof. dr. Martin Wagener is an Assistant Professor in Sociology of work and social policy at the Labour Science School and the Open Faculty for Economic and Social Policy (Fopes) and affiliated researcher at the CIRTES (Centre for interdisciplinary research on Work, State and Society) at UCLouvain.

Registration details

Registration information can be found [here](#). For any questions, feel free to reach out to Laure-lise Robben via laurelise.robben@kuleuven.be.

Practical

The morning session is open to **all interested researchers and professionals** through [this Zoom link](#) (ID: 868 3245 2057). If you want to join us in Brussels and/or join the afternoon sessions, please contact Laure-lise Robben via laurelise.robben@kuleuven.be.

Hope to see you there!

Koen Hermans
Griet Roets
Martin Wagener
Noémie Emmanuel
Sophie Samyn
Laure-lise Robben