

Representing homelessness

**Thursday 18 - Friday 19 July 2019
University of Lincoln**

Convenors:

Dr Owen Clayton

Katie Dorr

Nigel Horner

Professor Peter Somerville

Homelessness is routinely captured in different kinds of texts: newspapers, TV, novels, expert research, government policy documents, and the law. This multidisciplinary conference examines the ‘textuality’ of homelessness across a range of areas, bringing together activists, journalists, artists, academics, and people who have personal experience of homelessness.



The British Academy

Day 1: Thursday 18 July 2019

- 09:30 *Registration and refreshments*
- 10:00 Welcome from organisers
- 10:15 Keynote: Professor Peter Somerville (University of Lincoln)
'Representing homelessness: too visible or not visible enough?'
- 10.45 **Session 1: Reporting homelessness**
Chair: Alex Andreou (formerly-homeless writer, newspaper columnist, and theatre company director)
- Dr Juliet Foster (King's College London)
The representation of homelessness in British newspapers
- Dr Owen Clayton (University of Lincoln)
Analysis of early twentieth century street newspapers
- InsightShare, participatory video facilitators (InsightShare Ltd)
Presentation about the participatory video *Not Just Homeless*
- Samir Jeraj (Author and Freelance Journalist)
'Look at his shoes': learning the world from homeless people.
- 12:15 *Lunch*
- 13:00 **Keynote:** David Ford (Founder and Head, Expert Link)
'The Full Story'
- 13:30 **Session 2: Homeless life stories**
Chair: Dr Amanda Roberts (University of Lincoln)
- Emma Forshaw, Richard Curtis and Paul Atherton (group of people with experience of homelessness), with Nigel Horner. Participants will discuss their life stories and the importance of representation and self-representation in living as homeless people
- Radcliffe Royds (Spoken-word performer)
A discussion of Radcliffe's life on the streets and battles with drug addictions, as well as self-representation in his recent work as a spoken-word performer
- Alex Andreou (formerly-homeless writer, newspaper columnist, and theatre company director)
A discussion of his life as a formerly homeless person and the importance of representation and textuality to his work as a writer, newspaper columnist and theatre company director

Professor Phil Brown and Professor Peter Somerville (University of Salford and University of Lincoln)
The importance of using biography in the study of homelessness, particularly related to their ESRC-funded project 'Losing and finding a home: a life course approach'

15:15 *Break*

15:45 Keynote: With One Voice
With One Voice and the Manchester Homeless Charter

16:15 **Roundtable and Q&A on 'Homelessness and Representation in Lincolnshire'**
Chair: Nigel Horner (University of Lincoln)

Babs Jobling (YMCA, Nomad)
Dr Amanda Roberts (University of Lincoln)
Thomas George (University of Lincoln)
Jonny Goldsmith (P3)
Let Them Eat Cake (Volunteer Outreach Group)
Lynsey Collinson (Development Plus)

17:15 Film screening of *Not Just Homeless*

18:00 End of first day of conference

Day 2: Friday 19 July 2019

- 09:00 *Registration and refreshments*
- 09:30 Keynote: Jess and Matt Turtle (Museum of Homelessness)
'Dehumanised perception, object story-telling, and shifting perceptions of Homelessness'
- 10:15 **Session 3: Homelessness and expertise**
Chair: Professor Peter Somerville (University of Lincoln)
- Tessa Buchanan (Garden Court Chambers)
Homelessness and public law: how rough sleepers can use the law for their protection
- Dr Beth Watts (Heriot-Watt University)
The ethics of public and policy responses to homelessness
- Dr Ligia Teixeira (The Centre for Homelessness Impact)
The scientific method and public policy
- Jon Kuhrt (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government)
Theological representation: the relevance of biblical texts in a context of homelessness
- 11:45 Martine Martin (Crisis), 'Reframing Homelessness: The Campaign to Repeal the Vagrancy Act (1824)'
- 12:15 *Lunch*
- 13:00 Performance by Streetwise Opera, an award-winning charity for people who have experienced homelessness
- 13:30 **Session 4: Homelessness and the arts**
Chair: Dr Owen Clayton (University of Lincoln)
- Nigel Horner (University of Lincoln)
Powerful learning: understanding others through the fictions of Charles Dickens and beyond
- Dr Tymon Adamczewski (Uniwersytet Kazimierza Wielkiego, Poland)
Literature and the experience of homelessness
- Dr Susan A. Phillips (Pitzer College, USA)
Street graffiti in Los Angeles' Skid Row
- Anthony Luvera (Coventry University)
Assisted Self-Portraits and Frequently Asked Questions: speaking out with people who have experienced homelessness
- 15:00 Concluding remarks
- 15:15 End of conference