

Representing homelessness

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

Convenors:

Dr Owen Clayton, University of Lincoln

Katie Dorr, University of Lincoln

Nigel Horner, University of Lincoln

Professor Peter Somerville, University of Lincoln



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?’
- 11:00 **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 filmmakers (Insightshare Ltd)
Presentation about the participatory documentary *Not Just Homeless*
- Lord John Bird MBE (Founder and Editor-in-Chief, *The Big Issue*; Crossbench member, House of Lords)
The role of the Big Issue in ‘representing’ homeless people
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 13:15 Keynote: Lord John Bird MBE (Founder and Editor-in-Chief, *The Big Issue*; Crossbench member, House of Lords)
On homelessness in modern Britain, followed by Q&A
- 14:00 **Session 2: Homeless life stories**
Chair: Dr Amanda Roberts (University of Lincoln)
- ‘Together’ (participation group of formerly and currently homeless speakers, University of Lincoln)
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'

15:30 *Break*

16:00 Keynote: With One Voice
With One Voice and the Manchester Homeless Charter

16:30 **Roundtable on 'Homelessness and Representation in Lincolnshire'**

Chair: Nigel Horner (University of Lincoln)

Sarah Turner (YMCA, Nomad)

Dr Amanda Roberts (University of Lincoln)

Thomas George (University of Lincoln)

Jonny Goldsmith (P3)

Let Them Eat Cake

Lynsey Collinson (Development Plus)

17:20 Film screening of *Not Just Homeless* (40 minutes)

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’
- 10:30 **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
- 12:00 *Lunch*
- 12:45 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