Call for Papers GISo Issue 14, Volume 7 2/2026

Youth homelessness - more than socialisation?

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Along with social crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic or wars, the number of people at risk of or affected by homelessness is rising internationally. It is striking that an increase in young homeless people is being recorded across all countries. While social, migration and housing policy failures are often overlooked in society's perception, responsibility for homelessness is often blamed on individuals and seen as the result of behaviour that deviates from the norm. In the case of young people, homelessness is usually viewed one-sidedly in relation to their parents.

Youth homelessness results in social exclusion, accompanied by stigmatisation and shame. Studies indicate that homelessness is not randomly distributed across the population: Growing up predominantly in families facing multiple challenges, the living conditions of young homeless people tend to be particularly precarious and are marked by experiences of exclusion within family, educational institutions and support systems. The biographical, psychological, social and economic challenges associated with familial and institutional conditions of growing up and becoming homeless point to the social marginalization of young people. Addressing these issues requires a focus on their housing situation: expanding housingoptions, improving access to housing and supporting pathways out of homelessness.

The marginalization experienced by young homeless people in everyday life is also reflected in research: to date, they have received very little academic attention in German-speaking countries. The GISo issue 14 Volume 7 2/2026 'Young homeless people - more than socialisation?' seeks to address this research gap. We invite empirical and theoretical contributions that investigate the causes of youth homelessness and the living conditions of young homeless people along the following lines:

- What individual, social and structural factors can contribute to youth homelessness?
- How do gender and/or migration influence homelessness and housing biographies?
- Beyond processes of socialisation, what role do social policies in particular play in the emergence and persistence of youth homelessness?
- What contribution can such policies play In supporting pathways out of homelessness?
- Which support systems are (not) accessed by young homeless people and why?

Contributions are welcome in German and English. We look forward to receiving abstracts of no more than 300 words by **15 September 2025** to **JuWoSoz@uni-trier.de**. Feedback will be provided by 15 October 2025. The deadline for submission of articles is 28 February 2026.