

MONDAY, AUG. 16, 2021

HOMELESSNESS RESEARCH AND POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Portland State University's [Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative](#) Roundtable Discussion with Oregon's Senator Jeff Merkley on homelessness research and policy.

Agenda:

- **Welcome:** Center Director Dr. Marisa Zapata welcomes participants and provides background on the research center and its work to address homelessness.
- **National Policy:** Oregon's Senator Jeff Merkley shares information about the [Affordable HOME Act](#) and the latest on the second infrastructure bill currently making its way through the reconciliation process. Sen. Merkley is working to include key provisions from his legislation in the bill.
- **Evictions Research:** Evictions play a key role in causing and perpetuating homelessness. Faculty Researcher Dr. Lisa K. Bates will discuss her [evictions research](#) and the downstream costs of evictions to local, state and the federal government and taxpayers.
- **Emergency/disaster response for those living unsheltered:** People living unsheltered were deeply impacted by the 2020 wildfire season yet received little assistance and in some cases were turned away. [Our survey](#) of people experiencing homelessness looks at the gaps while a research analysis examines the ways society uses language and how it might influence who gets help. Center Co-Founder Dr. Maude Hines and Graduate Research Assistant Emily Leickly discuss the findings.
- **Homelessness in higher education:** The center's [survey of PSU students](#) shows that one in six students experienced homelessness in a given year. It underscores a national reality that homelessness, housing insecurity, and basic needs insecurity is a part of the college experience for many students. Center Co-Founder Dr. Greg Townley and Dr. Katricia Stewart, a recent graduate of PSU, will share the findings. Student Research Assistant Shaun Hardy will share his experience and his involvement in a project [sharing stories of students experiencing homelessness](#) through comics in order to change the narrative about homelessness.
- **Questions** (moderated by Sara Hottman)
- **Closing Remarks** from Sen. Merkley and Dr. Zapata

PSU participants:

- **Dr. Marisa Zapata**, director of the Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative (HRAC) and associate professor of land-use planning at Portland State University, mazapata@pdx.edu
 - **Dr. Lisa K. Bates**, HRAC faculty researcher and associate professor at Portland State University in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning and is Portland Professor in Innovative Housing Policy. She is also affiliated with PSU's Black Studies department, lkbates@pdx.edu
 - **Dr. Maude Hines**, HRAC co-founder and associate professor of English and affiliate faculty in Black Studies and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, leads the fire narratives/disaster response team, mhines@pdx.edu
 - **Emily Leickly**, HRAC graduate research assistant, leickly@pdx.edu
 - **Dr. Greg Townley**, HRAC research director and associate professor of community psychology at Portland State University, gtownley@pdx.edu
 - **Dr. Katricia Stewart**, former HRAC graduate research assistant and senior policy analyst at Homebase, katricia@homebaseccc.org
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If you have additional questions, please contact Christina Williams at cdw2@pdx.edu and 503-539-3619.

Connect with Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative:

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