

CLAS Events - Lent Term 2025

Wednesday 26 February - 12:30pm | Lunchtime Seminar

Room S1 - First Floor, Alison Richard Building

Interactional contributions of homeless people to urban sustainability in Latin America

[Fraya Frehse](#) (Universidade de São Paulo)

Chair: [Pedro Mendes Loureiro](#) (University of Cambridge)

Abstract:

Is it possible to envisage within the socially controversial issue of homelessness any contributions for the United Nations (UN) urban-sustainability agenda in Latin America? By resorting to the interpretive outcomes of a transdisciplinary ethnographic research project on the everyday spatialities of homelessness in Covid-19 São Paulo (2020-2022), I argue that the contributions comprise patterns of face-to-face interaction by homeless people in public spaces. Regarding particularly SDG 11 (“make cities and urban settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”). I mean especially two types of interaction: (i) environmentally sustainable and (ii) environmentally inclusive interactions by homeless people with material objects, animals, and plants in streets and squares. They are already ongoing, *present-day* involuntary contributions by homeless people especially to the SDG 11 Targets 11.6 and 11.7 in Latin America.



Fraya Frehse is an Associate Professor of Sociology (of the City, of Space and Everyday Life) at the University of São Paulo (USP), a recent British Academy Visiting Fellow at CLAS (2023) and an Alumna of the Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Foundation. This time, Fraya staying at CLAS in the framework of a three-month AvH research stay at the Collaborative Research Centre 'Re-Figuration of Spaces' of Technische Universität Berlin. At USP, she coordinates the Center for Studies and Research on the Sociology of Space and Time (NEPSESTE) and the Laboratory of Social Research (LAPS) of the USP Department of Sociology. She is also a member of the 'Global Cities' Program of the

USP Institute of Advanced Studies (IEA). In her seminar at CLAS, Fraya addresses outcomes of her forthcoming co-edited book *Spatial Methods in Transdisciplinarity for Urban Sustainability: A Transformative Methodological Spectrum* (Springer Nature, due April 2025).