

**Disrupting discrimination against
older people experiencing homelessness
(OPEH) through community-based
arts initiatives**

**Lin Chen, Rachel Weldrick,
Eduardo Della Foresta, Alison Grittner**

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What comes to mind?



Discrimination defined

- “Discrimination occurs when an individual is treated differently ... solely on the basis of ... an interplay of characteristics:
 - Race
 - Sexual orientation
 - Religion
 - Physical disability
 - Mental illness
 - Age
 - Citizenship status
 - Gender
 - and/or Socioeconomic status.”

(Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2021)

Homeism

“The stigma and discrimination against an individual based on their housing status.”

(Canham and Humphries, 2020)

Older People and Homeism

- Research has found that people who first experience homelessness at age 50 and older “more often have gone through a financial or health crisis in later life, lost a loved one or experienced a relationship breakdown.”
- These intersecting challenges can impact numerous outcomes, including:
 - Employment
 - Income security
 - Health
 - Access to services.

Anecdote



- From the perspective of a non-profit service provider supporting seniors in navigating housing options in BC

Disrupting discrimination through community-based arts initiatives

- Three community-based arts initiatives:
 - *Community Conversations* stereotype card project (Rachel)
 - *Atelier Mobile Montreal* (Eduardo)
 - Art Hive project at *James House* (Alison)

