

Fall 2022, Colloquium

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UH 432



**Nobodies: *The Role of the
Administrative State in Perpetuating
Urban Homelessness***

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Each year, governments at all levels in the US spend billions of dollars to resolve the urban homelessness crisis. However, any effort to end urban homelessness is inherently a coproduced process which involves state agencies, their affiliates, and unhoused citizens. Through an ethnography focused on homelessness reduction efforts in Dallas, Dr. Hannah Lebovits finds that when people who experience homelessness interact with the state, these encounters take the form of attacks on the rights of unhoused people. As a result, few homeless people can successfully reach a point of self-actualization and distance from the vulnerable conditions that lead to homelessness. Lebovits argues for a reconceptualization of citizen-state encounters as "citizenship by other means," and to consider the implications of the limits to democratic citizenship imposed by the administrative state.