



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2022

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Poverty in paradise: Author Josephine Ensign discusses Seattle's history of homelessness

EVERETT, WA – Join Josephine Ensign for a virtual author talk about her book [*Skid Road: On the Frontier of Health and Homelessness in an American City*](#) on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 6 p.m. Sign up or join online here: www.crowdcast.io/e/skidroad.

Skid Road is a narrative history of the thousands of people who live unhoused in Seattle. Informed by the author's own lived experience of homelessness, as well as her more than three decades working as a family nurse practitioner providing primary healthcare to homeless people, the book draws on oral interviews with professionals working at the intersection of health and homelessness. Ensign's work deepens our understanding of the historical roots of poverty and homelessness, trauma and resilience.

"Timely, unique, and important. I have never read a book quite like this one," says Sarah K. Rankin, director of the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project. "A gifted writer, Ensign uses narrative history to reveal various intersectionalities and tensions in the machine of structural and systemic inequities, oppression, violence, and trauma. Her storytelling touches on racism, sexism, xenophobia, colonialism, and religion as historical contributors to the live, undulating city of Seattle we have today. History buffs, especially Seattle ones, will find it irresistible."

Josephine Ensign is a professor of nursing at the University of Washington (UW) School of Nursing in Seattle, Washington, where she teaches health policy, public health and health humanities. She is an adjunct professor in the UW School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies. Her scholarship focuses on health and social inequities for people marginalized by poverty and homelessness. Her essays have appeared in *The Sun*, *Front Porch Journal*, *Pulse*, *Silk Road*, *The Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine*, *Electric Literature*, *The Examined Life Journal*, *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, and the *Johns Hopkins Public Health Magazine*.

This program is free and open to the public. Call 425-257-8000 or visit www.epls.org/events for more information about this or other library programs. Save your spot or join the program at www.crowdcast.io/e/skidroad.

The Everett Public Library was founded in 1894 by the Everett Woman's Book Club. The historic Main Library was built in 1934 by architect Carl Gould, and the Evergreen Branch opened in 1985. The library's two branches serve the residents of the City of Everett and nearby locales, circulating over 400,000 items per year and hosting hundreds of programs for children and adults. We connect the community to resources and services that inform, educate, and entertain. For more information about the Everett Public Library, visit www.epls.org.

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