

Dr Aleksandra Galasinska

University of Wolverhampton, UK

Post-enlargement migration from Poland.

Description:

Migrants often told their stories of departure, voyage, coping and settling down, or indeed struggling with their new live. Oral version of these accounts, as well as written forms such as letters, diaries or memoirs, have been a focus of analysis by researches representing numerous fields. Explosion of new technologies and new form of communication enable storytellers to extend the range of ways of narrating their experiences. This course will explore migrants' accounts delivered in many different modes of discourse. Students will be presented with a variety of examples of migrant storytelling, ranging from traditional oral narratives, press texts, forum discussions, (photo)blogs, and other visual material. Methodologically, this course will be anchored in textual, narrative and visual analysis and students will discover how to look for, identify, and follow patterns of similarities and differences at the level of both, form and content, of data under investigation.

Dynamics of Polish discourses on migration will be explored by pointing to the evident discursive struggle between, on the one hand, the new accounts on migration in the early 21st century and, on the other hand, Polish 'old' historical grand-narrative of migration. Two questions are going to be examined in particular: 1) what constitutes post-enlargement migrants' narrative of migration; and 2) how this narrative is created and how it is used as a form of negotiation with, as well as resistance towards, the national, historically-bounded, decontextualised (as well as, to a large extent, mythical) grand narrative of migration. In conclusion the link between discourses of migration and new trans-local discourses of Polish social and economic transformation in the context of the EU expansion after 2004 will also be scrutinized.

Schedule:

Part I Introductory classes

1. General discussion about the course and evaluations.
2. Key concepts in multimodality, discourse and narrative analysis.

Part II Private and semi-private stories of migration

3. *The grand narrative* of Polish migration.
4. Lost in communism, lost in migration: Post-89 migrants' experience.

5. The changing concept of living space among Polish post-enlargement migrants.
6. Discourses on a 'normal life' among Polish migrants.
7. Small stories fight back.
8. Migration is holiday, but leisure is not a pleasure.
9. Getting in touch.
10. Gossiping in the Polish club.

Part III Semi-public and public discourses of migration

11. The (pro)long(ed) life of *grand narrative* of migration.
12. Leavers and stayers discuss returning home.
13. Narrating migration, narrating transformation.
14. Students' presentations.
15. Students' presentations.
16. Concluding seminar.

Course evaluation:

Group assignment 40%

Students, two or three together, will work on assignment in which they shall do a small fieldwork on a topic of post-enlargement migration from Poland (i.e. a short interview with migrants or their families). Students will present the assignment to their fellow students in class.

Essay 60%

Students write an essay on some subject connected to the content of the course that interests them. Length of the essay should be around 3000 words. Do not count title page and bibliography. Students must refer to at least 5 articles from the course reading list or other academic articles that they find themselves. Essays shall be e-mailed to Dr. Galasinska a.galasinska@wlv.ac.uk according to the said deadline (TBA).

Reading Material:

- Burrell, Kathy (ed.). 2009, *Polish Migration to the UK in the 'New' European Union. After 2004*. Surrey & Burlington: Ashgate.
- Garapich, Michal (ed.). 2011, Migration between Poland and United Kingdom, *Studia Migracyjne-Przegląd Polonijny XXXVII, 1(139) (special issue)*.

More texts will be announced in due course. Most of the reading will be provided as pdf documents.

Students are also encouraged to find more texts and information independently, i.e. at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/polis/networks/polish-migration/> : see for example publications list there <http://www.bath.ac.uk/polis/networks/polish-migration/publications/> , as well as new books and special issues <http://www.bath.ac.uk/polis/networks/polish-migration/books/>