

Interdisciplinary Research Conference

New Migrations, New Narrations Contemporary Migration Experience: Patterns – Strategies – Contexts.

The Purpose of the Conference

The 21st century is referred to by the migration researchers as the age of migration, and migration processes are considered one of the most powerful factors of social change. The discussion on migration remains relevant, and the purpose of the proposed conference is to expand the scope of theoretical and scientific exploration of this phenomenon. The Authors of the project propose to go beyond the so-called mainstream research and the well-established research topics, often undertaken as part of migration studies. The Authors' assumption is that the conference will serve to reflect the new meanings and narratives that make up the image of what migrations are in the modern world and what may fall within the scope of this phenomenon. Within this approach, we propose to look at migration broadly, from various perspectives, encompassing by this term not only the traditional ways of its understanding. We are convinced that the conference will not only serve the exchange of research and theoretical experiences but also that the topics discussed within it will constitute a kind of announcement of the directions which future research may follow.

We expect that the conference topics will cover the below-listed scopes, as well as the related issues:

Proposed topics:

1. Migration as a Form of Disagreement: the proposed topic refers to the types of migration that are determined by a specific escape from actual or postulated social norms; that are related to the inability of living in the existing system due to current political, environmental, moral, mental or conscious conditions. This form of migration may manifest itself in various types of (self)exclusion, like the so-called "exclusion at the top", living in gated communities, in enclaves (including subcultural or ethnic ones), squatting, escaping into homelessness, nomadicity, etc. Metaphorically, its meaning is conveyed by the words "drop it all and go to the live in the mountains", quite common in daily discourse. The scope of such type of migration may also include migration of customs, ideology or non-heteronormative groups.

2. Migration in its Intra-psychological Dimension: the purpose of this session is to focus on the socio-psychological (i.e. more affective) dimension of migration. On the one hand, the emphasis will be put on the mental aspect of migration, expressed i.a. in various forms of escaping into the spiritual dimension, creative activity (e.g. writing, blogs, etc.) or focusing on body development (e.g. yoga). On the other hand, migration will be considered here as a form of alienation, withdrawal, confinement to small, primary social groups or limitation of social activity to the online world. It seems interesting to compare here the old (i.e. the Cold War) period and contemporary "revolts and escapes".

3. Migration as a Factor of Cultural Diffusion: the purpose of this session is to describe not only the global dimension of migration but also to focus on the causative nature of the migrants, who themselves are the main carriers of elements of different cultures. Since the

cultural diffusion takes place through migration transfers and is a factor favoring the development of the culture, the migrants should be considered important actors of the change and development. The proposed session is an attempt to answer the very general questions: what do migrations and the migrants actually give us? What has joined the cultural circulation thanks to the migrants? What sort of objects, items, works of art, science, music, cultural content, social behavior are being spread? What are the channels for such transfers? What is subject to the changes: the urban spaces, institutions, patterns of consumption, everyday culture? What is the scope and what are the consequences of such changes? To what extent (referring to R. Florida's concept of the role of creative capital) do migrants support the fostering of such type of capital and, consequently, the development of specific societies? The concept of the session is to describe migrants not from the perspective of passive recipients of the existing reality to which they adapt (which is often the case in scientific discourse) but from the perspective of agency, assigning them the status of subjectivity and a role in constructing and transforming the social reality.

4. Diversification of Migration Inflows (the "accompanying" migration): the proposed topic relates to the issue of diversification of migration inflows, their specific pluralism, and the diversity within them. The purpose of the session is to present research on all groups which participate in the migration process but are often invisible, unnoticeable, and therefore poorly recognized and described. We mean here e.g. multicultural migration inflows and emigration of minority groups being part of major migration waves from certain countries (e.g. Roma or Ukrainians migrating from Poland along with the Poles), the families of migrating specialists or the parents migrating with their children. We are interested in both the historical, contemporary, quantitative (statistical) and qualitative image of the phenomenon.

5. The Experience of Migration as an Artistic Material: migrations have been the subject of literature, films and photo exhibitions showing newcomers in their new places of settlement since the 19th century. Artistic works present both the (often dramatic) experiences of the process of adapting to the new reality and (very commonly) the disappointment related to it. *Pan Balcer w Brazylii* by Konopnicka, *The Emigrants* by Mrozek, *My zdzies' emigranty* by Gretkowska, *The Global Nation* by Kopaczewski, along with numerous Polish and foreign films or even the songs from *Tata Kazika* album, tell us all about the same issue yet not in the identical way. Within this session we want to look at how the multi-faceted experience of migration becomes a material of art, a literary narrative and the basis of films, as well as a topic of prose with a reportage and memoir character. We are primarily interested in contemporary works and those relating to the present times but we leave space for a new look at old migrations as well.

6. Migration as a Retirement Strategy: retirement emigration is one of the forms of migration that will become increasingly important in the coming decades, what is largely determined by the demographic changes in modern societies, especially in the West. In this session, we propose to place migration in the perspective of the life cycle and to present it as one of the strategies of coping with the old age (or more broadly: as a way of life and a proactive coping strategy in late adulthood). The phenomenon of increasing scale and size of retirement migration opens up new research perspectives, and the proposed session is an opportunity to present them along with up-to-date analyzes done in this area.

7. New Directions of Migration, New Places for the Diasporas: this session will be dedicated to new directions of migration and to the new countries included in the migration process. Although research on migration patterns and directions is very intensive nowadays,

this does not mean that all destinations or ethnic and national groups participating in the migration flows are widely known. The session aims to present the research on these less described, sometimes perceived quite marginally, directions of migration and the places of living of the members of specific diasporas.

8. "New Ethnicity" in the Conditions of a Migratory Society and the (re)Construction of Identity: the "new ethnicity" has become the topic of the last session. Since the literature on the subject often focuses on the contextual and processual dimension of ethnicity, the main purpose of the session will be reflecting the impact of changes in the nature of the recent migration processes and intense socio-cultural changes on the phenomenon of ethnicity. Along with these changes, the ways in which members of ethnic and immigrant groups integrate into broader society and the forms of their participation in their own communities also become subject to transformation. This context prompts us to ask about new narratives, images and functions of ethnicity, new behavioral practices related to conformity to the norms, rules and customs of a given ethnic group, new group needs and interests. In other words, as H. J. Gans said, to ask about the "new ways of being ethnic."

The topics presented above do not exclude the presence of others that the conference organizers did not take into account.

We invite you to present your own new narratives about migration.

Conference outcomes: post-conference publication

Estimated date and place of the conference: June 27th -28th 2024, Krakow, Poland

CONFERENCE FEE

The conference fee is PLN 650, which covers participation in the conference, conference materials, coffee breaks, lunch on June 27th and 28th, 2024, gala dinner on June 27th, and post-conference publication.

It should be done after receiving information about the acceptance of the paper.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE – IMPORTANT DATES:

Registration lasts until April 21st, 2024.

Information about acceptance of the application on April 30th, 2024.

Fee deadline: June 5th, 2024

Final program information sent - June 20th, 2024

Application form: <https://forms.office.com/e/nGzhrrwb37>

Organizers of the Conference:

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