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### Coming Back Home? Narratives on the "Recovery" in Post-Displacement Poland

The postwar period in Central Europe saw a mass displacement of millions of people. In Poland, newly established within the changed borders, the simultaneous process of expulsion and resettlement took place. After the so-called Recovered Territories, i.e. the formerly German regions were

healthcare access for these groups. In the specific case of Polish reception of refugees from Ukraine in early 2022, the ruling Law and Justice party was prepared to make relatively far-reaching legislative changes to facilitate the accommodation of Ukrainians fleeing the invasion, including ensuring their access to healthcare. Based on Polish healthcare data research and reports from stakeholders, this paper shows that even where the rare political will does exist to accommodate a refugee group, existing infrastructures of healthcare and border control have already come to mesh

Izabela Grabowska, Ivanna Kyliushyk and Agata Jastrzebowska

Perceived social support embedded in social capital in three groups in Poland: Ukrainian migrants, Polish returnees and non-migrants



economic and legal dimensions, and structures life opportunities. This article explores how categories such as 'Eastern European' are deployed, invoked and how they are put to work – via policy or the law. The analysis shows how neoliberal policies – including the precarization of labour, the politics of austerity and the fortification of borders – have attributed a distinctive positionality to 'Eastern Europeans' in West European racial hierarchies. On this basis, I suggest that people from Europe's East are distinctively, yet ambiguously racialised, and discuss various facets of this ambiguity. Most notably, 'Eastern Europe' is inferiorized within Europe, but is often positioned within global racialised categories of 'Europeanness'. This distinctive racialisation, I argue, is not a product of 21<sup>st</sup> century mobilities but reflects and reproduces the longstanding peripheralization of the region. Of course, racialisation shapes people's everyday lives after migration; yet, it also channels the life opportunities of those born in the East of the EU over the course of generations.

Kasia Narkowicz

### [The only thing we received was the clapping': experiences of Polish essential workers during Covid](#)

Covid-19 exacerbated existing global inequalities, further deepening the already precarious lives of many migrant workers. For Poles in the UK, the pandemic has negatively impacted on their financial situation and mental health and contributed to an increased sense of discrimination. Consequently, many Poles are either returning to Poland or considering leaving the UK. To better understand the position of Poles in the UK as both Eastern Europeans and as essential workers overrepresented in low-papr(f)9(e)-3(uk)-6(e)-3 and as essential workers

Krystyna Slany and Magdalena Iusarczyk

### [Migrant children in a Polish school and their integration during the COVID-19 pandemic. Experiences of children and teachers](#)

Migrant children became a permanent and important element of the Polish school. However, due to their migrant status, cultural difference and family situation, they are a group particularly exposed to various educational risks, school risks, insecurity, isolation or psychological problems. Based on the results of the research project Children Hybrid Integration: Learning Dialogue as a way of upgrading policies of participation (CHILD UP) we would like to present the situation of migrant children - an invisible, undiscussed subject in the context of experiences and challenges of education and inclusion during the pandemic. We propose this topic because the educational problems of migrant children, especially during COVID-19, were crucial for their inclusion, their educational opportunities, their better future. Crucial for us is the voice of the children, who talk openly about their learning failures, fears, peer relationships, digital competences, but also the advantages of learning during the pandemic. The research reveals different experiences in work, learning, school relationships but also children's participation and sense of agency as well as allow them to gain epistemic authority. Based on the results of our research, we also make recommendations on how to better respond to the needs of the pupils and increase their participation in the learning process, which is especially important when currently the number of pupils with a migrant background is increasing significantly as a result of the war in Ukraine.

Aleksandra Szkudlarek

### [Coincidence or a conscious choice? British lifestyle migrants in Poland](#)

The topic of Polish migration to Great Britain is often raised by researchers, for instance, due to the scale of this phenomenon. However, reverse mobility usually remains beyond the sphere of scientific interest. Especially the issue of lifestyle-related migration from the UK to Poland has not been addressed so far (except for the small exploratory study, cf. Andrejuk 2017). Although Poland is not a typical destination for lifestyle migrants who tend to choose places with a better climate, more peaceful and relaxed atmosphere, some other factors like the possibility of maximizing capitals or regaining work-life balance attract. Based on the content analysis of YouTube channels created by British migrants residing in Poland and 30 in-depth semi-structured interviews with British lifestyle migrants, my paper investigates factors behind individuals' migration decisions and their choice of destination, the perception of the host country and its inhabitants before and after the move and the changes in the sense of belonging over time of British lifestyle migrants in Poland. The postcolonial perspective will be used to make sense of my findings. Additionally, intersectional approach will be utilized to help to understand migrants' positions on mobility, integration and transnational continuums (White 2022), constituting more comprehensive picture of the Brits residing in Poland. The study fills the gaps in the knowledge of Brits in Poland, contributes to a broader understanding of the phenomenon of migration from Western countries and the application of the concept of lifestyle migration in other geographical and cultural contexts where it has not been previously used.

Dirk Uffelmann

### [Poles among Others: Literary Perspectives on Mutual Othering among Polish and Other Migrants in Britain since 2004](#)

Perspectives on the lives of migrants in their host countries tend to be bicultural, which is at odds with the multi-ethnic reality



This paper proposes migrant literature as an antidote to bicultural restrictions. It endeavors to provide a comparative reading of writings by Polish migrant authors about interactions with other migrants in Britain and other migrant writers' perceptions of Poles. The corpus consists of post-accession texts. Given that the authors draw on diverse—Polish, British, Ukrainian, Latvian, and other East European—traditions of cultural and/or economic Othering, this paper scrutinizes both the mutual Orientalizing tendencies and the transnationalizing trajectories involved.

## Anne White

Polish cities of migration: life in Kalisz, Piła and Płock as experienced by Ukrainians and 'other foreigners' -- Armenian, Australian, Bangladeshi, Belarusian, Italian, Kazakh, Kenyan, Nigerian, Syrian, Russian, Taiwanese, Turkish, Uruguayan and Venezuelan

According to statistics, Poland now has net immigration, and, in terms of self-identification, the biggest cities are 'cities of immigration' rather than 'emigration'. However, smaller cities present a more complex picture. Migration in both directions is significant to their identities. On the one hand, foreigners increasingly arrive to work and settle not just in the biggest Polish cities, but also in smaller places. On the other, despite Poland's overall economic growth in recent decades, smaller cities often maintain identities as 'cities of emigration'. Furthermore, plenty of Polish residents are return or circ U cent decades,