

## **DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Contemporary sociological literature is dominated by images of cities inhabited by the members of the middle class. It contains a rather detailed description of places frequented by the creative class, as well as spaces important for daily life of the new urban middle class. It also offers a fairly deep insight into dwelling practices and mobility patterns typical for the upper reaches of the society. From this perspective it also creates various conceptualizations of a city present in a lived experience, calling it a “global city”, “postmodern city”, “networked city”, “world city” or “creative city”. Persons present on the lower tiers of social structure are conceptually locked into “enclaves” or “ghettos”. Their way of experiencing urban space is conceptualized as “spatial exclusion” and reduced to territorial aggregation of marginalization factors, spatial concentration of poverty, exclusion from access to living and public space or limitation of spatial mobility. Contemporary sociological literature does not pay enough attention to subjectivity of marginalized social actors and spatial aspects of this subjectivity. This project aims to challenge these shortages by focusing on spatial practices of homeless persons, as well as a city present in their daily experience.

Studies conducted as a part of this project shall include exploration of urban space with street homeless persons from three Polish regional capitals — in the form of research walks, as well as photographing and mapping their existential spaces. Additionally, analytic autoethnography shall be used for analysis of multisensory experience of urban space and practical knowledge acquired by the researcher during walks with homeless persons.

Project results — empirically established theses regarding the ways of articulating subjectivity by homeless persons in social and spatial dimensions — can contribute to revision of current concepts of spatial exclusion, dwelling and agency, as well as be used in design of public policies and social activity related to prevention and alleviation of homelessness. The project is characterized also by education value. The study itself, due to its participative character, can be perceived as a performative action with a potential of destigmatization. Hence it can provide specific social benefits, such as a better understanding and change of image of homeless people experiencing negative effects of stereotyping.