

## **Intergenerational transfers and life strategies of second-generation immigrants: Polish immigrant families in Berlin**

Research on Polish migration to Germany focused mainly on lives of the first generation of Polish immigrants in Germany. There is relatively little research carried out about their descendants and on the intergenerational relationships of immigrant families. The project will combine these two areas of research and will deepen knowledge about both the second generation of immigrants and family relationships. Its main goal is to analyse intergenerational transfers of capitals in an immigrant family between the first and second generation of immigrants. The main research question in the study is about how first generation's capital resources (economic, cultural and social) shape life strategies of second generation in Polish immigrant families in Berlin? This analysis will capture different types of life strategies that second generation of immigrants embraces in German society.

While first generations of immigrants usually experience a decline in social status in the receiving society, second generations experience in general an increase in status. Whether they succeed depends on a number of different factors: the economic status of parents, parents' investments in children (e.g. education), parents' legal status, the character of neighbourhood in which they were brought up, their knowledge of German, discrimination in Germany or ties to parents' country of origin. These factors affect different national groups to varying degrees, therefore their social mobility will not be the same. These ethnic groups have their own specific ways of dealing with the difficulties they encounter in the receiving society. Some do this by investing in economic capital, accumulating financial goods, others focus on building family and ethnic social networks, hence on building social capital or transferring skills and education to children, what constitutes their cultural capital in the sense of Pierre Bourdieu's theory. This project, by examining Polish immigrant families, will allow us to enter into the first generation immigrants' daily lives and it will bring us closer to their habits and the way they transfer and accumulate various capitals.

The study will be based on biographical interviews with the first and the second generation of Polish immigrants in Berlin. This will capture the perspective of parents and their offspring. By the second generation of immigrants of Polish origin, I mean people who were born in Germany or immigrated there at an early age, i.e. before starting education. They will be the adult descendants of Poles who immigrated to Germany in the 1980s and 1990s largely for economic reasons.

In the study, I will trace the process of growing up in an immigrant family set in a multicultural city, but with transnational (Polish-German) connections with Poland.