

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

From the very beginning, football supporters' groups in Poland were associated with pro-national attitudes. They can be seen especially in activities such as organized trips for the football national team away games, in the choreographies and other initiatives aimed to commemorate important historical moments for Poles or referring to the historical policy (e.g. the spectacular banner about 'German death camps') and in the different kinds of pro-national manifestations in the public sphere (e.g. Independence March). The purpose of the project is to (1) reveal the nature of the national ideologies (which are set of ideas and symbols about the nation that nationalize certain elements of the social space, i.e. show who and what belongs to the nation) and forms of nationalism connected to them, behind narratives presented in Polish football stands; (2) to describe the historical process of their formation by connecting their genesis and process of evolution with a wider national discourse, and (3) to study how these ideologies are linked with social and political attitudes. In order to address these questions, the wide spectrum of qualitative methods (participant observation, individual in-depth interviews with supporters engaging in pro-national initiatives, the analysis of national discourse at the stadiums) and survey research (conducted on a national representative sample, within which football supporters will be extracted) will be used.

The project has a pioneering nature, because so far, the national ideologies of football supporters and their relationship with social and political attitudes have never been a subject of systematic analyses in Poland. The results of the research will, therefore, fill a gap in the field of research on football supporters. Capturing the detailed nature and genesis of national ideologies of football supporters will make it possible to go beyond the intuitive and superficial labels describing pro-national attitudes of football supporters presented in the Polish public discourse.