

The aim of the project is to analyse the biographical experiences of people born between 1980 and 2005 and to characterise the mutual influence between the individual perspective and socio-cultural macroprocesses (also reflected in media discourse) characteristic of the period referred to here as post-transformation. The study focuses on the last two decades, which at the same time are still influenced by the (collective) experience of systemic transformation in Poland. The basic empirical material is constructed on the basis of the analysis of the biographical experiences of people born in the decades of the 1980s and 1990s and in the years 2000-2005. In the collected autobiographical narrative interviews we will study the process of transition from one period of social change (transformation) to another (post-transformation). Transformation is defined as a process of social change, for which the symbolic turning point in political, social and economic terms was 1989. Post-transformation is understood as a contemporary process, i.e. the time "after" the systemic transformation, which is a significantly new aspect of social change. It is shaped by at least two global processes: 1) the explosion of social media and the internal logic of the virtual world changing people's lives in general and deepening intergenerational differences in particular 2) dynamic cultural changes concerning value systems and attitudes. The research focuses on the biographical perspective of "ordinary people" and on the analysis of media discourse as socially constitutive and contingent - a key factor in the social construction of social life. The research perspective is based on biographical approaches, in particular Fritz Schütze's biographical sociology and discourse analysis, and additionally on revisiting and reanalysing data from our previous project on the experience of systemic transformation. The main point of reference in our research is the comparative perspective between biographical experiences and the way they are interpreted by people born between 1980 and 2005. A second and auxiliary research method is discourse analysis. Treating discourse not only as a structure, but also as a processual phenomenon, we will analyse publicly available texts of websites (Internet platforms) that reflect opinion-forming Polish newspapers and Internet sources identified by selected informants. The aim of the project is to investigate the relationship between the studied discourse(s) and the emic categories, autotheories and argumentative structures presented in the conducted autobiographical narrative interviews.

As part of the research work, biographical experiences of people born in the 1980s, 1990s and at the beginning of the 21st century will be conducted, analysed and compared. The cohort of people born in the 1980s should be considered the first fully-fledged "beneficiaries" of the systemic transformation in Poland, while those born in the decade of the 1990s and 2000s are to a greater extent the subjects and objects of post-transformation processes and are brought up in the times of the "new new media".

The project has the following objectives: 1) to capture and analyse the dynamics of the post-transformation process in the perspective of individual biographies; 2) to focus on the sociological analysis of everyday experience and the biographical reconstruction of the process of recent change; 3) to examine how different biographical circumstances (e.g. education, occupation, family, social relations and engagements) influence individual or collective adaptation strategies and how these are presented in the interview; 4) to analyse and critically examine the established interpretative schemes offered by the public discourse - especially the neoliberal slogans of individualism, agency, life projects, by showing the diversity of experiences contextualised in biographies and influencing ways of coping in post-transition times; 5) gaining insights into collective social processes in which biographical experiences come to the fore; 6) capturing how experiences of recent significant phenomena, such as the Covid-19 pandemic or recent socio-political events (e.g. the women's strike) are represented in biographical accounts and how they are interpreted depending on biographically conditioned situations, beliefs and value systems; 7) exploring generational differences in ideologies, value hierarchies, attitudes and social worlds.

The project will result in the publication of articles in scientific journals and a monograph published in English.