

The proposed project is entitled: **Intersectionality of migration, disability and gender in contemporary Poland**. The **problem** it aims to resolve is related to the construction and links between migrant status, disability status and gender. This project aims to bring together three interests within Sociology in order to identify links between disability, migration and gender and to explore the experiences of migrants with disabilities as some of the most marginalized individuals in societies today. Through this project, I wish to gather new knowledge and gain a better understanding in relation to migrants with disabilities and gender and hope to contribute to a more inclusive debate within the Social Sciences.

This project aims to answer the following questions:

1. How do migration, disability and gender intersect in the lives of migrants with disabilities?
2. What are the experiences of voluntary and forced migrants with disabilities in contemporary Poland?

Historically, the academic discipline of Disability Studies has ignored the experiences of people who are migrants while Migration Studies often excluded people with disabilities. This is a surprising omission from both fields of study given that many disabled people are migrants, and many migrants are disabled people. There is a clear lack of knowledge about people with disabilities among migrant populations while migrants with disabilities represent significant minorities worldwide. Migrants with disabilities are among the most vulnerable and exposed to exploitation. Despite this, disability and migration have rarely been considered together. The complex needs of migrants with disabilities are largely unknown and unmet with a lack of data on their number and profile. Migration policies exclude disabled people, and disabled migrants remain a hidden population in Poland and worldwide. While forced migrants who escape armed, environmental or other disasters, due to nature of their movements, are or may become disabled, other groups of migrants (e.g. economic) may also identify as disabled. My aim here is to focus on both voluntary and forced migrants with disabilities.

This project that lies across the disciplines of Migration Studies and Disability Studies has the potential to have a significant impact on both Migration Studies and Disability Studies scholarship. Bringing these disciplines closer together will foster continuous future dialogue which will eventually redress the imbalance in knowledge and literature regarding migrants with disabilities. The themes of disability and migration are particularly relevant in light of the current events in Poland and at its borders with Ukraine and Belarus where many migrant reception centres are dealing with lots of new arrivals, some of whom will be classed as disabled. The social construct of gender is here considered as another way of categorizing people and is particularly relevant in the current Polish context where many war refugees, the majority of whom are women, arrived in Poland due to the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine. Apart from academic contributions, this project has the potential to demonstrate many implications for policy and practice linked to: Poland as a new immigration country; voluntary and forced migrants' integration practices; and challenges faced by migrants with disabilities.

The set questions will be addressed through: a review of existing literature; primary data collection using individual and group interviews with migrants with disabilities and key informants; transcription and interpretation of results; and writing up of the study findings. A creative innovative element of short films co-production together with the respondents will be employed as an additional interview technique. The literature review involves Sociology texts within both Migration Studies and Disability Studies as well as Health Humanities and other relevant fields. Peer researchers who identify as migrants with disabilities will be recruited in order to inform the research process and to minimize the risks related to participant recruitment and attainment. Institutional ethical approval will be sought and secured prior to data collection. The risks that will be considered are related to the following three elements: risk to research; risk to participants; and risk to the researchers. The data will be analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis.