

The development patterns of metropolitan areas are becoming increasingly global and no longer limited solely to Western countries. Based on this assumption, within the scope of the project, we will attempt to answer the question: Do suburbs in Poland, similarly to those in Western countries, transform into so-called "post-suburbia," which refers to areas relatively independent of the central city? Currently, we do not know the significance of this phenomenon, at what stage it is, and the direction in which suburbs in Polish major cities will develop. The main goal of our project, therefore, is to examine the level of suburban emancipation in large Polish cities. Suburban emancipation involves the development of these areas as self-sufficient in terms of employment and service markets, no longer dependent on central cities. We aim to achieve this by analyzing three aspects:

1. Functional emancipation, which entails the development and assumption of supra-local functions that were traditionally associated with central cities.
2. Political emancipation, signifying the increasing importance of suburban local authorities and their leaders within the entire metropolitan area.
3. Social emancipation, concerning the growing participation of suburban residents in social activities that are independent of the city center while not exclusively rural in character.

Our objective is to create research tools that will help us identify and measure the characteristics and current level of suburban development. The research will be based on the analysis of the six most populous metropolitan areas in Poland, along with their central cities (Warsaw, Kraków, Łódź, Wrocław, Poznań, and Tricity), and the surrounding municipalities in the first and second ring.

Our innovative approach to studying the transformation of suburbs into post-suburbia aims to provide new insights into the development of cities and metropolitan areas in Poland, aligning with the major research trends worldwide related to such areas. The project also introduces innovative elements that can contribute new threads to the theory of suburbanization on a global scale. We expand the concept of post-suburbia to include elements of governance, political emancipation, and social emancipation of suburbs, which have been insufficiently described in the literature thus far. Various methods will be utilized in the research, such as statistical data analysis, geoinformation tools for spatial analysis, as well as interviews with key individuals and institutions crucial for local development.