

This project aims to understand reproductive agency, defined as “reproductive autonomy”, and “procreative liberty” in the context of the connections between reproductive justice, social reproduction, state policies, capitalism, and democratization practices. Focusing on Poland, where diverse and sometimes conflicting values coexist, empirically the study examines reproductive agency as a complex practice involving tension and conflict. It aims at addressing three broad research questions:

- 1) How do agentive practices manifest in the context of reproduction in Poland?
- 2) How is agency expressed in relation to various power structures and individual subjectivity formation?
- 3) Are the frameworks of reproductive justice and social reproduction applicable to researching reproductive agency in Poland?

Theoretically the study draws on Susan Ortner's distinction between "agency for projects" (focused on intentionality) and "agency for power" (acting within social inequities) to explore how members of marginalized groups, facing limited access to reproductive rights, can still assert control over their actions and influence power dynamics (Cleeve 2017, Ortner 2006). To broaden the reproductive agency debate beyond abortion, it adopts a reproductive justice approach, a novel perspective in qualitative and quantitative social studies in Poland. Using of reproductive justice is crucial for highlighting how intersectional experiences of power and oppression shape reproductive practices in the Polish context. This approach also allows for understanding the impact of legal, economic, social, and cultural factors on individual and collective experiences (Dzwonkowska-Godula, 2020; Solinger, 2017). Analytical tools of social reproduction theory (SRT) provide a broader framework for empirical research, allowing for testing the possibility of reframing reproduction as a form of production and labor, and prompting a reconsideration of the value assigned to the work involved in "creating and maintaining life" (Bhattacharya, 2017; Federici, 2021).

In the project qualitative and quantitative methods are used to explore the reproductive agency of diverse groups in Poland. The research tools include: 9 focus groups and approx. 70 narrative interviews, and survey. Participants of the research are over 18 years old and span the following groups: women living in urban settings, rural women, migrants living in Poland, Polish women living in Iceland, women with disabilities, cis non-heterosexual women, men with previous experience of transition (transmen), non-binary individuals, representatives of NGOs and abortion referral collectives.

This research yields a medium-scale dataset on varied reproductive experiences in Poland, and introduces a novel approach to reproductive agency, considering intersectional and comparative aspects of the reproductive experiences of various groups. The data, accessible as an open-source digital dataset, will benefit civil society, policymakers, and the public. Scientifically, project results contribute to studies on everyday social reproduction, resistance and re-democratization, and the theory of "caring democracy". Societally the study empowers marginalized groups, recognizing the value of reproductive work, and offering a fresh perspective for policymakers at different levels regarding reproductive and social justice.