

Infrastructures of care and justice. Comparative study on sex workers' mobilizations in Poland and Norway

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The objective of this research project is twofold. Firstly, it seeks to explore the mobilisations for sex workers' rights in Poland and Norway. It also aims at investigating the feminist understanding of care and justice in different political contexts. And third, it proposes a pioneering framework for researching social movements, using the concept of infrastructures as background structures and practices which make the activity of social movements possible. This project integrates qualitative and participatory methodologies in order to deliver a nuanced and contextualised understanding of the grassroots sex workers' mobilisations in various national contexts, examining their emergence and sustenance and shifting political and societal landscapes. By setting this research against the political and discursive opportunity structure of two different national contexts, this study aims to provide a better understanding of the interplay between the social, cultural and political milieu and feminist politics. The context of neoliberalism, political conservatism and anti-gender mobilisations in Poland on the one hand, and Norway's position as a leader in gender equality and social welfare will provide the backdrop for tracing the different framings and uses of the concept of justice in sex workers' organising. A comparative analysis of these two national contexts can enhance our understanding of marginalised communities' mobilisations and struggles as well as their interaction with the state and feminist politics in important regional nation states in Europe.

The main research questions guiding this research project are:

- What kind of infrastructures of care and justice were developed by sex workers networks in Poland and Norway and how they have been sustained over time?
- Do and how they differ between these two countries with different political histories and traditions and how they have been transforming given the changes in feminist movements and political contexts in both countries?

This study employs feminist research methods and focuses on situated knowledge (Haraway, 1998). It will follow the ethical approach to sex work research, which prioritises the voices of sex workers and avoids extractive research. The research design consists of two qualitative case studies involving sex worker organisations in Poland and Norway. The analysis of each case study will use a range of qualitative research methods, including genealogical research into the history of the movement, semi-structured, ethnographic interviews and focus group interviews with sex workers' rights activists using art-based methods, and document analysis of the organisations' engagement with local national governments and international networks, organisations and institutions.

The research will allow to see the whole spectrum of sex worker movements, also the less visible ones creating infrastructures for survival and action. This project will help to better understand what justice and care means in the context of sex workers in Poland and Norway, and thus also how democracy is realised in these countries.